

The Church Prays

Engage: Page 75

- ▶ Show your child pictures of signs that do not have words on them, such as a railroad-crossing sign or a poison sign. Together identify the meaning of the signs. **Say:** *These signs give us directions and protect us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point to the picture. **Say:** *Like the stop sign, God's signs give direction and send important messages to us. In this session we will learn more about God's messages.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about signs that God gives us. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ **Ask:** *When you go to Mass, who is there with you? (family, friends, the priest, Jesus)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Is Present in the Sacraments on page 76. **Ask:** *What do the sacraments do for us? (They help us grow in faith and live as God wants.)*
- ▶ Call attention to the picture of the child receiving Holy Communion at the top of the page. Focus the discussion on how your child felt on the day of his or her First Holy Communion. Ask your child to read aloud My First Holy Communion and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs on page 77. **Ask:** *What is grace? (the gift of God that fills us with God's life and makes us his friends)* **Say:** *Both objects and actions can be sacramentals.* **Ask:** *What action is a sacramental? (a blessing)* **Say:** *A blessing is a prayer that calls upon God to care for a person, a place, a thing, or an activity.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Sacramental at Your House and have your child write his or her description. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Sacramentals help prepare us to receive the grace of the sacraments.*

Art Exploration: Page 239

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus healing the servant through the Roman officer's faith.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of Jesus and the soldier.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus Christ reaches out to all people.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 239. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage. **Ask:** *Why did Jesus heal the man's servant?* (Jesus was impressed by the man's faith, and he wanted to show that his mission was to all people.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the last paragraph and complete the activity. Discuss the ideas that your child has written, such as sharing, kind words, and helping others.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, we ask for God's healing grace.*
- ▶ Provide art supplies for your child. **Say:** *The picture does not show the servant because Jesus is healing him from a distance.* Invite your child to imagine he or she is present when the servant realizes he is well again. Encourage your child to draw the scene.

Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Say:** *It is important to feel comfortable as you prepare to pray. Let's relax our neck, shoulders, arms, and legs. Let's close our eyes and take three deep breaths.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs in a reverent tone, pausing after the questions. Read aloud the last paragraph. Pause so that your child has time to talk to Jesus. Lead your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 79. Have your child complete the sentences and fill in the puzzle. Together unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence next to the puzzle.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does Jesus' answer mean to you?* (When we are helping people, Jesus is working through us. The Kingdom of God is among us.)

Respond: Page 80

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be helpful to another person.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.