

Celebrating Christmas

Engage: Page 87

- ▶ Play or sing a song about the birth of Jesus, such as “Silent Night.” **Ask:** *What is this song about?* (the birth of Jesus)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *When does the Christmas season begin?* (at the celebration of Mass on Christmas Eve) *When does it end?* (at the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord) *Who are the Magi?* (the three Wise Men) **Say:** *In this session we will learn about how Christmas is the time of year when we celebrate Jesus’ birth and learn how we can be more like Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to listen to the words of a Christmas carol about Jesus’ birth that you have never heard before. **Ask:** *How does this song help prepare you for Christmas?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 88

- ▶ Discuss how your family celebrates Christmas with other people in your family or with your neighborhood. **Ask:** *What are some of our Christmas traditions?*
- ▶ Read aloud We Celebrate During Christmas. **Ask:** *How is celebrating the Eucharist different on Christmas than on any other Sunday?* (We are celebrating Jesus and his birth on Christmas.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Christmas Morning and complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the sentences with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. **Say:** *How has what was foretold in the Book of Micah been fulfilled in the birth of Jesus?* (Jesus has come to be a leader of the people.)

Reflect: Page 89

- ▶ Look at pictures of two different Nativity scenes and discuss how they are the same and how they are different. **Say:** *All Nativity scenes have the same essential pieces: Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. **Ask:** *What is the Hebrew meaning for Bethlehem?* (house of bread) *Who is the Bread of Life?* (Jesus) *As the Bread of Life, what does Jesus come to bring to all who hunger?* (bread)
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Discuss the symbols of Christmas that your child might see at Mass, such as a Nativity scene, evergreens, lights, and the color white. Then invite your child to read aloud Your Nativity Scene and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The modern word Christmas comes from the Old English word Christes Maesse, meaning “Mass of Christ.”*

Art Exploration: Page 241

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the night Jesus was born.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the expression on the people's faces.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we celebrate Christmas, it reminds us of how much God loves us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 241. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Christmas. **Ask:** *What does the Feast of the Epiphany celebrate?* (When the Wise Men visited Jesus, he was revealed to the whole world.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Gift of Jesus. **Ask:** *What do you think the Scripture reading means?* (that God and love are the same)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Gift for Baby Jesus. Give him or her time to draw the picture. Ask your child to explain the gift he or she chose for Jesus.
- ▶ Play a Christmas song, such as "O Come All Ye Faithful," which expresses the joy of Jesus' birth. Together sing along. Play other favorite Christmas carols and discuss the lyrics.

Respond: Page 90

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can help people in your community who are in need.
- ▶ 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.