



# Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

## Begin

**Say:** Let's review what we've learned so far. God loves us very much, and he gave us our wonderful world. **Ask:** What are you thankful for? Share with your child what you are thankful for. Read aloud the unit title on page 31. **Say:** Our new unit will help us understand that Jesus cares for us. He wants us all to be part of God's family.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on page 31. **Ask:** Who do you think this man is? (Saint Joseph) Read aloud the text and **say:** Joseph loved God, and God knew Joseph was someone special.

Turn to page 32. Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** What is a carpenter? (a person who builds with wood) **Say:** Joseph worked very hard to provide for his family. Saint Joseph is the patron saint of workers. Read aloud the second and third paragraphs. **Say:** An angel is a messenger from God. **Ask:** How do you think Joseph felt when the angel spoke to him? (scared, excited, surprised)

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** Since Jesus' Father was in Heaven, Jesus was blessed to have his foster father, Joseph, who loved him and took care of him here on earth.

With your child add Joseph's feast days, March 19 and May 1, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor Saint Joseph.



## God Sends Jesus

### Engage: Page 33

- ▶ Together with your child, look at family baby pictures. Discuss how families prepare for a new baby. **Ask:** *How would you feel about having a new baby sister or brother?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *How do you think the children in the picture feel? (happy)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about God's wonderful gift to us of his Son, Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about his or her family members and reflect on how good it feels to be part of God's family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 34–35

- ▶ Look at photos that show your family celebrating or playing together. Share stories about the occasions shown in the photos.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Is Born on page 34. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *Who is in this picture? (Joseph, Mary, Jesus, shepherds) How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they found out they had no place to stay? (tired, scared, lonely) How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw and heard the angels? (surprised, happy)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Jesus was born to save us and tell us how much God loves us.* **Ask:** *Whose name means "God saves"?* (Jesus')
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first three paragraphs on page 35. **Say:** *Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are the Holy Family. Families take care of one another and learn from one another.* **Ask:** *What can we, your family, learn from you?*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for My Family Loves Me. Have your child complete the activity and discuss what he or she drew in the picture.

### Art Exploration: Page 218

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus in a manger surrounded by Mary, Joseph, and shepherds.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including naming the people they see in the picture.
- ▶ **Say:** *God sent us Jesus because he loves us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 218. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *Where was Jesus born? (in a stable)* **Say:** *A stable was not a fancy place for Jesus to be born, but it didn't matter. When we remember that Jesus was born in a simple place, we know that he is with us no matter where we are.*
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** *What were the shepherds like? (regular people)* **Say:** *God honored the shepherds by choosing them, just regular people like us, to be the first to see Jesus.* Then read aloud the directions for the activity and give your child time to complete it.
- ▶ Read aloud Reading God's Word. **Ask:** *How do you think Mary felt that night? (happy, excited)* *How do you think the shepherds felt? (happy)* **Say:** *The shepherds were thankful that they had been chosen to hear the news of Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Provide your child with a shoe box, craft supplies, and modeling clay. Invite him or her to decorate the shoe box to resemble a stable. Have your child use modeling clay to make the Holy Family, shepherds, and animals. After the diorama is finished, pray together, thanking God for the gift of his Son, Jesus.

### Reflect: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Together look at page 36. **Ask:** *Where is the boy in the picture? (in a wheat field)* Ask your child to use his or her imagination to describe what it would be like to be in the field with the boy.
- ▶ Read aloud page 36 in a prayerful manner. Pause between sentences, giving your child time to reflect. Close the quiet time by praying the Sign of the Cross. Tell your child that if he or she wants to talk to Jesus again, he or she can do so anytime.
- ▶ Ask your child to close his or eyes and picture the Holy Family while you read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 37. Then have your child open his or her eyes while you read aloud the activity directions. Help your child complete the activity. **Say:** *The Holy Family was a happy family who loved one another and learned many things from one another.*

### Respond: Page 38

- ▶ 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 to show that he or she loves and obeys his or her parents.
- ▶ 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.