



Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 57

- ▶ Sing a well-known Christmas carol together. **Say:** *During the few weeks before Christmas, I enjoy singing Christmas carols.* **Ask:** *What do you like to do? (bake Christmas cookies, buy gifts, decorate the tree)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Point out the vocabulary words. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate the season of Advent on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *Advent is the time of year when we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. In this session we will discuss ways we celebrate.*
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for Advent by thinking about ways he or she can show love to friends and family during this season. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 58

- ▶ Make or purchase an Advent calendar to mark the days of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Display it prominently in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph. Have your child read aloud the directions for the activity. **Say:** *In the "I Pray" heart, I might draw a picture of myself praying in bed before I go to sleep.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Then read the verse aloud with your child. **Say:** *What else has God given us to show his love? (family, friends, nature)*

Reflect: Page 59

- ▶ Display an Advent wreath or show a picture of one. **Ask:** *What is this?* Explain that your child may see an Advent wreath like this one during Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. It means Advent is half over and we are getting close to Christmas.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section What We Experience. Point out the vocabulary term. Discuss why Jesus is the Light of the World. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Gloria is what the angels sang to the shepherds when Jesus was born. We wait until Christmas Mass to sing it in celebration of Jesus' birth.*



Art Exploration: Page 222

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem before Jesus' birth.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people and the surroundings.
- ▶ **Say:** *Advent reminds us that Jesus' birth lights the world with truth and love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 222. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What event are we preparing for during Advent? (Jesus' birth)* **Say:** *Each candle is like the light of God's love. When the last candle is lit, we know Jesus will come soon.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and help your child write sentences. Share your own ideas with your child about how you would welcome Jesus into your home.
- ▶ Give your child several strips of construction paper. Invite him or her to write on each strip words of preparation for Advent, such as *pray, penance, church, and kindness*. Guide your child to make loops from the strips and attach the loops to form a chain. Hang the paper chain as a garland to decorate your home.

Respond: Page 60

- ▶ 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 love and welcome others.
- ▶ 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.