



The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

Begin

Ask: *What do you like to do with your good friends? What do you think makes someone a good friend? What makes you a good friend to someone else?* Read aloud the unit title on page 61. **Say:** *Our new unit will help us understand that Jesus gives us the Church as a sign of his love for us and for the whole world. We will learn how Jesus chose a good friend to help him lead his people.*

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on page 61. Read aloud the saint's name. **Ask:** *Why do you think Jesus and Peter were good friends?* (Possible answers: They trusted each other; they traveled together; they both wanted to help people.)

Turn to page 62. Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *Fishing was a good business for Peter. He was able to make a living from it. He would spend every day going out to sea in his boat and bringing in his catch at the end of the day. Imagine what it was like for Peter to leave his work and follow Jesus.*

Ask: *Do you think it was easy?* (No.)

Read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** *How did Peter feel about his friend Jesus?* (Peter loved Jesus. He trusted Jesus.) *What did Jesus do when Peter didn't do the right thing?* (Jesus forgave Peter.) *Why should we forgive others?* (We want to be like Jesus.)

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** *Jesus knew Peter would be a strong leader for his people.*

With your child add Peter's feast day, June 29, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor the work of Saint Peter.



Following Jesus

Engage: Page 63

- ▶ With your child talk about activities and games you like to play. **Ask:** *Do you prefer playing outside or inside? Do you prefer playing with a small group or a large group?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. **Ask:** *What is important to do when you are playing? (to share and listen)* **Say:** *Friends make us happy.* **Ask:** *How does a person act when he or she is a good friend? (kind, caring, and fun to be around)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn how to be a good friend to others.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she could be a better friend. Remind your child that Peter and Jesus were good friends. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do we do at Mass? (hear stories about God, pray, sing)* **Say:** *We have talked about how the Mass is a special kind of liturgy. Liturgy is prayer that we pray with Jesus' friends.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 64. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Jesus' followers all over the world, including us, make up the Church.* Explain to your child that Church, with a capital C, is a community of people who follow Jesus. Church, with a lowercase c, refers to a special building in which we pray and celebrate Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph at the top of page 65. **Ask:** *Have you ever heard of a guardian angel?* Explain that even though we can't see our angel, the angel is with us all the time.
- ▶ Read aloud My Guardian Angel. Invite your child to draw a picture of what he or she imagines his or her guardian angel might look like. Point out the Guardian Angel Prayer on page 192.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. **Say:** *Saint Michael is an archangel, one of the chief angels. We can also ask Saint Michael to protect us.*

Art Exploration: Page 223

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus calling Andrew and Peter to follow him.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the jobs of Andrew and Peter.



- ▶ **Say:** *To be good followers of Jesus, we must be willing to follow him even when times get difficult.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 223. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Asks Friends to Follow. **Ask:** *What are some things you can do to follow Jesus?* (care for others, be respectful, learn more about Jesus, attend Mass, obey parents)
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Asks Us to Follow. Allow time for your child to draw his or her picture.
- ▶ Using a washable ink pad, have your child make horizontal fingerprints on drawing paper. After the painting dries, help your child turn the fingerprints into fish by adding fins, gills, and eyes, using a thin black marker. Help your child write this caption under his or her picture: *Fishermen follow Jesus. I follow Jesus too!* Display the art in your home.

Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66. **Say:** *The girl in the picture looks ready to pray. Try to have quiet and peaceful feet, fingers, and eyes before you begin to pray.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph softly. Pause to allow your child time to think about his or her response. Encourage your child to talk to Jesus in his or her heart and to listen for what Jesus wants us to know about God's love for us. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to focus on the drawing on page 67. **Ask:** *Who are some of the people in your Church?* (priests, deacons, catechists, families) Read aloud the directions and give your child time to color the picture. Tell your child that once he or she adds other people, it will be a Church with a capital C.

Respond: Page 68

- ▶ 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 help and be nice to people.
- ▶ 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.