



## God Chooses Mary

### Engage: Page 81

- ▶ Invite your child to make an “I Love God” booklet. Fold a large sheet of light-colored construction paper in half. On each of the four pages, ask your child to draw a picture of something he or she can do to show love for God.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child’s response. **Say:** *Even though Tina was shy, she knew saying hello was the right thing to do. It was a way for her to show her love for God. In this session we will learn how Mary said yes to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about things he or she may not want to do but needs to do to learn and grow. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ Discuss things that make you and your child happy. **Say:** *Happiness can be found in many different ways. A hug, a smile, or a kind word all have the power to make us happy.*
- ▶ Read aloud God Loves Mary on page 82. Have your child find the word *grace* in the Glossary and read aloud the definition. **Ask:** *Who gave Mary the gift of grace? (God)* **Say:** *Grace is a gift from God that fills us with God’s life and makes us his friends. God gives us grace because he loves us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. **Say:** *Mary was blessed because God chose her to be Jesus’ mother.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Mother of God on page 83. **Ask:** *What are some things you notice about this beautiful picture of Mary?* **Say:** *Mary loved Jesus, and she became the first and greatest of all of Jesus’ followers.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Statues of Mary are very important to Catholics. Let’s look for one in our church the next time we are there.*

### Art Exploration: Page 226

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the angel Gabriel visiting Mary.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the angel looks and acts toward Mary.
- ▶ **Say:** *The Holy Spirit comes to us to guide us and help us. The Holy Spirit was there to help Mary when she said yes to God.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 226. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the Scripture passage. **Ask:** *How do you think Mary felt after Gabriel gave her the message? (happy, special, blessed)* **Say:** *Mary's love for God was strong. She knew she could trust him, and she wanted to please God. That's why she was happy to do what God wanted.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child complete it. Remind your child to say yes to God as Mary did.
- ▶ Cut a large rectangular shape out of black construction paper to resemble a window frame. Give your child a sheet of wax paper that fits in the frame. Ask your child to use crayons to draw and color on the wax paper. Help him or her tape the black frame to the wax paper. Hang the "stained-glass window" against your window at home and think of the wonderful Bible stories you know whenever you look at the artwork.

### Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Say:** *We are going to learn a special prayer called the Hail Mary.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to fold his or her hands. Then pray aloud the Hail Mary. When you are finished, **say:** *Speak with Mary in your heart and tell her how glad you are that she said yes to God.* Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud Mary Answers God on page 85. Give your child crayons or markers to complete the activity. When your child is finished, **ask:** *What did Mary say to God? (Yes!) What do we say to God? (Yes!)*

### Respond: Page 86

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can say yes to God.
- ▶ 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.