



## Listening to Our Father

### Engage: Page 111

- ▶ **Ask:** *Do you ever think of a special place you'd like to go? Is it a real place or an imaginary place?* Share a place that you enjoy, such as a garden or a beach.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *Why do you think it is easier to think when you are in a quiet place?* **Say:** *In this session we will learn that quiet places and quieting ourselves can help us listen to Jesus.* Together find a special, comfortable, quiet place in your home. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 112–113

- ▶ Together look at the pictures on pages 112 and 113. **Say:** *Today we're going to learn about a man named Elijah. Elijah's special place is a cave where he goes to be quiet and listen for God. God told Elijah he would be passing by Elijah's cave.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 112. **Ask:** *Why do you think Elijah couldn't hear God?* (There was too much noise.)
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 113. **Ask:** *How do you think Elijah felt when he heard God's voice after the wind, earthquake, and fire?* (happy, relieved) **Say:** *This story reminds us that sometimes it is hard to hear God with all the noise in our lives. But if we listen closely, we will hear God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Jesus asks us to listen. Do you think listening is an important part of learning?* Discuss your child's response.

### Art Exploration: Page 231

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of happy people dancing and singing while they're praying.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the people might be feeling.
- ▶ **Say:** *There are many different ways to pray.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 231. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the question in each paragraph and have your child read the sentences below it. Together look up the word *gestures* in the Glossary. Demonstrate gestures for prayer. **Say:** *If our words, songs, and gestures help us talk to God, then they are prayers.*



- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *When we gather at Mass on Sunday, we pray with our family and friends.*
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine being present in the scene in the picture. Encourage your child to show with his or her body and voice how he or she would be moving, speaking, or singing. Remind your child that when we pray, we praise God, thank him, ask for help, and tell him we're sorry.

### Reflect: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Together look at page 114. **Ask:** *What sounds do you think the people in the picture can hear?* Remind your child that it is important to make time for silence so that he or she can both talk to and listen to God.
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph, pausing after each one to give your child time to reflect. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 115. **Say:** *God is always talking to us, but we have to be quiet so that we can listen to him.*
- ▶ Read aloud Quiet Places. Ask your child to describe his or her quiet place and then draw a picture of it.

### Respond: Page 116

- ▶ 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 find time to listen to God each day.
- ▶ 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.