



Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

Engage: Page 117

- ▶ Display an Easter basket or a picture of one. **Ask:** *What is this?* **Say:** *Easter is a special time of year in our Church. On Easter Sunday we celebrate with Easter baskets filled with eggs or gifts. The days leading up to Easter Sunday are called Lent and Holy Week.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *Can you name any of the special days celebrated during Holy Week? (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday)* **Say:** *In this session we'll learn about Lent and Holy Week. During this time of year, we learn to care for others as Jesus does.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family celebrates Lent and Holy Week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 118

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some ways that we can grow closer to someone? (spend time with him or her, call him or her, help someone in need)* **Say:** *When we grow closer to someone, that person becomes our friend.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of Growing Closer to God. **Say:** *When we are like Jesus, we grow closer to God.* Discuss the questions together and have your child write the answers.
- ▶ Read aloud Ash Wednesday. Invite your child to use the words in the word box to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What is one thing you did today to show love for God?* Discuss your child's response.

Reflect: Page 119

- ▶ Discuss what Mass is like during Lent and Holy Week. **Ask:** *Is there a special color that stands out? (purple) Are there many songs or only a few songs? (only a few)*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week. **Say:** *Throughout the liturgical year, the Mass changes as we celebrate different seasons.*
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Talk about what your child will and will not see during Lent.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud My Parish Priest. Help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Share pretzels with your child. **Say:** *During Lent long ago, people fasted from milk, butter, eggs, cheese, cream, and meat. They shaped flour, water, and salt to look like arms crossed in prayer and baked the small breads that we now call pretzels. Pretzels are a reminder that Lent is a time for special prayer.*



Art Exploration: Page 232

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Jesus on the cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how seeing Jesus on the cross makes him or her feel.
- ▶ **Say:** *Lent is a time to prepare. By being more like Jesus, we get our hearts ready for Easter.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 232. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 232. **Ask:** *How can we care for people in need?* (Share money in the church collection. Pray for them.) *How do we pray?* (We can pray anytime we sit quietly, or we can pray with our church family.) *How can we share God's message?* (by living like Jesus and showing others how to make good choices)
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph and allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ Give your child paper, a paintbrush, and watercolor paint. Ask your child to paint his or her own version of the crucifix. Encourage your child to use bold strokes and unusual colors. Remind your child that God is always there for us.

Respond: Page 120

- ▶ 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 do nice things for 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.