



Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 57

- ▶ With your child talk about special events that you prepare for. **Ask:** *Why do we prepare for these events? How do we prepare? How do we feel as we prepare?* (excitement, anticipation)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *What do we do during Advent? (We prepare our church, our home, and our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth.) What two feasts of Mary do we celebrate during Advent? (the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe)*
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for Advent by thinking about what the season means to him or her. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 58

- ▶ Help your child make an Advent calendar by cutting out of a sheet of paper with a folding door for each day of Advent. Glue the sheet with the doors that open and close to another sheet of paper. Help your child to write his or her ideas for preparing for Christmas behind each door.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What are some examples of good moral choices we can make?* (follow the new commandment, live out the Beatitudes, practice the virtues) Have your child read Prepare the Way and write a prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Why is this an appropriate passage for Advent?* (During Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.) **Say:** *One way we can prepare the way of the Lord is by making good moral choices.*

Reflect: Page 59

- ▶ Display a Bible. **Ask:** *What do we call the four books in the New Testament where we learn about Jesus?* (the Gospels) **Say:** *Reflecting on Jesus' teaching in the Gospels is another way to decide if we're making good moral choices.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. **Say:** *John the Baptist was the son of Elizabeth, Mary's cousin. John the Baptist told people to get ready to hear Jesus' message.*
- ▶ Read aloud the sections What We Experience and Praying to Mary. **Say:** *The Angelus is a prayer of devotion that honors Mary for the yes she gave to God. Find the Angelus on page 190 in the back of your child's book. Pray together the prayer.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete, or Rejoice, Sunday, marks approximately the halfway point of Advent. In addition to lighting the pink candle, the priest may wear pink vestments.*



Art Exploration: Page 238

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a *Las Posadas* procession.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *Las Posadas is one tradition that can help us prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 238. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What are some Advent traditions?* (Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, Jesse trees, Saint Nicholas Day celebrations)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Las Posadas. What happens at each place except the last one?* (The pilgrims are denied lodging.) **Say:** *When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they could not find a place to stay. This is why Jesus was born in a stable. It was the only place left for them.*
- ▶ Read aloud Prepare to Welcome Jesus and share ideas your family has followed in the past. Give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine himself or herself as one of the people in the *Las Posadas* procession. **Ask:** *What are you thinking and feeling as you process from place to place and are denied entry? How do you feel when you are finally allowed to enter someone's home?* **Say:** *Take a moment to talk with Jesus. Ask him to help you be a welcoming person.*

Respond: Page 60

- ▶ 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 make good choices.
- ▶ 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.