



Sacraments of Service

Engage: Page 111

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you want to be when you grow up?* **Say:** *God has a plan for each of us. We will all serve him in our own way.* **Ask:** *How might you serve God when you are older?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *The Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders are Sacraments at the Service of Communion. Through them, people receive the grace to share their gifts and serve the Church in special ways. We'll learn about these two sacraments in this session.*
- ▶ Have your child make a list of occupations that appeal to him or her. **Ask:** *How will these choices help you serve God and the Church?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 112–113

- ▶ Share a wedding story you are familiar with. **Ask:** *Why do people get married?* (because they love each other)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Family Wedding on page 112. **Say:** *When a couple exchanges vows, they are making a public commitment to each other in front of God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How does this passage apply to the Sacrament of Matrimony?* (Jesus commands us to love one another. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a bride and a groom promise to love each other during good times and bad times.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 113. **Ask:** *How can married couples serve the Church?* (They help each other grow closer to God. They teach their children how to live Christian lives.) *What happens in the Sacrament of Holy Orders?* (Men are ordained bishops, priests, and deacons.)

Art Exploration: Page 247

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image of two men picking grapes from vines.
- ▶ **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 men.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we become like productive branches that bear much fruit.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 247. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud *The Vine and the Branches*. **Say:** *In this passage Jesus tells us that when we freely choose to follow him, we remain close to him. We bear fruit by sharing his love with others.* **Ask:** *What can we do to remain close to Jesus?* (pray, attend Mass, celebrate the sacraments, practice the virtues)
- ▶ Read aloud *Retell the Parable* and have your child complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her parable with family members.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Meet a Saint* feature. **Say:** *Hildegard of Bingen responded to the call of discipleship by giving advice to others.*
- ▶ Invite your child to draw multiple branches stemming from a main vine. **Say:** *On each vine draw a picture or write a sentence about how you can share Jesus' love with others.* Display the artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Together look at page 114. **Say:** *The boy in the picture appears to be focused on his thoughts. To stay connected to Jesus, we must let God cut away all that hinders our growth.*
- ▶ Ask your child to sit comfortably. Read the reflection slowly, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and asking your child to offer you a sign of peace.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Called by God* on page 115. **Ask:** *What does God call us to do?* (serve the Church by sharing our gifts with others)
- ▶ Read aloud *Serve the Church*. Give your child time to complete the activity. Remind him or her to write a caption that describes how the ordained men or the married couple is serving the Church.

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 share God's love with 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.