

Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 57

- ▶ Together make a to-do list with items both you and your child need to do this week. **Ask:** *Why do we use to-do lists? (to get organized)* **Say:** *We have our own personal to-do list for the Advent season.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the session title and text. **Say:** *Christmas is a few weeks away, but there are many things to do before we can celebrate. In this session we will learn about Advent—the season when we prepare for the birth of Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to help you start a to-do list for the upcoming Advent season. Think about how you will prepare your family for your Advent traditions. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 58

- ▶ Talk about ways that your church changes during Advent. **Ask:** *What songs do we sing? What colors are used in the decorations? What color is used for the priest's vestments?*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph. **Say:** *We can always ask for God's help in preparing the way for Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the second paragraph and complete the activity. Discuss your child's ideas.
- ▶ Read aloud God's Gift of Eternal Life. Give your child a few minutes to complete his or her letter. Emphasize that the letter is personal and that you will not ask your child to share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God tells us not to worry about things. He is always guiding our steps and watching out for us. During these four weeks of Advent, we can rest easy knowing that God is right beside us.*

Reflect: Page 59

- ▶ Discuss a favorite activity or event that helps your family prepare for Advent, such as attending a Nativity play.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. **Say:** *Jesus was born so that we may have eternal life. This great gift of Jesus is what we prepare for during Advent. God's people before Jesus was born and God's people today must wait, hope, and prepare themselves to be able to accept God's gift.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section What We Experience. Point out the vocabulary term. Explain that God is present in the sacraments and that celebrating them brings us closer to God and helps us prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Have your child read aloud The Gift of the Sacraments and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. Gaudete is a word from the Latin Mass that means "rejoice."*

Art Exploration: Page 234

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a family attending a Christmas Mass.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the weather conditions, the time of day, and decorations.
- ▶ **Say:** *There are many ways we prepare our hearts during Advent to better our relationship with God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 234. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What gifts does the Church give us to perfect our relationship with God? (the sacraments)*
- ▶ Read aloud Preparing with My Family and discuss how your family prepares for the season of Advent together. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Have your child make a print with his or her own linocut. Using a bar of soap and a plastic knife, have your child carve a design from a selection of sacramental symbols, such as a cross, chalice, or dove. Invite your child to design Advent greeting cards using your child's soap linocut and ink to stamp the symbol on the card.

Respond: Page 60

- ▶ 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 tell family members how much they are loved.
- ▶ 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.