

The Domestic Church

Engage: Page 75

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine you are on a deserted island. List 10 things you want with you, such as family, entertainment, and food. After a time **say:** Now cut the list in half and keep only the essential items. Remind your child to thank God for family support and emphasize where family should be on the list.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What is your role in our family?* **Say:** *In this session we will learn how we are part of the domestic church—our family.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of all the everyday things his or her family has done for him or her this week. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ Share a memory of your child when he or she was younger. Point out that each family is unique and special, just as God makes each person unique and special.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 76. Point out the vocabulary term. **Ask:** *What are ways we can learn about God and Jesus here at home?* (praying before meals and before bedtime, going to church together)
- ▶ Read aloud The Sacrament of Matrimony on page 77. **Ask:** *Why is the Sacrament of Matrimony a sign of a special vocation?* (God has called the couple to live a life of love in a community.)
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Matrimony. **Ask:** *How is the sacrament like a covenant?* (The husband and wife make a lifelong promise to each other.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Read Ruth 1:16 together.

Art Exploration: Page 237

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary finding Jesus in the Temple.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how Jesus looks while speaking to the adults.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus knew that teaching God's Word was his mission, which gave him wisdom and understanding beyond his years.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 237. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud Jesus in the Temple as a Child. **Ask:** *What does this story tell you about Jesus? (He was confident in his mission. He followed the customs of his time.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Lost and Found and complete the activity. Share your own feelings about your child's experience.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. **Say:** *What is the Ark of the Covenant? (a vessel that contained the Ten Commandments) Which of the Ten Commandments is relevant to this story? (Honor your father and mother.)*
- ▶ Invite your child to draw your family tree. Provide him or her with magazines and newspapers. Have your child look for pictures that symbolize what your family means to him or her. Ask your child to decorate the family tree with these symbols. Display the family tree in your home.

Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Ask:** *What is the girl in the picture doing? Suggest that your child write mealtime prayers on note cards and place them on the family table.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Then pray together the Prayer Before Meals. After a few moments of silence for personal reflection, pray together the Prayer After Meals. **Say:** *We learn these prayers and pray them with our families before and after meals to thank God for the gifts of food and family.* Read aloud the last paragraph. Allow time for your child to reflect on God's generosity.
- ▶ Read aloud Building the Domestic Church on page 79 and have your child complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her ideas with your family.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *How does the liturgy relate to family life? (A family can form a community of prayer that mirrors the community of prayer formed when we celebrate the liturgy.)*

Respond: Page 80

- ▶ 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 promote love and closeness within your family.
- ▶ 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.