

God Calls Us

Engage: Page 81

- ▶ **Ask:** *Think of a time someone told you "I'm counting on you." How did it make you feel? (nervous, excited, proud)* **Say:** *God counts on us to be holy and to serve his kingdom.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Say:** *The plants are counting on the boy to keep them healthy. In this session we will learn how God is counting on us to be stewards of his Word.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how Mary felt when God asked her to be the mother of Jesus. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ Together make lists of your special talents. Discuss how both of you can share your talents with the Church community.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Using One's Talents for Service on page 82. **Ask:** *What was the problem in the Corinthian community? (People weren't using their special spiritual gifts in ways that promoted the good of the community.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *This passage reminds us to be like Samuel and to be open to God's call.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Blessed Virgin Mary's Calling on page 83. **Ask:** *What was Mary's call? (to be the Mother of God) What does Assumption mean? (Mary was taken into Heaven, body and soul.) How does Mary help us today? (She prays for us.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *What does it mean to call Mary the patroness of the United States? (We ask for her help and protection.)*

Art Exploration: Page 238

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Joseph working as a carpenter together with Jesus.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the work the people are doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus calls everyone to use his or her talents to serve God and others.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 238. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Universal Call to Holiness. **Say:** *We can bring holiness to each thing we do in our lives.*

- ▶ Read aloud *Assembling a Sculpture*. **Ask:** *What were some of the special talents of the people who worked on the project?* (artistic ability, knowledge of construction, technical support, leadership)
- ▶ Read aloud *Cooperating on a Project* and have your child complete the activity. Discuss his or her experience.
- ▶ Discuss jobs that serve God and the community. Ask your child to draw on small sheets of paper pictures of people who do these jobs. Provide string and ask your child to attach his or her drawings to a mobile, signifying the Church.

Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Say:** *As you pray to Mary, remember her as a young person who understands you and the choices you are asked to make.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine Mary is with you and ready to listen.* Read aloud the first four paragraphs. Pause for your child to reflect and imagine a conversation with Mary. Read aloud the final sentence and invite your child to pray the Hail Mary together with you.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Sharing Talents* on page 85 and complete the activity. Ask your child to name ways he or she can share talents with the people in your neighborhood.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. **Say:** *Shrines to Mary, like this one in Cuba, are found all over the world. Many people visit these sites to honor Mary as someone who answered God's call.*

Respond: Page 86

- ▶ 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 participate in the Mass.
- ▶ 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.