

Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

Engage: Page 117

- ▶ Have your child examine a cross. **Ask:** *What can you tell me about the cross? (We use it to pray. It reminds us of Jesus.)* **Say:** *Lent is a time to reflect on the cross.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Lent and Holy Week, the time when we solemnly remember that Jesus died for our sins.*
- ▶ Discuss ways that your family prepares for Easter. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 118

- ▶ **Say:** *The word passion refers to the suffering and Death of Jesus.* **Ask:** *What do you know about the Passion of Christ? Discuss your child's response.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Passion of Jesus. **Say:** *We can make our own sacrifices as a sign of our commitment to Jesus. We can give alms, fast, and pray.*
- ▶ Read aloud Stations of the Cross. **Ask:** *Which stations can you recall? What do you think was going through Jesus' mind at that time?*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *In this Gospel, Luke is the narrator, telling us what happened at Jesus' Crucifixion. Through his Gospel we learn that many people gathered and followed Jesus as he carried his cross.*

Reflect: Page 119

- ▶ Direct your child's attention to pages 198–199 in the Prayers and Practices section of his or her book. Have your child first describe each scene before you read aloud the Stations of the Cross. **Say:** *Lent and Holy Week is a very special time for the Church, and we retell the story of the Passion to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week. **Ask:** *Why is Mass not celebrated on Good Friday? (because it is the day Jesus suffered and died)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Ask:** *Even though different churches have different traditions for venerating the cross, how are they the same? (The meaning is the same.)* **Say:** *The purpose is to acknowledge the Death of Jesus on the cross.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Great Sacrifice. Have your child look up the word *redemption* in the Glossary and complete the activity. Discuss the answers together.

Art Exploration: Page 244

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Jesus as he carries his cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the painting makes him or her feel.
- ▶ **Say:** *Lent is a time to remember the Passion of Jesus and to forgive others as we would like to be forgiven.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 244. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Forgives. **Say:** *Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor who was sent to rule over the Jews in Palestine.* **Ask:** *Why do you think Jesus didn't just ask God to stop all of it and spare him the pain? (Jesus' mission was to save us from our sins by dying for us.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Forgive as Jesus Did. **Say:** *"Forgive us our trespasses" means to forgive us the wrong we have done to others.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Celebrating Lent and Holy Week and complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the ideas with you.
- ▶ Together make a simple calendar for the 40 days of Lent. Put a large line at the top for your child to write his or her Lenten promise. Provide 40 foil stars so that your child can mark off each day that he or she is able to fulfill the promise. Hang the calendar in your home and review it daily.

Respond: Page 120

- ▶ 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 to do something selfless for someone he or she loves.
- ▶ 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.