

Living a Moral Life

Engage: Page 129

- ▶ **Say:** *Think of a time that someone encouraged or praised you. How did it make you feel?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *In this session we'll learn how the choices we make can help us live a happy and moral life.*
- ▶ Together think of synonyms for these words: *happy, nice, good, and friend*. Make a list of your words to expand your "good word" vocabulary. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 130–131

- ▶ **Say:** *Name three things you remember about making a good choice.* Encourage your child to look back at page 125 to review the entire list.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two sections on page 130. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *If we remember that we are all made in God's image, then we will learn to use words that show respect for the dignity of each person and to talk to others as we would like to be spoken to.* Have your child read aloud *The Positive Power of Words* and complete the activity.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Sin's Social Side* on page 131. **Say:** *We have a responsibility to think of others when we act and understand that our actions have consequences.*
- ▶ Read aloud *Exploring the Social Effects of Sin and of Doing Good*.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Reading God's Word* feature. **Ask:** *How does this passage relate to what we are learning in this session? (We can use our words to bring peace and love. We can be helpful and say encouraging things to those in conflict or in trouble.)*

Art Exploration: Page 246

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people whispering to one another.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the people's body language.
- ▶ **Say:** *Instead of misusing words, we are called to use our words with the wisdom that comes from God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 246. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Words Out of Control. **Ask:** *How can words get out of control?* (Once we say something to others, it's impossible to take our words back or keep others from repeating what we said.)
- ▶ Read aloud Words Can Hurt You and have your child write a poem. Encourage him or her to share the poem with you and with other family members.
- ▶ Have your child close his or her eyes and imagine walking by the women in the Art Print. Tell your child that the women are speaking meanly about someone else. Ask your child to think about what he or she would do in this situation. **Say:** *Let's ask God to bless our words and to help us think kindly before we speak.*

Reflect: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Together look at page 132. **Say:** *When you are tempted to use the name of God, Jesus Christ, Mary, or the saints in an offensive way or to say hurtful things to others, you can pray this psalm as a short prayer of strength.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Then take turns praying aloud the verses. Read aloud the last two paragraphs slowly, pausing after each sentence to give your child time to reflect on the words. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Understanding the Psalms on page 133. Have your child complete the activity. Then invite him or her to discuss one of these lessons in his or her daily life.

Respond: Page 134

- ▶ 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 use kind words to help others see God's love.
- ▶ 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.