



Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 27

- ▶ Ask your child to describe the current season of the year and tell how it differs from the other three seasons. **Say:** *Our Church also celebrates special seasons throughout its liturgical year.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. **Ask:** *How is celebrating the Church's special feasts and seasons the same as gathering for a family celebration? (We gather as God's family.)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn that Ordinary Time is the time of year when we learn about Jesus and how to experience his love through Scripture.*
- ▶ **Say:** *We can make the season of Ordinary Time extraordinary by beginning each day with a prayer or saying a prayer of thanksgiving before each meal. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

Explore: Page 28

- ▶ Take time to observe a plant in your home. **Ask:** *What do plants need to grow? (sun, water) What do we need so that our faith will grow? (prayer, Scripture, Mass)*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Say:** *We use Ordinary Time to learn how to listen better so that we can live the lives Jesus calls us to live. Give your child a few minutes to complete his or her prayer.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud How Can I Grow? and complete the activity. Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *We ask God to be with us and teach us how to live a life that honors him.*

Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass During Ordinary Time. **Say:** *The Scripture readings from Mass look at Jesus' life from three perspectives. The first looks at Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise. The second explores life in the early Christian communities. The Gospel is about his life and teachings.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Ask:** *What is an Evangelist? (one who spread the Good News) Why do you think we give these four men the title of Evangelist? (Their writings contain the Good News.)*
- ▶ Have your child read Symbols of My Faith and complete the activity.



Art Exploration: Page 233

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online the symbols of the Evangelists.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the pictures in detail, identifying each symbol.
- ▶ **Say:** *Each picture is a symbol representing the theme of a specific Gospel writer. During Ordinary Time the Gospels play an important role.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 233. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Evangelists' Symbols. **Ask:** *What do we read about in the Gospels?* (Jesus' life and teachings) Discuss everyday symbols and what they mean, such as street signs and symbols for holidays, birthdays, or weddings.
- ▶ Together brainstorm symbols to represent a person, an event, or an idea in the Church. Then have your child read aloud Church Symbols and complete the activity. Remind your child to look for Christian symbols in your church.
- ▶ Discuss if your child can identify with one of the four Gospel writers or their symbols. Review the symbols of the four Evangelists. Then have your child draw his or her own symbol. Invite your child to tell about the finished drawing. Ask your child to meditate on ways he or she can share the good news of God's Word with others.

Respond: Page 30

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific blessings to thank Jesus that he or she can include in a prayer before meals.
- ▶ 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.