



Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

Begin

Ask: What do you know about Blessed Mother Teresa? **Say:** As a young nun, Mother Teresa went to India to teach. She was so moved by the extreme poverty that she decided to dedicate her life to helping people who were poor, sick, or homeless. Blessed Mother Teresa is an example of how God can work through an ordinary person to bring good to the world. Read aloud the unit title on page 31.

Say: This unit helps us learn that God works through all kinds of people to bring good to the world.

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture and have him or her read aloud the text. **Ask:** How is Saint John Neumann different from other saints we've learned about? (He was an American citizen; he was a founder of Catholic education.) **Say:** God used John Neumann, another ordinary person, to bring good to the world just as he did with Blessed Mother Teresa.

Turn to page 32. Have your child read aloud the text. **Ask:** Where was John Neumann ordained to be a priest? (New York City) What gift did he have that allowed him to speak with parishioners from many different countries? (He spoke eight languages.) What good works did he do for God? (established Catholic schools, helped immigrants, encouraged devotion to the Blessed Sacrament) How can we answer God's call to help others and do good work like Blessed Mother Teresa and Saint John Neumann? (help those in need, be kind, treat others with respect)

With your child add John Neumann's feast day, January 5, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the work of Saint John Neumann.



God Is Faithful

Engage: Page 33

- ▶ With your child discuss qualities that make a good person. **Ask:** *What one quality do you especially value in a good person?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *How is the boy bringing about good in the world? (He is caring for God's creation.) How do we know if our work is bringing good into the world? Say:* *In this session we will learn that God is faithful and guides us to bring good into the world.*
- ▶ Ask your child to consider the effects of the work he or she tries to do to take care of God's creation. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 34–35

- ▶ Ask your child to think about conflicts he or she has had with siblings or friends. **Ask:** *Why do you think conflicts occur?*
- ▶ Read aloud Jacob Deceives His Brother on page 34. **Ask:** *Do you think Jacob made the right choices? Why or why not? Say:* *Once Isaac requested a blessing from God, he was unable to ask God to undo it, even though he had requested it for the wrong son.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *As we pray and offer a sign of peace, we should pray for those with whom we need to make peace.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 35. **Say:** *Why do you think Jacob agreed to continue working another seven years so that he could marry Rachel? (He loved Rachel; he felt he was paying for his past mistakes.) Point out the vocabulary term. What lesson can we learn from Jacob's story? (God never gives up on us, even if we make mistakes.)*

Art Exploration: Page 234

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Joseph, Jacob's son.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the clothes that Joseph is wearing.
- ▶ **Say:** *Sometimes families show feelings of both love and jealousy. At these times we can rely on God to help us understand our feelings.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 234. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud Jesus, Descendant of Jacob's. **Ask:** *Why is it important to learn about Jesus' ancestors in the Old Testament? How does it affect us today? (We all learn from our ancestors, just as Jesus did.)* **Say:** *Jesus' ancestors were faced with challenges but, through God's love and support, made choices that were part of God's plan. Jesus teaches us to have faith and trust in God's plan for us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Your Own Family Tree. Work together to make your family tree on a separate sheet of paper. Have your child share his or her summary statement.
- ▶ **Say:** *Many ideas were passed down through generations. Here is one statement we find in the Gospel of Matthew.* Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature.
- ▶ Invite your child to design a storyboard that shows Joseph's story. Encourage him or her to read Genesis 37 and 39:1–8, 40–45 to develop images to show on the storyboard. Ask your child to tell the story of Joseph to other family members, using the pictures.

Reflect: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Together look at page 36. **Ask:** *What time of day is the person celebrating in the picture? (morning)* Explain that even though this prayer is called the Morning Offering, we can pray it anytime.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph and then pray aloud the prayer with you. Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask your child to write on a separate sheet of paper his or her prayers, works, joys, and sufferings. Tell your child to keep these private and use the list as he or she prays the Morning Offering. Pray *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 37. **Say:** *If we do something bad intentionally, we are disrespecting God's love.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Accepting Consequences and complete the activity. Together share meaningful ways to apologize.

Respond: Page 38

- ▶ 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 God is working in his or her life.
- ▶ 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.