



The Mission of the Church

Engage: Page 75

- ▶ Discuss things your family members do to help others. **Say:** *When we do these things, we are showing Jesus' presence to others through our actions.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *How are the people in the picture showing Jesus' presence to the world? (They are helping the community by keeping it clean.)* **Say:** *In this session we will read about how we are all called to be like Jesus.*
- ▶ Discuss activities you and your child have seen in your parish that proclaim Jesus' presence. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 76–77

- ▶ Share with your child an example of how someone has helped you on your journey of faith. Ask your child to think about people who have influenced his or her faith.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Church Leads in Faith on page 76. **Ask:** *What message do we proclaim through our actions as members of the Church? (We are part of God's family, and God is present to us.)*
- ▶ Discuss ways that people show signs of God's presence to others. Explain examples such as teaching faith formation, going to Mass, being an altar server, and helping an elderly person. Have your child complete the On Your Journey of Faith activity.
- ▶ Have your child silently read page 77. **Ask:** *How do we know that God wants us to be close to him? (He made us temples of the Holy Spirit; we have his presence in our hearts; we can talk with and listen to him in prayer and through the sacraments.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *This verse confirms that we are called to show others the presence of God.*

Art Exploration: Page 241

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus with Peter and the other apostles.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of Jesus toward Peter.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus entrusted the care of the early Church to Peter and his followers.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 241. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud The Beginning of the Church. Point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *Why is the day described in this story so important to us today?* (It showed that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and is the Messiah. It was the birth of the Catholic Church.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud About Jesus and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *What are the ways we can announce the Gospel to the world by words, deeds, and actions?* Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Discuss Christian symbols such as keys, a cross, a fish, a lamb, and a dove. Have your child draw three new symbols that remind him or her of Jesus, the Church, and the kingdom of God, and write an explanation for each. Invite your child to pray a silent prayer, glorifying God.

Reflect: Pages 78–79

- ▶ Together look at page 78. **Say:** *Imagine you are the boy in the picture. Describe what you might see, hear, feel, and smell.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Use all your senses as you listen to the reflection.* Read aloud each part slowly, pausing after each paragraph. Allow time for your child to talk silently to God. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* together.
- ▶ Have your child read silently The Church Respects Other Religions on page 79. **Say:** *Christians, Jews, and Muslims all worship the God of Abraham.*
- ▶ Have your child read silently the first paragraph of Images of the Church. **Ask:** *What three images are mentioned?* (Bride of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Body of Christ) Have your child read aloud the second paragraph and complete the activity. Ask your child to share his or her response and drawing with you.

Respond: Page 80

- ▶ 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 respect people of other religions.
- ▶ 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.