



Sacraments of Initiation

Engage: Page 105

- ▶ Together flip through a calendar from last year and discuss interesting events that happened to your child and your family.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *Did any of these events have a lasting impression on you? Why?* **Say:** *In this session we'll learn that the Sacraments of Initiation are special events that change us in good ways.*
- ▶ Ask your child to write a short newspaper article describing an important event in his or her life. Tell your child that the article should include how the event changed him or her. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ **Say:** *The Church has special traditions for the sacraments.* **Ask:** *What do you know about Baptism?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the two sections on page 106. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What do we call adults preparing for Baptism today? (catechumens) What must they learn? (what God has done through Jesus, Church teachings, how to respond to God's call) Have your child complete the activity.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Holy water is a sacramental that helps us remember our relationship with God. In most churches you may fill a bottle with holy water to use in fonts at home.*
- ▶ Have your child read silently The Eucharist on page 107. **Ask:** *Why is the Eucharist so important? (It nourishes us so that we can go out and serve others. It forgives venial sins, and it brings us closer to Christ.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *This passage from John's Gospel tells us that Jesus is present to us and gives us eternal life in the Eucharist.*

Art Exploration: Page 246

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image of St. Peter's Church in France.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the statue of Saint Peter as the keystone in the arch.
- ▶ **Say:** *When you go into a church, look for structures that remind you of your faith.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 246. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read silently *The Stone That Holds Everything Together*. **Ask:** *Who else is like a keystone in the Church? Why?* (Jesus is like a keystone because he holds the Church and its members together. The people are like keystones because they spread God's Word and personify the teachings of Jesus.)
- ▶ Read aloud *Your Keystone*. Have your child complete the activity and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does Peter mean when he speaks of a living stone?* (an active member in supporting God's household, the Church)
- ▶ On a large sheet of paper, have your child draw the outline of a house with a slanting roof and a cross on top, and one large stone inside at the top. Write *Jesus* on the stone. Invite your child to draw more stones and write the names of your family and friends on them. Discuss ways that these people can build up the Church.

Reflect: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Together look at page 108. **Say:** *When you pray, focus on God's presence. Ask God to help you learn how to live as a faithful member of his family.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Invite your child to pray aloud the prayer with you. If possible, have your child bless himself or herself with holy water. Conclude by reading aloud the last paragraph. End by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud page 109. **Ask:** *What are some ways you can respond to your baptismal call to serve others and spread the good news?* (be honest, offer to pray for people, treat others with dignity and respect)
- ▶ Read aloud *Turning Points*. Have your child answer the questions and draw the symbols for each Sacrament of Initiation to complete the activity.

Respond: Page 110

- ▶ 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 act as a forgiving and caring member of the Christian community.
- ▶ 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.