



Jesus Is the Answer to a Promise

Engage: Page 11

- ▶ Together look at magazine or newspaper advertisements for products that promise amazing results. **Ask:** *Do you believe the promises made in these ads? Why or why not?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the box on page 11. **Say:** *Promises are easier to believe when they come from a trusted source.* **Ask:** *How do you think the idea of trust and the session title might be related? (We can put our trust in God.)* Tell your child that he or she will learn about a promise God made and kept.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Pray together the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 12–13

- ▶ Look through current newspapers or magazines. **Ask:** *Who are some people who have a major impact, for better or for worse, on national and international events? What do we expect from famous people or powerful people? (Possible answers: to influence change, gain wealth or power, or improve lives)* **Say:** *Whether leaders do good or bad work in the world, they are usually impressive in terms of worldly power. As we read this article, let's consider what Jesus taught and the kind of king he was.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title John the Baptist and the first three paragraphs on page 12. Discuss the meanings of *prophet* and *precursor*. Read aloud the definitions in the Glossary. **Say:** *Think of a prophet as a spokesperson, not a foreteller of the future.* Extend this idea by reading aloud Exodus 6:30—7:1 and discuss the Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud the sections Miraculous Beginnings and A Voice in the Desert. **Say:** *God had special plans for John from the start. John not only looked different, but his message was different too.* **Ask:** *Who raises eyebrows today because of their look or message? In what ways are they like John the Baptist?* **Say:** *Each of us is a child of God, made in God's image and likeness.* Discuss what you and your child can do to remind yourselves of this.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Our Catholic Character. Discuss the meaning of *Original Sin*, reading aloud the definition in the Glossary. Share memories of your child's reception of the Sacrament of Baptism. Then read about Baptism on page 287 of Prayers and Practices and discuss the ideas.
- ▶ Turn to page 13. Have your child read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Discuss the image of the lion as a symbol of strength and courage. Explain that the winged lion is included in the vision of four winged creatures in Ezekiel 1:10 and in the Book of Revelation 4:78.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the sections The Promise of the Messiah and A Sign of Repentance. **Ask:** *Why was John's act of baptizing a powerful sign? (The washing was a sign of forgiveness.)* *What are some other signs of forgiveness? (Possible answers: the priest laying his hands on the head of a penitent during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a handshake, a hug or smile)*
- ▶ Read aloud the section John Baptizes Jesus. **Ask:** *What happened when Jesus came out of the water? (The heavens opened and the Spirit descended on him. A voice came from the heavens.)* *What promise is fulfilled in Jesus? (God's promise of the Messiah)*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity. Help your child find the Scripture verses and ask him or her to summarize the key ideas.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.



Explore: Pages 14–15

- ▶ Read aloud a copy of the terms of service agreement for a product or service you purchased. Ask your child to point out complicated language. Then read aloud Genesis 17:1–8 and point out that God’s agreement, or Covenant, with the Chosen People was simple. God promises to do far more for us than he asks in return.
- ▶ Begin reading the article The Inspired Word of God on page 14. Talk about what it means to be part of an agreement. Read aloud the definitions of *Covenant* and *canon* in the Glossary. **Say:** *God is loving. He is always faithful and invites you to renew your covenant with him at any time.* After the third paragraph, discuss how to find particular books and verses in the Bible. Refer your child to page 254 in Prayers and Practices for more help if needed.
- ▶ Read aloud the section The Old Testament on page 14. Have your child point out the first five books of the Bible. **Say:** *This part of the Bible was originally written in Hebrew for the Jewish people.* Read aloud the section The New Testament on page 15. **Say:** *The New Testament is God’s way of speaking to us through his Son, Jesus Christ.* Have your child locate the four Gospels in the New Testament. **Ask:** *Why is each Gospel unique?* (Each was written for a different audience and at a different time.) **Say:** *Both the Old and New Testaments are part of the canon.* Review the vocabulary on page 15, referring to the Glossary as needed.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Past Meets Present. **Say:** *Before people had access to the printed word, they relied on memorization to learn.* **Ask:** *How can you transmit printed words today?* (Possible answers: e-books, apps, text messages, e-mail, instant messages, fax)
- ▶ Together reflect on your personal use of the Bible and make a list of ways your child can make it more a part of his or her everyday life. Invite your child to learn more about the Bible by reading pages 253–255 in Prayers and Practices.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 16–17

- ▶ Read aloud the title Praying the Gospel on page 16. Ask your child to read aloud the paragraphs in the left column. Discuss how we meet God in new ways each time we read the Bible.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer And the Word Was God, dividing the parts between you and your child. Together read aloud the All parts. Pause and meditate between parts. Together pray the Lord’s Prayer. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Look at page 17. Read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? Discuss what it means to “let go and let God.” Have your child read aloud Trust in God. **Ask:** *What prayer does the author pray every day? (“God, save me.”) Why does he do this?* (He knows there are some things he can’t do on his own.) Ask your child to complete the activity independently.



Respond: Page 18

- ▶ Read aloud the directions in What's What? Ask your child to complete each sentence with details from the referenced pages.
- ▶ Review the terms you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Invite your child to complete the activity independently and refer to his or her ideas during the week as a reminder to carry out the plan.
Say: *Remember that God is always present for you, even at times when you fail to meet your end of the bargain. Because of his great love for you, God invites you to enter into a relationship with him over and over again.*
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.