



## Jesus Calls Us to Say Yes

### Engage: Page 27

- ▶ Together read aloud the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:29–37. **Ask:** *What is Jesus teaching us about saying yes? (We are called to care for everyone in need, not just our friends, family, or others who love us without question.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the box on page 27. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *How do you think our responses in life and the session title might be related? (Possible answer: When we respond to situations the way Jesus would, we are saying yes to him.)*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Pray together the Sign of the Cross.

### Explore: Pages 28–29

- ▶ Ask your child to tell you what he or she knows about angels. Discuss Catholic beliefs about angels with your child. **Say:** *Catholics believe that angels are messengers of God and a reminder of God's constant love and protection.*
- ▶ Discuss what your child knows about the Annunciation. Together research information on the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. Explain that the basilica contains the grotto that is said to be the home of Mary and the site of the Annunciation. Have your child read aloud the definition of *Annunciation* in the Glossary.
- ▶ Turn to page 28. Invite your child to read aloud the article title *The Annunciation: Will You Say Yes?* Together read aloud the page. Discuss how Mary, a teenager, might have felt when the angel Gabriel announced that she would conceive Jesus, the Messiah, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Have your child read aloud the full Bible account in Luke 1:26–38. Point out that it is OK to feel frightened or confused by daily life. Explain that we should live as best we know how and trust God.
- ▶ Read aloud *Our Catholic Character*. Discuss what Pope John Paul II meant when he said that the mistreatment of women has resulted in “a spiritual impoverishment of humanity.”
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the section *Celebrating Mary* on page 29. Clarify any confusion between the terms *Immaculate Conception* and *Annunciation*. **Say:** *The Annunciation celebrates Gabriel's announcement that Mary, through the Holy Spirit, would conceive Jesus. This means that Jesus had no human, biological father. The Immaculate Conception recognizes that Mary, whose biological parents were Anne and Joachim, was free from Original Sin from the moment of her conception and remained free of sin throughout her life.*
- ▶ Read aloud the *Explain the Annunciation* activity. Tell your child to imagine the most important feelings or ideas he or she wants to impart in the scene. Consider role-playing the finished scene.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the *Sacred Art* feature. **Say:** *Maurice Denis used art to say yes to God. Ask: What are some other ways to use talents to say yes to God? (Possible answers: song, dance, prayer, poetry, speaking skills, service, volunteer work)*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Explore: Pages 30–31

- ▶ Offer a simple demonstration about the concept of grace. Have your child complete some easy challenges. Give him or her a small token after each challenge. **Say:** *God's*



*gift of grace does not work like this. God's grace is free and undeserved. It is an invitation, not a reward or something we earned. Even though God's grace is free, it's up to us to accept the invitation.*

- ▶ Read aloud the title Grace on page 30. Take turns reading aloud the page. Read aloud the definitions of *grace* and *actual grace* in the Glossary. **Say:** *Mary is "full of grace," meaning "favored by God." A favor is given; Mary simply receives.* Suggest that your child use reflective prayer, such as the Daily Examen, to deepen awareness of God's grace. Find more information about the Daily Examen on page 279 in Prayers and Practices.
- ▶ Read aloud the definitions for *sanctifying grace* and *habitual grace* in the Glossary. Have your child read aloud the section Sanctifying, or Habitual, Grace on page 31. Point out that sanctifying grace is first received in Baptism. Explain that we receive the grace that Jesus makes possible through his suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension to secure our Salvation. **Say:** *Original Sin is cleansed in the Sacrament of Baptism, but we also need the healing grace we receive in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the other sacraments.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. Pray aloud Saint Ignatius of Loyola's *Suscipe*, found on page 278, and discuss the prayer's meaning.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Reflect: Pages 32–33

- ▶ Read aloud the title Favored by God on page 32. Together read aloud the paragraphs in the left column. Invite your child to read aloud the definition of *intercession* in the Glossary. Ask your child to answer the question in the final paragraph.
- ▶ Encourage your child to relax as you read aloud the guided reflection "Annunciation Meditation" based on Luke 1:26–38. Pause between paragraphs for silent meditation. Pray the Hail Mary together. Conclude the guided reflection by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Look at page 33. Read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? Discuss healthy responses. Take turns reading aloud the article Waiting. **Say:** *As we grow with God, we learn that we will be tempted, but the easy route is not always the best.* Discuss tedious chores that you and your child do not enjoy doing. **Ask:** *How can we make these tasks more enjoyable?* (Possible answers: share them, listen to music, notice the progress being made)
- ▶ Complete the idea web in the Yes to God activity together. Be as specific as possible and suggest that you both try some of your ideas during the following week.

### Respond: Page 34

- ▶ Read aloud the directions in What's What? Remind your child to be sure to answer the questions with details from the text.
- ▶ Review the terms you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Allow time to reflect and then compose a prayer independently. Silently pray your completed prayers. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at [www.loyolapress.com/retreat](http://www.loyolapress.com/retreat).