



## Jesus Is Our Teacher

### Engage: Page 107

- ▶ Together name rules that people follow in sports, at school, and in the community. **Ask:** *How do you feel about rules? When do they make life better? When do they intrude? (Answers will vary.) What is the purpose of rules? (Possible answers: to establish order, to achieve goals, to provide safety)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the box on page 107. **Ask:** *How might the title and the concept of rules be related? (Possible answer: Jesus, the master teacher, gave us ways to live out of love so that we could gain Salvation.)*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Pray aloud the Sign of the Cross.

### Explore: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Look at a picture of a lighthouse with your child and ask him or her to describe its purpose. **Say:** *A lighthouse guides a ship's safe passage. It doesn't take over the steering; it simply provides the light.* Read aloud the article title Sermon on the Mount. **Say:** *Throughout the ages, God has provided light and guidance for humankind.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the introductory paragraphs on page 108. **Ask:** *How is Jesus the new Moses? (He taught a new way to live.) Clarify the terms Sermon on the Mount, Beatitudes, and Kingdom of God, using the Glossary as needed.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the section The Beatitudes. **Say:** *The Beatitudes answer the question "How can I be happy?" Discuss how to better understand the "blessed" in each beatitude by relating a Christian attitude. For example, the "poor in spirit" reflects an attitude of gratitude, remembering that everything good comes from God. Compare Matthew's version of the Beatitudes to Luke's version.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Our Catholic Character feature. Encourage your child to discuss the just-war doctrine. **Ask:** *What do you think is the meaning of "If you want peace, work for justice"?*
- ▶ Read aloud the two sections on page 109. Discuss the meaning of Kingdom of Heaven, using the Glossary if needed. **Ask:** *What is another name for the Ten Commandments? (Decalogue) How are the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes alike? (They show how to live in relationship with God and with others. They help us to build God's kingdom here on earth.) Explain that following the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes are ways to respond to God's abundant love. **Say:** *God's rules are a gift to us, a light that guides us, and not dreary tasks that we must do. God's rules are given to us out of his great love for humanity. Because God provides the way to live so that we may share eternal life and happiness with him, we should respond joyfully and gratefully to the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.**
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for the activity. Invite your child to draw a symbol and explain the idea to you.
- ▶ Wrap up your discussion. **Ask:** *Why does it take courage to live the Beatitudes? (Answers will vary.)*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.



### Explore: Pages 110–111

- ▶ Demonstrate the complexity of explaining difficult ideas by giving these directions for raising a mainsail on a sailboat, which is a challenge that many people would not have experienced. Ask your child to pantomime each action. **Say:** *Attach the halyard and sheet. Put the main halyard on a winch. Open jammers. Turn into the wind. Have one person sweat the halyard while another takes in the slack on the winch. Insert a winch handle and crank. Cleat the halyard. Then say: It's hard to understand what to do if people use complicated language. Thankfully, Jesus used familiar associations that spoke to people's hearts when he taught about the Kingdom of God.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the article title The Kingdom of God on page 110. Then read aloud the opening paragraphs. **Ask:** *How do parables help us understand Jesus' Word? (They help us compare divine reality to ordinary experiences.) To what does Jesus compare the kingdom? (a mustard seed and yeast) Read aloud the section The Mustard Seed. Say: When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray "thy kingdom come"; however, Jesus' parables alert us to the presence of God's kingdom right now. Continue discussing the present kingdom by reading Luke 17:21, when Jesus tells the Pharisees, "The kingdom of God is among you."*
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Discuss how we know that each one of us is precious to God. Ask your child to read aloud Luke 15:3–7.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the three sections on page 111. **Ask:** *How is a repentant sinner like the lost sheep? (God joyously welcomes the return of the sinner.) Say: Jesus invites us to live his Word today, even in the small way of the mustard seed, yeast, or hidden treasure. Ask: Why did Jesus remind the disciples that they would have to become more like children to enter the Kingdom of God? (Possible answers: Children are open, innocent, and guileless. They trust. They ask for help when they need it.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. Discuss the role of teaching in the formation of our faith. Use the Glossary to discuss the term *Magisterium*.
- ▶ Close the discussion about the article. **Say:** *Think about Jesus' instruction to be like children. Ask: What is the difference between a childlike attitude and a childish attitude? (Childlike implies innocence or openness. Childish implies immaturity.)*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Reflect: Pages 112–113

- ▶ Read aloud the title 20/20 Vision on page 112. Ask your child to read aloud the paragraphs in the left column. Discuss ways we can try to see people the way God wants us to see them. **Say:** *What would Jesus see in this person? What words would he speak to him or her?*
- ▶ Pray aloud Seeing as God Sees. Together pray aloud the All sections. Conclude with *Amen*. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Look at page 113 and read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? Ask your child to use his or her senses to describe a barn. **Say:** *Barns are sometimes unpleasant or messy. But God chose to be born as a baby in a stable. Ask: What does this tell us about unpleasant places in our own world? (God dwells everywhere, even in places considered*



unpleasant.) Take turns reading aloud the article. **Ask:** *What brings God's presence to all places, regardless of noise, greed, or tacky souvenirs?* (the faith of the people who visit, the willingness of God to love us despite our flaws)

- ▶ Read aloud the Building the Kingdom activity. Together write your ideas on paper "bricks." Then work together to arrange and display them in your home.

### Respond: Page 114

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions in What's What? before finding details in the text to answer each question.
- ▶ Review the terms you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Allow time for reflection on the Beatitudes before your child writes a response.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at [www.loyolapress.com/retreat](http://www.loyolapress.com/retreat).