



Celebrating Pentecost

Engage: Page 211

- ▶ Share anything you know about sailing. **Say:** *Without wind, the sailboat would sit still in the water. Today we're going to talk about a special kind of force that directs our lives and moves us in the right direction.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title Celebrating Pentecost on page 211 and discuss the text in the box. Then take turns reading aloud the page. Explain that the Holy Spirit moves through us and inspires us to do God's work. **Say:** *Just as the Holy Spirit filled the Apostles' hearts with the strength and courage needed to do God's work, so may our hearts be filled to live out our faith and carry out God's mission.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Pray aloud the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 212–213

- ▶ Display a compass. **Say:** *A compass needle always points north because of the magnetic pull of the earth.* Tell your child that to guide us in our spiritual lives, Jesus and the Father sent the Holy Spirit so that we wouldn't get lost.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title The Holy Spirit Guides the Church and the opening paragraphs on page 212. **Say:** *The Apostles had turned their lives over to Jesus. Suddenly they found themselves faced with the thought of losing him.* **Ask:** *What emotions do you think they were feeling?*
- ▶ Read aloud the section The Spirit. Point out that *Paraclete* is another name for the Holy Spirit. **Say:** *God understood how the Apostles felt. The Holy Spirit wiped away all their fears. He filled them with the courage and faith they needed to continue Jesus' work.* **Ask:** *Who continues the work of the Apostles today? (the bishops)*
- ▶ Read aloud the sections on page 213. **Ask:** *How does the Holy Spirit help us when we allow him to lead us? (The Holy Spirit helps us distinguish between good and evil, what is true and what is false, and enlivens our lives.) How can we be open to the Holy Spirit? (praying the Lord's Prayer, letting go of what we want and trusting in God's will for us, celebrating the sacraments)* **Say:** *Let us keep our hearts open to the Holy Spirit in our lives so that he may help us know the truth and be true to our calling.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Discuss how helpful symbols can be. Ask your child to close his or her eyes and picture the Holy Spirit. Then ask your child to picture Jesus. Remark that it was probably easier to picture Jesus. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit did not take human form. Some people find it difficult to picture the Holy Spirit.*
- ▶ Invite your child to keep his or her heart open to the Holy Spirit. Encourage your child to write a short prayer to the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 214–215

- ▶ **Ask:** *What does it mean when someone says a favorite team "rules"? (The expression means that, in this person's view, a particular team is the best. It's dominant.) Discuss items that both of you believe "rule" in particular categories, such as the best ice-cream flavor, TV drama, and athlete.* **Say:** *When we pray, the Holy Spirit rules. He teaches us to pray in many different ways.*



- ▶ On page 214 read aloud the article title *The Holy Spirit Makes Us Holy* and take turns reading aloud the first two paragraphs. **Say:** *Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. We can continue the work begun by the Apostles when we develop our own relationship with God through prayer.*
- ▶ Read aloud the remaining two sections on page 214. **Say:** *There is no wrong way to pray. The Holy Spirit enables us to have a direct conversation with God.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the section *Gifts to Grow in Holiness* on page 215. Review the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and discuss them. **Say:** *The next time you are in need of the help of the Holy Spirit, you can pray for the grace of one of these gifts.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Our Catholic Character*. Remind him or her that many people receive the grace of Baptism as an infant. Explain that as they grow older, they become more responsible for doing the work of the Body of Christ. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, they receive gifts from the Holy Spirit to go into the world and work toward the vision of the Kingdom of God on earth.
- ▶ Encourage your child to continue to participate in his or her own faith life by taking actions to grow closer to God. Invite your child to make prayer a daily habit and to ask the Holy Spirit to guide and support him or her.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 216–217

- ▶ Read aloud the title *Gifts of the Spirit* and the paragraphs on page 216. **Say:** *No one goes through life without needing help. Let's pray to the Holy Spirit with humble hearts for guidance and help on our faith journeys.*
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer title *Petitions to the Holy Spirit*. Explain that petitions are prayerful requests. Ask your child to pray aloud the Leader parts as you both pray aloud the All parts. Pause for a brief meditation between each petition. When all the petitions have been read, conclude by praying together *Saint Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit*.
- ▶ Look at page 217. Read aloud the introductory paragraph of *Where Do I Fit In?* Take turns reading aloud *Counting on the Holy Spirit*. Point out that fruit contains seeds. When we experience the fruits of the Spirit in our daily lives, we are given seeds of God's love to plant in the lives of others.
- ▶ Work together to complete the *With Us and For Us* activity.

Respond: Page 218

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions in *What's What?* Then ask him or her to complete the sentences using details from the text.
- ▶ Review the word you learned in this session in *Say What?*
- ▶ Read aloud *Now What?* Encourage your child to remember the Holy Spirit's presence. **Say:** *God invites you to accept the challenges of living a Christian life.* Suggest that your child reflect and consider the power of the Holy Spirit before writing the prayer.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.