

## Sent on a Mission

### Engage: Page 71

- ▶ Discuss experiences you have both had where you shared exciting news with someone. Point out why you were excited to share the news and how other people responded to the news. **Say:** *A benefit of living in a community is having people who support us when times are tough. We also have others with whom we can share our good news.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and discuss the questions in the blue box. **Say:** *In this session we are going to reflect on how our relationship with Jesus fills us with joy and how we are called to share that joy with others by serving as missionaries.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 72–73

- ▶ If possible, play a recording of the theme song from *Mission: Impossible*. **Say:** *In Mission: Impossible, the agents were sent to complete tasks that many thought could not be done. As Jesus' followers we are also sent on a mission—to spread the Gospel message.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title The Church's Mission and the first three paragraphs. **Say:** *The word mission comes from a Latin word meaning "to send."* **Ask:** *What did Church leaders send the early missionaries to do? (leave their homes and share the Gospel with people who lived beyond the boundaries of the empire)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Ready for Confirmation. **Ask:** *What does the Sacrament of Confirmation call us to do? (spread the Gospel, be missionaries in our own lives) What are a few concrete examples of how we can be missionaries? (Possible answers: help a neighbor with yard work, speak up for those who are oppressed)*
- ▶ Read aloud Respond to the Call. Point out that people who stand up for the truth are often persecuted. Research contemporary missionaries who are persecuted for standing up for what is right.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Past Meets Present on page 73. Explain that during his life, Jesus sent women and men to spread his message. Read aloud the story of the Samaritan women at the well [John 4:4–42] or the story of Mary Magdalene [John 20:11–18].
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Explore: Pages 74–75

- ▶ Play a game where you both sit six feet away from a wall and see who can roll a ball closest to the wall without touching the wall. **Say:** *This game required a gentle touch. Now we're going to learn about spreading the Gospel to others, which often requires a gentle touch as well.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the article title Called to Spread the Good News and the first three paragraphs. Point out that the theme of the New Evangelization is that all of us are called to share the Gospel with others. **Say:** *Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI developed the New Evangelization as a response to our contemporary culture, which often rejects Christian values.*



- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Sacred Art feature. **Say:** *This picture reminds us that Jesus is always with us.* Point out that when we engage in acts of evangelization, we help others recognize Jesus' presence in the world around them.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Live Faith-Filled Lives. Ask: *What is the message we spread when we give in to temptations?* (Possible answers: that our faith is not important to us, that societal values are more important than Christian values) Explain that the Church calls us to respect people's religious freedom because it recognizes that each religious tradition reveals some ray of truth. Share your experiences of interacting with people from other religious traditions. **Say:** *By remaining true to our own faith and treating people of other traditions with respect, we spread the Good News.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section A Modern Missionary on page 75. Give your child time to complete the activity and invite him or her to share the answers with you.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Reflect: Pages 76–77

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title and the paragraphs in the left column. Explain that there are different types of meditation and that Christian meditation is always focused on God.
- ▶ **Say:** *Find a comfortable position and quiet yourself for prayer.* Invite your child to pray aloud the first paragraph of the section Meditation of a Missionary. Pause briefly, then pray aloud the quotation from Pope John Paul II's message. Read aloud the next sentence and the questions that follow. Pause after each question to give your child time to reflect. Then pray aloud the final paragraph. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What is the butterfly effect?* (a small change in one place that has a ripple effect and makes very large changes elsewhere) **Say:** *Our actions in the world are like this effect. One small word or deed can have a life-changing impact on someone we hardly know.* Have your child read aloud the introductory paragraph.
- ▶ Together read aloud Who Has Carried the Message of Jesus to Me? **Say:** *Mrs. Brennan doesn't know it, but by teaching an ordinary lesson about one of Jesus' miracles, she ended up touching the heart and mind of someone many years later.* **Ask:** *What else accounts for the power of Mrs. Brennan's action?* (Possible answers: Christ himself, the miracle of the Good News)
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity independently and encourage him or her to put the idea into action in the coming days.

### Respond: Page 78

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions and complete the crossword puzzle.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Give your child time to complete the activity. **Say:** *When we serve as missionaries, we set an example for how others can follow Jesus' teachings.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at [www.loyolapress.com/retreat](http://www.loyolapress.com/retreat).