

Joining God's Family

Engage: Page 139

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Matthew 28:16–20. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Give your child a page of stickers or a small bag of treats. Say: ***I've given you a gift. Your mission is to share it with everyone in our home!*** Allow time for your child to share the stickers or treats with you and anyone nearby. Say: ***Jesus gave the gift of God's love to the Apostles and told them to share it with the whole world.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 139. Ask: ***How can you share God's love with others?*** (tell them about God, be joyful and kind)
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for prayer. Pray aloud the prayer while your child follows along. Pause briefly for reflection. Then conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

Explore: Page 140

- ▶ Say: ***Imagine you are in a hot desert without any water.*** Ask: ***How do you feel?*** Give your child a glass of water. Ask: ***How does the water help you feel now?*** Allow time for your child to respond. Then say: ***Water is important to all living things. Water is also an important sign for members of our Church. Let's find out how water is important in the Sacrament of Baptism.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Have your child repeat the boldface terms, *Baptism* and *Original Sin*, after you. Say: ***We learned that a sacrament is a sign of Jesus' love. The Sacrament of Baptism is one of these signs. All people are born with Original Sin because the first people, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God. Baptism frees us from Original Sin. We become followers of Jesus. We become part of God's family the day we are baptized.***
- ▶ Read aloud the last two paragraphs. Point out the boldface term *holy water* and have your child repeat it after you. Say: ***Holy water is blessed water. We keep holy water in a holy-water font. What do we do when we enter the church and pass the holy-water font?*** (dip our fingertips into the holy water and pray the Sign of the Cross) Ask: ***Why do we bless ourselves with holy water?*** (to remind ourselves of our Baptism)
- ▶ Share with your child details of his or her Baptism. Then say: ***A Baptism is a wonderful day for families!***

Explore: Page 141

- ▶ Ask your child to name some people who are important to him or her. Then say: ***Now we're going to learn about some people who are important in both our family and God's family.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Have your child repeat the boldface word *godparents* after you. Say: ***Godparents are important people because they promise to help their godchildren grow in God's family.***
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Ask: ***How do godparents show they care?*** (by helping us live good lives, by remembering us on special days)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***Who do you think said this?*** (Jesus) Say: ***Jesus wants everyone to be part of God's family.*** Ask: ***How do we become a part of God's family?*** (through Baptism, being baptized)

Art Print: Page 142

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of Saint Peter. Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including objects that Peter is holding. Say: ***In Baptism we join God's family and become followers of Jesus.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first two paragraphs of the story. Ask: ***Whom was Peter talking about?*** (Jesus)
- ▶ Read aloud the next two paragraphs. Ask: ***What two things did Peter say the people should do to follow Jesus?*** (love God and join his family)
- ▶ Read aloud We Are Invited. Say: ***When Jesus was here on earth, many people followed him. Now we're Jesus' followers. We join God's family in the Sacrament of Baptism. When we love God and one another, we show that we are Jesus' followers.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child color the pictures. Afterward, remind your child that we are following Jesus when we are kind to one another.
- ▶ Using poster board and art supplies, ask your child to make a poster that illustrates any of the following: *Love God, Follow Jesus, God's Family, Jesus Loves Me, or I Love Jesus.* Ask him or her to write the caption on the poster and explain the drawings. Display the poster in your home.

Reflect: Pages 143–144

- ▶ Together look at page 143. Ask: ***What do you think the girl in the picture is doing?*** (making the Sign of the Cross)
- ▶ Remind your child of the importance of holy water. Ask: ***What does holy water remind us of?*** (our Baptism)
- ▶ Set a bowl of water on the table and demonstrate how to dip your right hand into holy water and pray the Sign of the Cross. Ask your child to do it with you. Say: ***We are all part of God's family. God is our Father. We are brothers and sisters in God's family.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title on page 143 and invite your child to prepare for prayer by closing his or her eyes and folding his or her hands. Then read aloud the paragraph in a prayerful manner.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of the prayer. Ask your child to open his or her eyes. Then pray together the Sign of the Cross, checking that your child uses the correct gestures.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph on page 144. Ask: ***What does Baptism do for us?*** (It makes us members of God's family and frees us from Original Sin.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and allow time for your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: ***When we enter and exit the church, we dip our hand into the holy water. Then we pray the Sign of the Cross, which reminds us we are baptized and part of God's family.***

Respond: Pages 145–146

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 145. Review the Words I Learned. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can act in loving ways toward others.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title, introduction, and directions. Have your child tell you something about God. Then have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: ***Our Baptism makes us members of God's family. Let's tell Jesus we are grateful for this gift.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays silently. Then say: ***Take a moment to talk with Jesus in the quiet of your heart.*** Pause briefly. Close by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 146. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then find a time to complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.