

## Listening to Our Father

### Engage: Page 155

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Matthew 6:5–8. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Play a song quietly in the background. Have your child tell you when he or she can hear what's being played. Say: ***We live in a noisy world and often cannot hear important things over all the noise.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 155. Ask: ***How can we grow closer to God?*** (by praying to God and listening to him)
- ▶ Together find a special, comfortable, quiet place in your home. Pray aloud the prayer while your child follows along. Pause briefly. Then conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

### Explore: Page 156

- ▶ Together look at the two pictures on page 156. Say: ***Today we're going to learn a story about a man named Elijah. Elijah had a place where he could be alone and quiet. It was a place where he could talk to and listen for God.***
- ▶ Read aloud the story. Then ask your child: ***What is happening in the picture on the left side of page 156?*** (Elijah is watching the storm, the earthquake, and the fire in the sky.) ***Was God there?*** (Yes, God is everywhere.) ***Why couldn't Elijah hear God?*** (There was too much noise.)
- ▶ Have your child describe the picture on the right side of the page. Then say: ***God is always with us, but we hear him best when we are listening.*** Explain that talking to someone requires both speaking and listening. Say: ***Sometimes it is hard to hear God with all the noise in our lives, but we will hear God if we listen closely.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***Why is listening important when we pray?*** (so we can learn from God the Father)

**Explore: Page 157**

- ▶ Ask your child: ***When you have a conversation with a friend, does one of you do all the talking, or do you listen to one another? Do you respond to what your friend says?*** (Accept reasonable responses.)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the two paragraphs. Point out the boldface word *Confirmation* and have your child repeat it after you. Ask: ***What does the Holy Spirit give us in Confirmation?*** (more grace) ***How does the Holy Spirit help us in Confirmation?*** (The Holy Spirit helps our faith grow stronger, helps us hear God, and helps us do what God asks.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Then have your child fill in the blanks as you read aloud each sentence.

**Art Print: Page 158**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of people singing and dancing. Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the people may feel. Say: ***The people in the picture may be praying. There are many different ways to pray.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title. For each paragraph, read aloud the question that starts the paragraph and invite your child to respond.
- ▶ Point out the boldface word *gestures* in the second paragraph and have your child repeat it after you. Say: ***Gestures are the movements we make to add meaning to our words.*** Ask: ***What gestures do we make in prayer?*** (making the Sign of the Cross, bowing when we say or hear Jesus' name, genuflecting before the tabernacle and as we enter a pew) Say: ***If our words, songs, and gestures help us talk to God, then they are prayers.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child draw the picture.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: ***God hears us whenever and wherever we pray.***
- ▶ Ask your child to pretend that he or she is in the picture of people dancing. Ask your child to show how he or she would be moving and what he or she would be saying or singing. Remind your child that when we pray, we praise God, we thank him, we ask for help, and we tell him we're sorry.

**Reflect: Page 159**

- ▶ Together look at the picture. Ask: ***What sounds do you think the child in the picture can hear?*** Remind your child that it is important to make time for silence so that he or she can both talk and listen to God.

- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Then say: ***To get ready to pray, you should be as quiet as Elijah when he was listening for God. Fold your hands and close your eyes. Breathe in and out slowly.***
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Then say: ***Now listen carefully. Remember that listening is an important part of praying. When I finish reading aloud, you will have time to talk with God in your heart.***
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer, pausing after each sentence to give your child time to reflect. Then give your child time to speak with God in his or her heart. After a few moments, say: ***Now open your eyes. Let's close our prayer time by praying together the Sign of the Cross and Amen.***

### Reflect: Page 160

- ▶ Share with your child a peaceful place you enjoy. Describe it. Ask: ***Where is a peaceful place you like to go? What do you like about it? What do you do in your peaceful place?*** (Accept reasonable responses.)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Say: ***There are many peaceful places in God's world. Peaceful places are good places in which to talk to and listen to God. God is always talking to us, but we have to listen closely so that we can hear him.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Invite your child to complete the activity. When he or she is finished, ask your child to share the picture and his or her answers. Encourage your child to use a lot of detail to explain why each place is his or her favorite peaceful place. Then invite your child to join you in a prayer of thanksgiving for all the wonderful things we enjoy and the many peaceful places we find in the world.

### Respond: Pages 161–162

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 161. Review the Words I Learned with your child. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest a specific time each day when he or she can have some quiet time to talk to and listen to God.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title, first line of introduction, and directions. Have your child complete the activity. When he or she is finished, read aloud the sentence together.
- ▶ Say: ***Let's thank God for the quiet times we have with him.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays silently. Then say: ***Spend a few moments of quiet time with God.*** Pause briefly. Then close by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 162. Next, read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.