

Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

Engage: Page 163

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Matthew 4:1–2. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Ask your child to name things he or she practices. (Possible answers: counting, riding a bike, gymnastics, martial arts) Say: **Preparation is important if we want to do something well. To be good followers of Jesus, we need to prepare.**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 163. Ask: **How did Jesus prepare his heart?** (He prayed in the desert for 40 days.) Say: **Growing close to God is important work. We spend time during Lent making our hearts ready.**
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Then pause for reflection. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen.*

Explore: Page 164

- ▶ Say: **When we grow closer to someone, that person becomes our friend.** Ask: **What kind of friend was Jesus?** (a good friend who loved and cared for others) Point out that God the Father wants us to be more like his Son, Jesus, and that Lent is a great time to do this.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first two paragraphs. Point out the boldface word *Lent* and have your child repeat it after you. Ask: **What do we do during Lent?** (prepare for Easter, grow closer to God) **How do we grow closer to God?** (live like Jesus did, pray, be sorry for our wrongs, be kind and helpful)
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph. Point out the boldface term *Holy Week* and have your child repeat it after you. Ask: **When is Holy Week?** (the last week of Lent)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Invite your child to read aloud the words in the word box and then complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature as your child follows in the book. Ask: **What is one thing you did today to show love for God?** (Accept all responses.)

Reflect on the Mass: Page 165

- ▶ Discuss what Mass is like during Lent and Holy Week. Ask: ***Is there a special color that stands out?*** (violet) ***Are there lots of songs or only a few songs?*** (only a few)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Point out the boldface word *Alleluia* and have your child repeat it after you. Ask: ***What is the Alleluia?*** (a prayer of praise that we usually sing before the Gospel) Explain that Mass changes as we celebrate different seasons of the liturgical year. Ask: ***What change in music will we notice at Mass during Lent?*** (We will not hear the Alleluia; we will hear music with other words.)
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Ask: ***What other changes will we notice at Mass during Lent?*** (violet vestments, plain linens, no flowers)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Then have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud Did You Know? Say: ***We receive ashes on Ash Wednesday to symbolize the dust from which God made us. As we receive ashes on our forehead, the celebrant may say, "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return."***

Art Print: Page 166

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture that shows Jesus on the Cross. Ask your child: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how seeing Jesus on the Cross makes him or her feel. Say: ***Lent is a time to prepare. By being more like Jesus, we get our hearts ready for Easter.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraphs on page 166. Say: ***Jesus teaches us how we can be closer to God.*** Ask: ***How can we care for people in need?*** (Share money in the church collection. Participate in volunteer activities. Pray for people in need.) ***How do we pray?*** (We can sit quietly with Jesus in our thoughts, or we can pray with our church family.) ***How can we share God's message?*** (by living like Jesus and showing others how to make good choices)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child write the prayer. Help your child as needed. When your child is finished, remind him or her that our kind words and actions can help us grow closer to God.
- ▶ Give your child art paper, a paint brush, and watercolor paint. Ask your child to paint his or her own version of the crucifix. Encourage your child to use bold strokes and unusual colors. Remind your child that God is always there for all of us.

Respond: Pages 167–168

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary on page 167. Review the Words I Learned. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest other ways he or she can show kindness toward others. Then say: ***We do nice things for others during Lent and Holy Week to be more like Jesus and to grow closer to God the Father.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title, directions, and words in the word bank. Then read aloud each clue and help your child complete the puzzle.
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Say: ***Today we talked about the importance of preparing our hearts during this season of Lent. Let's ask God for help during Lent.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays silently. Then say: ***Spend a few moments talking with God in silent prayer.*** 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 168. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then plan a time to complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.