

## Making Good Decisions

### Engage: Page 173

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Matthew 7:24–27. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Remind your child of the story of the Three Little Pigs. Ask: ***Which pig made good choices?*** (the pig that made his house of brick) Say: ***Jesus' stories can help us make good choices***.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 173. Ask: ***What does this story teach us?*** (that following Jesus will help us build a good life)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Pause for reflection. Then close by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

### Explore: Page 174

- ▶ Read aloud the title and two paragraphs. Point out the boldface terms *commandments* and *Ten Commandments* and have your child repeat them after you. Ask: ***What are God's rules called?*** (commandments) ***How many commandments did God give us?*** (ten) Next, say: ***Let's learn each of God's Ten Commandments***.
- ▶ Read aloud each commandment. Discuss with your child how we can follow each commandment. For example, ask: ***How can we love God more than anything else?*** (pray, go to Mass) ***How can we use God's name with respect?*** (say *God, Jesus, and Christ* with respect) ***How can we keep the Lord's Day holy?*** (attend Mass, spend time with my family) ***How can we honor and obey our parents?*** (respect them, do as they ask) ***How can we treat all human life with respect?*** (play nicely, say kind things)
- ▶ Say: ***God's commandments tell us how to love him and other people***. Ask: ***Which commandments tell us how to love God?*** (1, 2, and 3) ***Which commandments tell us how to love other people?*** (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10)

### Explore: Page 175

- ▶ Ask your child: ***What does the word decisions mean?*** (choices) Say: ***Choosing what clothes to wear or what to eat for lunch are decisions we might make every day. Some decisions require us to choose right from wrong. Thankfully, we have rules to help us make those decisions***.

- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Say: ***Let's learn more about using God's commandments to make decisions.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Then read aloud each commandment and decision. Have your child complete the activity. When he or she is finished, discuss the answers. Point out the difference between the good decisions and the bad decisions. Then say: ***God gave us the Ten Commandments so we know what he wants us to do. God's grace helps us follow his commandments.***
- ▶ Read aloud Did You Know? Say: ***The Great Commandment tells us to love God the Father and other people.*** Ask your child: ***Why is it the greatest commandment?*** (It helps us follow all of God's commandments.)

### Art Print: Page 176

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of a person serving food to people in need. Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the person is helping the other people in the picture. Say: ***If we remember to love God and love our neighbor in everything we do, we will be following Gods' commandments.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Say: ***Let's imagine that a friend asks you to play a video game, but I haven't given you permission to do so. What decision will you make?*** Read aloud the question in each thought bubble and discuss it in terms of the scenario. Guide your child to understand that he or she should decide not to play the game.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and ask your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***When we follow this Great Commandment, we are following all of God's commandments.***
- ▶ Invite your child to cut out magazine pictures to show a meal that he or she might serve to a person who is hungry. Have your child glue the cutouts onto a paper plate and draw utensils. Staple the plate to a sheet of poster board titled *Feeding the Hungry Is a Good Decision!*

### Reflect: Page 177

- ▶ Together look at the picture. Ask: ***What is the girl doing?*** (praying) Say: ***The girl might be praying to ask for God's help in making good decisions all day long.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Then have your child prepare for prayer time.
- ▶ Pray aloud the first paragraph of the prayer. Pause briefly to give your child time to talk to God in his or her heart.
- ▶ Then ask your child to follow along in the book as you pray aloud the Morning Prayer. Next, have your child pray aloud the Morning Prayer with you. Say: ***God will help us follow rules and make good decisions. We can pray to ask God for help.*** Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen.*

**Reflect: Page 178**

- ▶ Ask your child: **Why is making good decisions important?** (Good decisions keep us safe. God wants us to make good decisions.) **What did God give us to help us make good decisions?** (the commandments)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Ask: **What do the Ten Commandments tell us?** (to love God and other people)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Say: **This activity asks you to tell whether each situation describes a good decision or a bad decision. Think about the Ten Commandments before you answer.** Read aloud each situation and have your child draw a smiling face for a good decision or a frowning face for a bad decision. When your child has completed the activity, discuss the correct answers. Help your child identify which commandment each situation refers to. (Honor and obey your parents. Respect what belongs to others. Tell the truth.)

**Respond: Pages 179–180**

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 179. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. say: **Jesus said to love your neighbor as yourself. This is called the Golden Rule.** Ask: **Why do you think we call it “golden”?** (It’s valuable. If we follow it, then we are following many of God’s commandments at once.) Ask your child to suggest specific ways to treat others the way he or she likes to be treated.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Talk with your child about good decisions that he or she might make. Then have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: **Let’s thank Jesus for teaching us how to follow his Father’s commandments.** Pray aloud the prayer. Then invite your child to talk with Jesus in his or her 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 180. 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.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.