

Jesus Cares for Us

Engage: Page 181

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Luke 15:8–10. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Help your child understand the parable. Say: **In today's Scripture, Jesus tells a story to teach about God's love.** Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 181. Ask: **How do you feel when you lose something?** (sad) **How do you feel when you find it?** (excited, happy)
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph. Say: **When we sin, we offend God. We lose our closeness to God. We feel lost. God wants to be close to us. Like the woman, God wants to find us and welcome us back.**
- ▶ Say: **Let's ask for Jesus' help.** Pray aloud the prayer. Then pause to allow your child to reflect. Conclude the prayer by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 182–183

- ▶ Say: **Think for a moment about a time you did something that you knew was wrong. Maybe you told a lie or hurt someone's feelings on purpose.** Ask: **Is it a good feeling or a yucky feeling when you do something that you know you shouldn't do?**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the two paragraphs on page 182. Point out the boldface word *sin* and have your child repeat it after you. Have your child turn to page 174 to review the Ten Commandments. Say: **These are God's rules. When we do not follow God's rules, we sin and hurt our relationships with God and with other people.** Ask: **What are some sins that hurt our friendship with God?** (using God's name in ways that are not nice, forgetting how important God is to us) **What are some sins that hurt our friendships with others?** (taking things that don't belong to us, not telling the truth, being mean to someone) Discuss ways to avoid these sins.
- ▶ Direct your child's attention to the photo in the activity on page 182. Say: **It's important to think about the choices we make. When we sin, it's a good idea to think of ways we could have acted differently.** Read aloud the activity title and directions. Then read aloud the sentence starter in each thought bubble and have your child complete the sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs on page 183. Point out the boldface word *forgiveness* and have your child repeat it after you. Ask: **When will God forgive us?** (always; when we are sorry) **How can we show forgiveness to someone who has hurt us?** (Show them that we care. Be kind to them. Say "I forgive you.") **How does forgiveness make us feel?** (better, peaceful)

- ▶ Read aloud the third paragraph. Say: ***When we know we've done or said things that hurt others, we feel lost or sad. If we are sorry for what we did and if we ask the people we hurt to forgive us, they usually will. Then we can make our friendship with them and with God strong again.***
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph. Direct your child's attention to the picture and have him or her read aloud each speech balloon. Say: ***There are many ways to say we're sorry. It doesn't always matter which words we choose as long as we show that we are truly sorry.*** Encourage your child to name other ways to say he or she is sorry.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: ***Jesus always forgives us. We can be like Jesus and forgive others with the help of God's gift of grace.***

Art Print: Page 184

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Ask your child: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Jesus is doing. Say: ***Jesus cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep. Like a shepherd, Jesus protects us from harm, feeds us through the Eucharist, and keeps us together as God's family.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and Bible story. Then ask: ***How do you know that the shepherd cares about the lost sheep?*** (He looks for it.) ***How does the shepherd feel when he finds the sheep?*** (happy, excited, protective) Say: ***Like a shepherd, God is ready to find us. He is happy when we say we are sorry and follow him.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child complete the activity and share the correct path through the maze.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a lamb from air-dry clay. Have your child add small balls of clay to represent wool and use plastic utensils or small art tools to add details. Say: ***As you show your sheep to the rest of the family, tell them the story of the lost sheep. Tell them how Jesus is our shepherd.***

Reflect: Page 185

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 185. Ask: ***What is the child doing?*** (praying) Say: ***The child might be praying because he or she feels lost or sad after having done something wrong. Remember, Jesus is watching over you and is ready to forgive, no matter what. Always take time to tell Jesus you are sorry.***
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Read aloud the title. Then read aloud the paragraph in a prayerful manner.

- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of the prayer, pausing after each sentence and question to allow your child to imagine what you are describing and how he or she would respond.
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph of the prayer. Then say: ***When we do something that we know is wrong, we are like a lost sheep. We can be sorry and ask for forgiveness. Jesus is the Good Shepherd; he always forgives us when we are sorry and ask for forgiveness.***
- ▶ Pray aloud the last paragraph of the prayer. Then say: ***Now it is your time to speak to Jesus in your heart about anything you wish.*** Pause for a few moments. Then invite your child to pray the Sign of the Cross and *Amen* with you. Say: ***Sometimes it is hard to say we're sorry, but we can always ask Jesus to help us.***

Reflect: Page 186

- ▶ Ask your child to retell the story of the lost sheep. then read aloud the title and paragraph on page 186. Ask: ***Who is like a caring shepherd to us?*** (Jesus) Say: ***Jesus will always help us when we sin and lose our way. Jesus is our Good Shepherd.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child complete the activity. When your child is finished, ask him or her to read the completed sentences to you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Scripture verse in the Reading God's Word feature. Then ask: ***Who is the Good Shepherd?*** (Jesus) ***How does Jesus show us he is the Good Shepherd?*** (He worries when we sin and are lost. He always helps us find our way and forgives us.) Say: ***Like Jesus, the Good Shepherd, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit keep us safe and always forgive us.***

Respond: Pages 187–188

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 187. Review the Words I Learned. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Work with your child to identify specific words to use when asking for and giving forgiveness.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child trace the words and then read aloud the sentences. Explain that your child can use these forgiving words when he or she makes a wrong choice or when he or she wants to forgive someone.
- ▶ 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 188. Then 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.