

New Life in Jesus

Engage: Page 131

- ▶ Ask: *What do you think makes a good team member?* (being fair, giving everyone a turn, listening to other people's ideas) Say: *The sacraments help each of us become a member of the Church and stay a good member.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 10:47–49. Then say: *The Word of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: *God wants us to be welcoming to all people.* Read aloud the paragraphs on page 131. Ask: *Who were the people that some felt should be “kept out” and not allowed to become Christians?* (Gentiles) Say: *Baptism makes us members of God’s welcoming family.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Ask: *What are some signs that you belong to a certain team or group?* (uniforms, badges, T-shirts) Say: *Today we are going to learn about the sacraments that welcome us into God’s family, our Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph on page 132. Ask: *What are sacraments?* (holy signs that show God is with us) *Who gave the sacraments to the Church?* (Jesus)
- ▶ Read aloud the next paragraph. Guide your child to look up the terms *Sacraments of Initiation* and *Confirmation* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Ask: *Say: The word initiation means “beginning.” We celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation as we begin our lives as members of God’s family, the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud the next two paragraphs. Say: *Through Baptism, we receive sanctifying grace. Grace is a gift from God that fills us with his life and makes us his friends. God’s grace makes us holy. Therefore, it is called sanctifying grace.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: *Water is a symbol of our new life in Baptism. The life we receive in Baptism is life as a member of God’s family, the Church.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 133. Guide your child to look up the terms *Body and Blood of Christ* and *Holy Communion* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: *At Mass, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ that we receive in Holy Communion. We grow in faith as God’s children in the Sacrament of Confirmation.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *Sacraments are special occasions of grace, but we can enjoy the loving presence of Jesus in prayer any time of day.*

Art Exploration: Page 134

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of Saint Peter holding keys. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the keys that Saint Peter is holding.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus called Peter to be the first leader of his Church. The Church continues to have leaders today who help us be close to God.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 134. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Peter Speaks to the People. Ask: *Why did Peter encourage the people to be baptized?* (Their sins will be forgiven, and they will receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.)
- ▶ Read aloud Saint Peter is a Leader. Make a list of current local, diocesan, and universal Church leaders. Then have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Have your child find a smooth, palm-sized rock. Share the Scripture passage from Matthew 16:18: "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." Invite your child to paint symbols on the rock that remind him or her of the strength received through the Church. Display the rock paperweight in your home.

Reflect: Pages 135–136

- ▶ Together look at page 135. Say: *Use your senses and your imagination to tell what the girl in the picture sees, hears, feels, and smells.* Invite your child to do the same when he or she talks to Jesus in prayer.
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph. Then pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently. At the end of the prayer, say: *If there's anything else you'd like to tell Jesus, take time now to speak with him in your heart.* Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 136. Suggest that your child look back at pages 132–133 to help him or her complete the activity.

Respond: Pages 137–138

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific times he or she can talk to Jesus throughout the day. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: *Let's thank God for his gift of grace, which we experience in the sacraments.* Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 138. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *We can rejoice that we are God's children and part of his family, the Church! Know that the Lord loves you more than you can ever imagine.*