

## Jesus Loves the Church

### Engage: Page 139

- ▶ Ask your child to think of ways he or she would welcome a new neighbor. Share your own ideas with your child. Pray aloud the prayer together.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 2:42–47. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: ***It feels good to be welcomed. In the Eucharist, the first Christians welcomed one another in Christ's name.*** Read aloud the paragraphs on page 139. Ask: ***How did the first Christians live together as one family in God?*** (They shared everything. They prayed and ate together.)
- ▶ Say: ***Jesus calls the members of his Church to serve one another.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

### Explore: Pages 140–141

- ▶ Together recall experiences when you had guests for dinner. Ask: ***Who was there? What did we talk about? What did our guest share with us?***
- ▶ Read aloud Inviting Jesus to Dinner. Guide your child to look up the word *disciple* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: ***What is a disciple?*** (a follower of Jesus) Say: ***The disciples were very sad when they met the man on the road.*** Ask: ***How do you think they felt when they realized the man was Jesus?*** (overjoyed, happy)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Is with Us on page 141. Say: ***We can call on the Holy Spirit when we need help loving others.*** Guide your child to look up the term *Sacrifice of the Mass* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***The Sacrifice of the Mass helps us remember that Jesus died for us and saved us from our sins.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: ***We learn about Jesus and his messages for us by listening to the Gospels.***

### Art Exploration: Page 142

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture showing adults and children walking to church.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the destination of the walkers. Say: ***When we serve others in our parish community, we show our love for the family of God.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 142. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud *We Are Members of the Church*. Guide your child to look up the term *ministry* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: ***What are some ways that you can be involved in ministry in our parish?*** (donate food or clothing to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, sing in the children’s choir) Work together to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: ***What do ministers of hospitality do?*** (welcome people to Mass)
- ▶ Invite your child to make a hospitality cross to represent the ministry. Help him or her glue together two craft sticks to make a cross. Write *HOSPITALITY* on the vertical stick. Then write *JE\_US* on the horizontal stick, using the letter *S* from *HOSPITALITY* to connect the two words. Ask your child to decorate it with glitter and glue a safety pin the cross to the back. Arrange for your family to serve as ministers of hospitality at an upcoming Mass and wear pins like this one.

### Reflect: Pages 143–144

- ▶ Together look at page 143. Ask: ***Where is the boy in the picture? Say: We pray a prayer of blessing before every meal. As we ask for God’s blessing on “these thy gifts,” we can include the gift of food and all the blessings of the day.***
- ▶ Read aloud the two paragraphs. Then pray aloud the prayer. Close by encouraging your child to pray this prayer with your family at mealtimes.
- ▶ Read aloud page 144. Ask: ***How can you invite Jesus into your life?*** (pray, go to Mass, do acts of service) Invite your child to complete the activity and share his or her welcome message to Jesus. Say: ***When we welcome others into our lives, we are welcoming Jesus too.***

### Respond: Pages 145–146

- ▶ 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 ways he or she can welcome new children. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud *With My Family* on page 146. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***Remember, the Mass is the most important way we remember that Jesus is with us. Invite Jesus into your life every day! He will help you in everything you do.***