

Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

Engage: Page 163

- ▶ Read aloud the title. Discuss the picture. Ask: *What are the names of some of the special days in Lent and Holy Week?* (Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday)
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud John 3:16–17. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Say: *An important part of growing up is learning to set aside your own needs to tend to the needs of others. During Lent, we practice putting the needs of others first.* Read aloud the paragraphs on page 163. Ask: *How do we show our love of God?* (by true acts of kindness)
- ▶ Say: *Take a moment to remember that Jesus is always with you.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen*.

Explore: Page 164

- ▶ Ask: *What is something you can do to be a better person?* Together discuss ways to be more thoughtful to those around you.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Grow in Goodness During Lent and Holy Week. Discuss the questions.
- ▶ Read aloud A Time to Change. Say: *I am going to be more cheerful when I wake up in the morning. I will say “Good Morning” and smile at everyone I see.* Invite your child to complete the activity with ways he or she will change this Lent.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Ask: *What are some behaviors that you can leave behind this Lent?*

Reflect: Page 165

- ▶ Discuss how we can sometimes feel a little sad thinking about our sins and the things we have done wrong.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week. Say: *Remember that we all sin sometimes. It is important to ask for God’s mercy and help to do better next time. God gives us a fresh start, and that’s a good feeling.*
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Discuss the simplicity of the church during Lent. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *Sometimes it’s difficult to do the right thing and be good; sometimes it’s much easier to do the wrong thing, which may lead to sin. At Mass we pray to God and ask for help to follow Jesus’ example of faithfulness.*

Art Exploration: Page 166

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture that shows Jesus hanging on the Cross.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what he or she already knows about the last day of Jesus' life on earth. Say: *Jesus came to show us how much God loves us. He saved us from our sins by his sacrifice.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 166. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Read aloud Lent and Holy Week. Ask: *How can we show that we are sorry for our sins?* (ask God in prayer for forgiveness, ask others to forgive us, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation)
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity. Ask him or her to read aloud the sentences.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a prayer pot using modeling clay. Give your child six small squares of red paper. Model how to fold each square in half and cut out a heart shape. Each week of Lent, tell your child to place one heart in the pot to represent a good deed he or she performed that week. Tell your child to place the last heart in the pot on Palm Sunday.

Respond: Pages 167–168

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss a time you answered a call to grow and change. 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 168. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *During Lent and Holy Week, we are especially called to be more like Jesus in our words and actions.*