

## Following Jesus

### Engage: Page 189

- ▶ Together with your child, make a list of kind acts you can do for family members this week to put smiles on their faces. Say: *Jesus is our role model when it comes to being kind to others. He can help us treat others as he would.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 25:35–40. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 189. Say: *Jesus is close to people in need. What happens when we help someone in need?* (We grow closer to Jesus.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

### Explore: Pages 190–191

- ▶ Ask: *What is your favorite subject in school? Why?* Say: *It's fun to study and learn new things. The more we study and practice, the better we become at what we do.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 190. Guide your child to look up the terms *Old Testament*, *New Testament*, and *Great Commandment* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Together find the Old Testament and the New Testament in a Bible.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *To follow the Great Commandment is to love God, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 191. Say: *Jesus taught people the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes give us a plan for how to live as followers of Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Discuss the importance of Jesus' love.

### Art Exploration: Page 192

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of children playing together.
- ▶ Say: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the children. Say: *We can be like Jesus by loving our neighbors.* Have your child turn to page 192. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Love Your Neighbor. Ask: *What are some ways we can love our neighbor as we love ourselves?* (show care, friendliness, encouragement, and understanding toward others)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to write words he or she says and deeds he or she does to show love.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a special "out of season" valentine for someone. Tell your child to write a message of love or friendship. Have him or her send or hand deliver the valentine to this person.

**Reflect: Pages 193–194**

- ▶ Together look at page 193. Ask: *What do you think the boy in the picture is thinking about?* Say: *We can always rely on Jesus to be present, to strengthen us, and to guide us in every decision we make.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraph. Say: *We have learned about the Great Commandment and the Beatitudes, the wonderful message Jesus gave us for living in peace and goodness. Now let's think about how we can practice them in our lives, especially when we have to make difficult choices.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the imaginative prayer slowly and reverently. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Then invite your child to join you in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus taught that true happiness isn't found in getting what we want, but in being kind and fair to others and working for peace. This is the happiness that lasts.* Read aloud the title and sentence on page 194. Have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to share which Beatitude is followed in each example.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. Say: *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton found time to reach out to others. She was a special person who put Jesus' teaching into practice.*

**Respond: Pages 195–196**

- ▶ 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 to make peace with someone he or she has hurt. Then 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 196. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *Remember to show your love for God by loving others. Jesus teaches us how to do this by giving us the Beatitudes and the Great Commandment. These teachings help us live as Jesus' followers and be close to him.*