

Sacraments of Initiation

Engage: Page 131

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Matthew 28:16–20. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Invite your child to brainstorm the best way to get to a familiar place such as school. Say: *Sometimes we might choose a way that is not helpful or may get us lost. Jesus shows us a better way to live so that we don't get lost in our efforts to find God*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *What sacrament celebrates the beginning of our new way of living as a member of God's family?* (Baptism) Say: *Let's pray to be faithful members of God's family*. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Say: *When a group receives a new member, that person is welcomed into the group*. Ask: *When we welcome someone, what are we telling him or her?* (that we care, accept, and are happy to have him or her with us) *In Baptism, a person is welcomed into God's family*. Together with your child, look up online how to say "Welcome" in different languages. Make a colorful Welcome to Our Home poster using those words or phrases.

Explore: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Say: *When we are welcomed into the Church, we become part of a huge family in which we are nourished by Jesus' love*. Have your child read aloud *We Belong* on page 132. Ask: *How do we begin our lives as the People of God?* (We are baptized.)
- ▶ Read aloud the *Link to Liturgy* feature. Discuss with your child what he or she thinks the symbols named there represent: the Sign of the Cross, the holy water, the Chrism, and the candle.
- ▶ Read aloud *Christian Initiation* on page 133. Ask: *What do the three Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist—have in common?* (In all of them, we receive and are strengthened by God's love.)
- ▶ Read aloud the *Reading God's Word* feature. Say: *The Sacraments of Initiation make up one way in which we all partake of the one loaf as one people*.

Art Exploration: Page 134

- ▶ Find in a book or online an image of Philip and the Ethiopian. As you look at the picture together, ask: *What is happening in this picture?* (You may see two men together in a carriage; one of the men may be showing a scroll to the other; you may see a man asking to join another who is in a carriage; you may see one man baptizing another.)

- ▶ Say: *The story we are about to read tells the story behind this painting.* Turn together to page 134. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Invite your child to read aloud Philip and the Court Official. Ask: *How was Jesus denied justice?* (He was an innocent man who was punished and killed.) Say: *The man asked to be baptized because he understood that Jesus died for us.*
- ▶ Read aloud Welcome to the Church. Give your child time to complete the activity and share his or her response with you.

Reflect: Pages 135–136

- ▶ Together look at page 135. Say: *The girl in the picture is happy because she believes in God.* Fold your hands in a prayerful position to prepare to pray.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Say: *I will ask you three questions. Respond with the words "I do."* Ask the three questions, pausing after each one so your child can reply. Read aloud the last paragraph. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Sacraments in My Life on page 136. Discuss the questions with your child. Help your child with hints to prompt information he or she may not remember. Read aloud Think Back, and have your child complete the activity based on your discussion.
- ▶ Read aloud Sacramentals for Sacraments and have your child complete the activity by writing the sacrament that goes with each item named.

Respond: Pages 137–138

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can welcome new classmates. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 138. Talk with your child about how wonderful it is to be welcomed into the family of God. Encourage your child to be a kind and joyful family member.