

Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

Engage: Page 163

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read John 4:5–15. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask: *How do we treat new classmates who move here from another town or state?* (We welcome them.) Say: *During Lent, we are called to think of people from other places as members of our family*. Read aloud the paragraphs.
- ▶ Ask: *How do our lives change when we don't focus on differences?* (We make more friends. The good we do extends farther.) Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Ask: *What do we prepare for during Lent?* (the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection at Easter) *What do we remember during Holy Week?* (Jesus' suffering, Death, and Resurrection)

Explore: Page 164

- ▶ Ask: *What does it mean to "put yourself in someone else's shoes"?* (pretend you are in someone else's position, feeling or reacting how that person might to something that has happened) Say: *Lent is a time to be aware of other people's situations*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two sections. Emphasize the importance of helping people in need of love, food, and shelter this Lent. Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *How can our family give to others this Lent?*

Reflect on the Mass: Page 165

- ▶ Ask: *What is a prayer of intercession?* (a prayer that asks God for help on behalf of another) Say: *Prayers of intercession have particular meaning during Lent, when we think about all those with whom we share God's creation*.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week. Say: *During Lent, we strive to think of others, not just ourselves*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Ask: *What do you notice about decorations at church during Lent?* (It is plain; there are no flowers; the priest wears purple vestments.) Read aloud Lord, Hear Our Prayer and ask your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *The Sermon on the Mount mentioned in the feature includes the Beatitudes. In the Beatitudes, Jesus reminds us to think of others*.

Art Exploration: Page 166

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of a painting of Jesus on the Cross. As you and your child look at the image, say to one another words that come to mind, such as *sad, suffering, lonely, divine*. Say: ***During Lent, as we prepare our hearts for Easter, we remember Jesus' strength and suffering.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 166. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus in the Desert. Ask: ***How can we honor Jesus' sacrifice?*** (fast, practice positive new habits, care for people who need help, pray, go to church, be grateful for Jesus, think about how we treat others) Have your child read aloud A Lenten Promise. Ask your child to think of a meaningful Lenten promise and write about it. Invite him or her to share the idea for honoring Jesus during Lent.
- ▶ Give your child drawing paper, a paintbrush, and watercolor paints. Invite your child to paint Jesus in the desert. Say: ***Imagine how hot, hungry, thirsty, and lonely Jesus must have felt. God doesn't want anyone to suffer. Let's silently ask God to help us keep our Lenten promise.***

Respond: Pages 167–168

- ▶ 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 reach out to others by being a good listener. 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 168. Talk with your child about some of the ways he or she has found to act more like Jesus.