

Anointing of the Sick

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Together recall times when you were sick or injured. Ask: *What did people do to help you feel better?* Say: *Giving comfort to people who are unwell is one way to share Jesus' love with others.* Read aloud the session title. Say: *We celebrate Jesus' healing presence in the Anointing of the Sick.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 4:23–25 from your Bible. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 147. Ask: *Why did Jesus heal people who were sick and suffering?* (because he felt compassion for them and wanted to show the crowds the depth of God's love and mercy) Say: *Giving comfort is a way to be a loving disciple of Jesus.* Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 9:27–31 from your Bible. Ask: *What did the two men who were blind ask of Jesus?* (that he take pity on them) *Why do you think Jesus was willing to heal the men?* (He felt compassion for them. They expressed belief in him.) Say: *When we are sick or injured, Jesus will always offer us his comfort.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 148. Look up the term *Anointing of the Sick* in the Glossary. Say: *The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of the Sacraments of Healing.*
- ▶ Read aloud Anointing of the Sick on page 149. Look up the term *oil of the sick* in the Glossary. Say: *The bishop blesses the oil of the sick at the Chrism Mass, which is celebrated during Holy Week. During the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest anoints the forehead and hands of the person who is sick or elderly. This anointing brings Jesus' strength and healing of the heart and soul. It also brings forgiveness of sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *When a member of the Church might die, in addition to celebrating the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest offers viaticum. This helps the person prepare for death.*

Art Exploration: Page 150

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of someone visiting or caring for a person who is sick.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the visitor or caregiver is caring for the person who is sick.
- ▶ Say: *We carry on Jesus' healing work by caring for people who are sick or suffering. Saint James encouraged early Christians to pray for and help people who were sick.*
- ▶ Ask: *How can you follow Saint James's example?*
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus Heals on page 150. Ask: *In his letter in the New Testament, what did James encourage Christians to do?* (pray for those who were ill and anoint them in the name of the Lord)
- ▶ Read aloud Care for Others. Allow time for your child to complete the poster and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *In this passage, Matthew points out the many ways that Jesus' followers experienced healing.*
- ▶ Work with your child to create a prayer chain. On two-by-six inch strips of paper, write the names of people you know who are sick, suffering, or in need or prayer. Make the first link by taping together the two ends of a paper strip. Thread another paper strip through the link and tape together its two ends. Continue until you have made a chain. Pray together a prayer asking Jesus to comfort all those who are sick or suffering.

Reflect: Pages 151–152

- ▶ Together look at page 151. Say: *We pray prayers of intercession every time we celebrate the Mass. Praying to help another person is a great way to live out Jesus' new commandment.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Ask God to Help Others. Pray aloud the prayer, pausing to allow your child to reflect. Then allow your child time to pray a prayer of intercession for someone he or she cares about.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Prayers of Intercession on page 152. Ask: *How can we show care for people who are sick or suffering?* (We can visit them or send a card. We can pray a prayer of intercession for them.)
- ▶ Read aloud Write a Prayer and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Holy Person feature. Say: *Because of his example, Pierre Toussaint has been named venerable, one of the steps in the process of being declared a saint.*

Respond: Page 153

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 153. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to name someone he or she will pray for this week. 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.

With My Family: Page 154

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 154. As a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: *Jesus is our light. He leads us out of darkness and comforts us when we are in pain.*