

## Sacraments of Service

### Engage: Page 155

- ▶ Ask: *What do you want to be when you grow up?* Say: *God has a plan for each of us. We will all serve him in our own way.* Ask: *How might you serve God when you are older?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: *The Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders are Sacraments at the Service of Communion. Through them, people receive the grace to share their gifts and serve the Church in special ways. We'll learn about these two sacraments in this session.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Genesis 2:21–24 from your Bible. Then say: *The Word of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 155. Say: *The Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders are about putting the needs of others first, just as God calls us to do. Let's thank God for his loving presence.* Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

### Explore: Pages 156–157

- ▶ Share a story about your own wedding or a wedding you have attended. Ask: *Why do people get married?* (because they love each other)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Family Wedding on page 156. Say: *When a couple exchanges vows, they are making a public commitment to each other in front of God and their community. They are also committing to being good parents and to serving as role models in their community.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: *How does this passage apply to the Sacrament of Matrimony?* (Jesus commands us to love one another. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a bride and a groom promise to love each other during good times and bad times.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 157. Ask: *How do married couples create a domestic church?* (They help each other grow closer to God and teach their children how to live Christian lives.) Look up the word *ordained* in the Glossary. Ask: *What happens in the Sacrament of Holy Orders?* (Men are ordained as bishops, priests, and deacons.)

### Art Exploration: Page 158

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image of people picking grapes.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the people.
- ▶ Say: *When we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we become like productive branches that grow much fruit.*
- ▶ Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question on page 158.
- ▶ Read aloud The Vine and the Branches. Say: *In this passage, Jesus tells us that when we freely choose to follow him, we remain close to him. We bear fruit by sharing his love with others.* Ask: *What can we do to remain close to Jesus?* (We can pray, attend Mass, celebrate the sacraments, follow the Ten Commandments, and practice the virtues.)
- ▶ Read aloud Retell the Parable and have your child complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her version of the parable with family members.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Saint feature. Say: *Hildegard of Bingen responded to the call of discipleship by giving advice to others.*
- ▶ Invite your child to draw multiple branches stemming from a main vine. Say: *On each vine, draw a picture or write a sentence about how you can share Jesus' love with others.* Display the artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 159–160

- ▶ Together look at page 159. Say: *The boy in the picture appears to be focused on his thoughts. We can stay connected to Jesus by letting God the Father cut away all that hinders our growth.*
- ▶ Read aloud I Am the Vine. Ask your child to sit comfortably. Then pray the prayer slowly, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and asking your child to offer you a sign of peace.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Called by God on page 160. Ask: *What does God call us to do?* (serve the Church by being priestly people and sharing our gifts with others)
- ▶ Read aloud Serve the Church. Give your child time to complete the activity. Remind him or her to write a caption that describes how the ordained man or the married couple is serving the Church.

**Respond: Page 161**

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 161. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be helpful to others. 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 162**

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 162. As a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: *Remember that we are called to love and serve God. Let's serve him by being loving and helpful members of our family and our Church community.*