

Loving God Above All

Engage: Page 181

- ▶ Together, name some of the important people in your child's life and talk about ways your child shows his or her love to these people. Ask: ***Why is it important to show our love to people?*** (When we express our love, we share God's love with others.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: ***There are many ways we can show our love to God. Whenever we do so, we give thanks for the many ways he shows his love to us.***
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Psalm 95:1–7 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 181. Say: ***When we worship God, we direct all our attention to him.*** Ask: ***Which commandments help us focus our attention on God?*** (the first three) Say: ***Let's pray to express our love to God.*** Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying ***Amen.***

Explore: Pages 182–183

- ▶ Ask: ***What do you believe is most important in our lives?*** (worshipping God, attending Mass, celebrating the sacraments, following Jesus' example, loving one another)
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 182. Look up the term *Great Commandment* in the Glossary. Ask: ***What is the main message of the first part of the Law?*** (You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.) ***What is the main message of the second part of the Law?*** (You shall love your neighbor as yourself.)
- ▶ Read aloud The First Three Commandments on page 183. Ask: ***What do the first three commandments help us do?*** (grow in our relationship with God)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***This passage sums up the first three commandments by reminding us to keep God at the center of our lives.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: ***Why do we honor sacred images?*** (to honor the holy person represented in the image, to express that we worship and adore God)

Art Exploration: Page 184

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people entering a church.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the people are following the first three commandments.
- ▶ Say: ***The first three commandments teach us to love God above all.***
- ▶ Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question on page 184.

- ▶ Read aloud Love and Worship God. Look up the word *idolatry* in the Glossary. Ask: ***What are examples of idolatry?*** (valuing things more than our relationship with God; practicing forms of magic, fortune-telling, and superstition) ***How do we honor God?*** (by using his name with reverence and love)
- ▶ Read aloud God Above All Else and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Give your child time to reflect on the picture of the people entering the church. Say: ***Think about the last time you were at Mass.*** Ask: ***What did you see? What did you hear? Were you able to smell flowers or incense?*** After allowing time for reflection, say: ***Take a moment to pray. Thank Jesus for giving us the gift of himself in the Eucharist.*** Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father.

Reflect: Pages 185–186

- ▶ Read aloud We Praise God on page 185. Look up the term *Divine Praises* in the Glossary. Take the role of Leader and have your child read the All parts. Pray the Divine Praises together. Give your child time to reflect silently. Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Read aloud Love God Above All and How We Love God on page 186. Have your child read aloud the words in the word box. Allow time for your child to write his or her answers and then go over them together.

Respond: Pages 187

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 187. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest another way to show love for God. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer with your child. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.

With My Family: Page 188

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 188. As a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: ***Let's remember to walk in love with Jesus and be a reflection of his abundant love.***