

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 205

- ▶ Together sing an Alleluia your parish uses as a Gospel Acclamation during the Easter season. Ask: *How else can we praise God?* (pray a prayer, attend Mass, celebrate the sacraments)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Ask: *What do we celebrate during the Easter season?* (Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension) Say: *We rejoice and sing our praise to God to thank him for what he has done for us through Jesus' Resurrection. In this session, we will learn more about the Easter season.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud 1 Peter 1:3 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 205. Ask: *During Easter, what word do we sing to express our joy for Jesus' victory over death? (Alleluia)* Say: *Let's thank Jesus for giving us new life.* Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Page 206

- ▶ Together read aloud from your Bible one of the accounts of the Resurrection. [Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12]
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Live in Peace During Easter. Ask: *Why were Jesus' disciples excited to see him?* (They missed him. They thought he was dead.)
- ▶ Read aloud Gift of Peace. Look up the term *gift of peace* in the Glossary. Ask: *Why do you think Jesus shared his gift of peace with his disciples?* (so that they would know he was always with them and share his peace with others)
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus' Gift of Peace and have your child complete the activity. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *In Jesus' time, a lamb was often used as a sacrificial offering to God. We compare Jesus to the lamb because he died so that our sins would be forgiven. He is the Lamb of God.*

Reflect: Page 207

- ▶ Display a bouquet of flowers or look at pictures of flowers. Ask: *Why do many people like flowers? What do flowers remind you of?* Say: *Flowers are a symbol of the new life we receive through the Resurrection. They are also a reminder of the beauty of God's creation.*

- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. Ask: *What are the Scripture readings about during the Easter season?* (Jesus' Resurrection, how Jesus appeared to Mary and the disciples, the Ascension, Pentecost)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Say: *The light of the paschal candle reminds us that we are called to share the joy of Christ's Resurrection with others. It is lit during the first part of the Easter Vigil and for every Mass celebrated during the Easter season.* Ask: *Why do we use the color red on Pentecost?* (It reminds us of the Holy Spirit.)

Art Exploration: Page 208

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows signs of new life during spring.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the new signs of life.
- ▶ Say: *During the Easter season, we celebrate the new life we receive through Christ's Resurrection.*
- ▶ Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question on page 208.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrate Easter. Ask: *When do we share God's love with others?* (whenever we choose to follow God's plan for us, follow Jesus' example of service, and practice the Ten Commandments)
- ▶ Read aloud Share God's Love and allow time for your child to complete the activity. Ask him or her to tell you about the picture.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine that he or she has gone to Jesus' tomb and found it empty. Say: *Think about what you're feeling as you walk to the tomb. An angel tells you that God has raised Jesus from the dead.* Ask: *What do you think and feel on hearing this?* Say: *Now, in the quiet of your heart, thank Jesus for the new life we receive through him. Tell him one way you will share his gift of peace with others.* Pray together the Glory Be to the Father.

Respond: Page 209

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 209. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. If you choose, make plans for one of your child's friends to accompany your family to Mass during Easter. Ask your child to suggest other specific ways he or she can share Jesus' peace with others. 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 210

- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 210. As a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: *I am looking forward to seeing some of the ways you will share Jesus' gift of peace during Easter.*