

Baptized into Christ

Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Read aloud the session title, then invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 8:26–40. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: **When parents adopt a child, they must fill out official forms showing that they are bringing the child into their family. In Baptism, God brings us into his family.** Invite volunteers to read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: **When we become members of God's family, what do we then want to do?** (share the Good News of Jesus with others)
- ▶ Say: **Let's thank Jesus for the gift of Baptism.** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Share how you experience the baptismal font in your church with all five senses. Discuss how the water feels and sounds and how the oils smell for the sacrament. Encourage your child to describe when he or she has seen the baptismal candle and white garment.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 64. Ask: **How does Baptism affect our lives?** (It is a call to a new life; it is necessary for salvation; it unites us with the Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus; it welcomes us into the Church; it helps us share in the life of the Trinity here on earth and eternally in heaven.) Say: **The white garment symbolizes purity of spirit, and the candle symbolizes God's light within us. The oil symbolizes healing with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.**
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: **The Paschal Candle represents the light of Christ.**
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first section on page 65. Say: **We are identified as children of God by the permanent spiritual mark that Baptism makes on us.** Invite your child to read aloud What Baptism Calls Us to Do and look up the word *stewardship* in the Glossary. Point out that volunteering or otherwise being involved in your local parish can be examples of stewardship. Then read aloud How Are You a Steward? and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: **We know that infants have not committed any personal sins. However, they inherit, as we all do, the taint of Original Sin. Baptism gives each infant the grace to be free from Original Sin and the opportunity to live as a free child of God.**

Art Print: Page 66

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Peter preaching with Mark to a crowd.
- ▶ Ask: **Who is in this picture?** (Peter and Mark) Encourage your child to describe in detail what Peter and Mark are doing. Say: **Mark may have written his Gospel based on Peter's preaching.** Explain that Peter taught that our sins can be forgiven and that we can receive the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 66. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Peter Calls for Repentance and Baptism. Ask: **What did Peter call the people to do?** (to repent and be baptized.) Read aloud Jesus, Salvation, and the Sacraments of Initiation. Ask: **What are the effects of the Sacraments of Initiation?** (They make us members of the Church and bring us closer to God.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine being one of the people in the crowd listening to Peter and Mark. Invite your child to draw himself or herself as part of the scene. Discuss how your child might have reacted to being present for Peter's teaching.

Reflect: Pages 67–68

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 67. Say: **During this time of prayer, we will focus on what we have learned and think of ways to include these lessons in our daily lives. Today we thank Jesus for welcoming us into his Church.** Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph. Pause for a moment, then read aloud the second paragraph yourself. Allow your child time to think about the question.
- ▶ Have your child get into a comfortable position. Invite your child to close his or her eyes or focus on the picture. Pray aloud the prayer and the Sign of the Cross. Allow a few moments for personal reflection. Say: **Now let's take our prayerful spirits and learn how we can live what Jesus taught us.**
- ▶ Read aloud We Are a Light for the World on page 68. Then read aloud the first box in the activity and guide your child by encouraging him or her to think of Bible stories about Jesus' life and teaching. Provide your child with a Bible bookmarked at one of the Gospels if he or she is having trouble thinking of examples. Then allow time for your child to complete the rest of the activity.

Respond: Pages 69–70

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 69. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Invite your child to identify his or her talents and share what you think some of his or her talents are. Discuss how these talents can be used to serve God’s kingdom.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 70, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let’s remember that since our Baptism, we carry the light of Christ everywhere we go. Let’s also remember our call to stewardship, living lives of service to others.***