

## The Church Is One

### Engage: Page 89

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 2:42–47. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to share some ways in which he or she is different from his or her siblings or other people in your family. Say: ***We have differences, but that doesn't mean we can't get along. In fact, differences make life more interesting. In the Church, we have diversity but also unity.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 89. Review the four unifying Marks of the Church. (one, holy, catholic, apostolic)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to help us love all members of our community.*** Pray aloud the prayer, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

### Explore: Pages 90–91

- ▶ Invite your child to name some people in your parish who are in leadership roles or who serve the community. Discuss how these people serve God's kingdom.
- ▶ Read aloud Different Roles for Church Members on page 90. Ask: ***Which members of the Church form the clergy?*** (the pope, bishops, priests, and deacons) Ask: ***What is the role of the laity?*** (The laity are called to be holy, to witness to Christ in the world, and to foster gospel values in society.)
- ▶ Read aloud Unity in Beliefs. Help your child locate the Apostles' Creed in his or her book in order to complete the activity. Provide assistance in finding the relevant passages if necessary.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***As members of the Church, we are united in Jesus. The differences among us do not keep us apart but rather strengthen our unity.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Pope's Role in the Church's Unity on page 91. Ask: ***Who is a visible sign of unity in the Church?*** (the pope, together with the bishops) Read aloud The Servant of the Servants of God. Ask: ***Why do you think Gregory called himself the "servant of the servants of God"?*** (He served the people of God, who are called to serve others.)

**Art Print: Page 92**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a community praising God together.
- ▶ Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the faces of the people and the ways they are offering praise to God. Say: **People all over the world praise God every day. God is without race, and he is Lord of all peoples.**
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 92. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Unity and Diversity in the Church. Ask: **Why is the body a good way to describe the unity and diversity in the Church?** (Like a body, the Church is one unit with many parts.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Complete the activity together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Together, investigate opportunities to attend a service or watch a video in which people celebrate the liturgy in a language different from your own.
- ▶ Using household items and art supplies, help your child make his or her own musical instrument. Invite him or her to write a song about unity and diversity in the Church. Encourage him or her to use the instrument to perform the song for your family when the song is finished.

**Reflect: Pages 93–94**

- ▶ Together, look at the picture on page 93 and discuss how it reflects diversity in worship.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Say: **As members of the Church, we are united in our belief, regardless of where we live and what language we speak. Let's pray the prayer that expresses these beliefs as they were taught by the Apostles and are still taught by the Church, using the Apostles' Creed.** Pray aloud the Apostles' Creed while your child prays along silently.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer on page 93. Give children time to reflect on the prayer. Read aloud the second paragraph on page 93. Close prayer time by saying: **The Apostles' Creed reminds us to practice Jesus' teachings in our daily lives.**
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Examining the Eastern Tradition on page 94. Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Together, compare and contrast the Eastern Church's practices concerning the sacraments with the practices of the Catholic Church.
- ▶ Say: **Though there are differences in how we and the Eastern Church celebrate, there is unity in the Eucharist and in many of its accompanying prayers, as well as in the participants of the congregation.** Read aloud Comparing the Liturgies and give your child time to complete the chart. Discuss the similarities and differences between the traditions.

**Respond: Pages 95–96**

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 95. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss what it means to be welcoming of all people.
- ▶ 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 96, then make plans to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***As you encounter different people, bless them. Remember that Jesus welcomed everyone and that the Church is one.***