

## The Domestic Church

### Engage: Page 105

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Ephesians 5:28–33. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph on page 105. Ask: ***What does the saying “my better half” mean?*** (Possible response: It is an expression of love for the goodness of one’s spouse.) Invite your child to read aloud the second paragraph. Say: ***The purpose of sacrifice in a relationship is not to harm one person while helping the other. Its true purpose is to deepen the couple’s love for each other while following in Jesus’ footsteps.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let’s open our hearts to Jesus and ask him for the help we need to walk in love with one another and with Jesus.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Close by praying *Amen.*

### Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Share a memory of your child when he or she was younger. Point out that each family is unique and special, just as God makes each person unique and special.
- ▶ Read aloud page 106. Ask: ***How do you learn about God and Jesus here at home?*** (Possible responses: by praying before meals and before bedtime, going to church together, being attentive to my parents’ teaching) ***How did Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi serve the Kingdom of God?*** (They raised a family. They worked to help others in the community.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Sacrament of Matrimony on page 107. Ask: ***Why is the Sacrament of Matrimony a sign of a special vocation?*** (God has called the couple to live a life of love in a community.)
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Matrimony. Explain that Matrimony is sometimes called a covenant, like the covenant between God and Abraham that your child learned about in Unit 1.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Discuss what it means to honor marriage.

### Art Print: Page 108

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary and Joseph finding Jesus in the Temple after worrying about his disappearance and looking for him.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how Jesus looks while speaking to the adults and how Mary and Joseph look. Say: ***Jesus knew that teaching***

***God’s Word was part of his mission, and that gave him wisdom and understanding beyond his years.***

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 108. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus in the Temple as a Child. Say: ***Although Jesus worried his parents by staying behind in Jerusalem, he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient. God wants us to be respectful and obedient to our parents.***
- ▶ Read aloud Lost and Found and give your child time to complete the activity. Share your own memories of the experience your child wrote about.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Ask: ***What is the ark of the covenant?*** (a vessel that contained the Ten Commandments.) ***Which of the Ten Commandments is relevant to this story?*** (Honor your father and mother.)
- ▶ Invite your child to draw your family tree. Provide him or her with magazines and newspapers. Invite your child to look for pictures that symbolize what your family means to him or her. Encourage your child to decorate around the family tree with these symbols. Display the family tree in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 109–110

- ▶ Together look at the picture on page 109. Discuss what the family in the picture is doing. Invite your child to find a comfortable, relaxed position. Say: ***Let’s take this time to thank God for all his wondrous gifts. Although we are not going to eat right now, we are going to reflect on the prayers we say at mealtime.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 109. Then pray aloud Grace Before Meals together. After a few moments of silence for personal reflection, pray aloud Grace After Meals together. Encourage your child to reflect on God’s generosity.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Building the Domestic Church on page 110. Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her ideas with your entire family.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: ***How does the liturgy relate to family life?*** (A family can form a community of prayer that mirrors the community of prayer formed when we celebrate the liturgy.)

### Respond: Pages 111–112

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 111. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss how your family can cultivate respect, love, and closeness.
- ▶ 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 112, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember to show respect, love, and kindness to everyone in our family.***