

God Calls Us

Engage: Page 113

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud 2 Timothy 1:9–14. 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 113. Ask your child what talents he or she has that might be used to serve God and other people. Say: ***God sometimes surprises and challenges us with what he calls us to do.*** Invite your child to read aloud the second paragraph. Ask: ***How can we practice listening for God's call to us?*** (praying regularly, receiving the sacraments, listening at Mass)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us know our place in God's plan.*** Then pray aloud the prayer. After children reflect silently, conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 114–115

- ▶ Invite your child to make a list of his or her special talents. Discuss how he or she can share those talents with the Church community.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage on page 114. Ask: ***What was the problem in the Corinthian community?*** (People weren't using their spiritual gifts well, and the community suffered as a result.) Invite your child to read aloud the remainder of the section. Say: ***Saint Paul emphasized that everyone has gifts to offer his or her own community.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Samuel, a Hebrew prophet and leader, heard a direct call from God. He listened and offered himself to God. This passage reminds us to be open to God's call.***
- ▶ Read aloud The Blessed Virgin Mary's Calling on page 115. Ask: ***What does Immaculate Conception mean?*** (Mary was preserved from Original Sin.) ***What was Mary's call?*** (to be the Mother of God) ***What does Assumption mean?*** (Mary was taken into heaven, body and soul.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Explain that having Mary as a patroness means asking for her help and protection.

Art Print: Page 116

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a group of craftspeople working together, using their skills to serve God and/or other people.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, identifying the project that the people are collaborating on and the role that each person has in that project.

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 116. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Universal Call to Holiness. Say: ***To be holy means that we do God's will in all things out of love for him.***
- ▶ Read aloud Assembling a Sculpture. Ask: ***The talents of many people were necessary for this project.*** Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her experience.
- ▶ Provide examples of jobs that serve God and community. Invite your child to draw pictures of people doing these jobs. Provide string and ask your child to attach his or her drawings to a mobile signifying the Church.

Reflect: Pages 117–118

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 117 and describe the picture. Then invite your child to close his or her eyes and imagine being in a quiet place. Say: ***Imagine that Mary is with you and ready to listen.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph on page 117. Pause for your child to reflect and imagine a conversation with Mary. Pray aloud the prayer. Afterward, pause for a few moments to allow your child to reflect. Then turn to page 246 and pray the Hail Mary together.
- ▶ Turn to page 118 and invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph. Then read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Sacred Site feature. Say: ***Shrines to Mary, like this one in Cuba, are found all over the world. Many people visit these sites to honor Mary as someone who answered God's call.***

Respond: Pages 119–120

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 119. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and brainstorm ways your child can serve your parish community.
- ▶ 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 120, then complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember Mary's example when we answer God's call and try to follow his plan for us.***