

## Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

### Engage: Page 163

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Mark 8:31–33. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Talk with your child about hobbies or extracurricular activities in which he or she is involved. Say: ***Being involved in these activities requires hard work and discipline. During Lent, we practice discipline in following Jesus.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 163. Ask: ***Why was Jesus upset with Peter?*** (Peter wanted Jesus to avoid the hard work that Jesus knew he had to do.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask Jesus to be with us during Lent and Holy Week.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Allow time for reflection, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

### Explore: Page 164

- ▶ Explain that *Passion* refers to the suffering and death of Jesus. Discuss with your child what he or she already knows about the Passion of Jesus.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Passion of Jesus on page 164. Say: ***We can make our own sacrifices as a sign of our commitment to Jesus. We can give alms, fast, and pray.*** Brainstorm with your child a list of sacrifices he or she can make over Lent to show his or her commitment to Jesus.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Stations of the Cross. Find the Stations of the Cross on pages 256–257 and discuss how Jesus and his followers might have felt at each of those moments.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***The Gospel writer is telling us what happened during Jesus' Passion. Here we learn that many people followed Jesus as he carried his Cross.***

### Reflect: Page 165

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Mass During Lent and Holy Week on page 165. Ask: ***What does the Church do on Good Friday instead of celebrating Mass?*** (the Liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion) Invite your child to read aloud What We Experience. Say: ***The purpose of the Veneration of the Cross is to acknowledge the death of Jesus on the Cross and show reverence for him.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Invite your child to look up the word *redemption* in the Glossary and complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.

**Art Print: Page 166**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a moment from Jesus' trial or Passion.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the image makes him or her feel.
- ▶ Say: ***Lent is a time to remember the Passion of Jesus and to forgive others as we would like to be forgiven.*** Invite your child to turn to page 166. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Jesus Forgives. Ask: ***Why do you think Jesus didn't ask God to stop his suffering while he was crucified?*** (Jesus' mission was to save us from our sins by dying for us.) Then read aloud Forgive as Jesus Did. Say: ***When we ask God to "forgive us our trespasses," we are asking him to forgive us for the wrong we have done.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and invite your child to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers and offer some ideas of your own.
- ▶ Together, make a simple calendar comprising the 40 days of Lent. Put a large line at the top for your child to write his or her Lenten promise. Provide 40 star stickers with which your child can mark off each day he or she is able to fulfill the promise. Hang the calendar in your home and review it daily.

**Respond: Pages 167–168**

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 167. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss possible selfless actions your child can undertake in the near future.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Review and discuss your child's 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 162, then make plans to complete the activity the next time you attend Mass. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's prepare ourselves to accept God's amazing gift of grace during Lent and Holy Week this year.***