

Living a Moral Life

Engage: Page 181

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Colossians 3:12–17. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Say: **When you were young, I had to help you get dressed every day. Now, of course, you handle that yourself. Putting on your clothes each day is a conscious act for you.** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 181. Say: **Some items of clothing have words on them or otherwise communicate something to others. God's love, too, sends a message when we put it on.**
- ▶ Say: **Let's ask Jesus for help in using what we say to share God's love.** Pray aloud the prayer, then close by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 182–183

- ▶ Invite your child to look back at page 175 to review how to make good choices. Then read aloud Moral Living and Our Faith on page 182.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Sinning Through Words. Ask: **How can people sin with words?** (by lying, by gossiping, by using God's name irreverently, by ridiculing others behind their backs) Review the definitions of the words *slander*, *detraction*, and *perjury* using the Glossary. Say: **If we remember that we all are made in God's image, then we will learn to use words that show respect for the dignity of each person. We will talk to others as we would like to be spoken to.**
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Sin's Social Side on page 183. Say: **Sin affects society as a whole, not just the individuals involved in a sinful act. We have a responsibility to think of others when we act.** Provide newspapers, magazines, or an internet-enabled device and work with your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: **How does this passage relate to what we are learning in this session?** (We can use our words to foster peace and love.)

Art Print: Page 184

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that depicts a group of people engaging in gossip.
- ▶ Invite your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the body language of the people. Encourage your child to think about what the people in the picture might be saying to one another and what the effects of their words might be.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 184. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Words Out of Control. Ask: ***How can words get out of control?*** (Once we say something to others, it's impossible to take our words back or keep others from repeating what we said.) Say: ***Instead of misusing words, we are called to use our words with the wisdom that comes from God.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her poem with other family members.
- ▶ Have your child close his or her eyes and imagine walking by a group of people who are speaking unkindly about someone else. Ask your child to think about what he or she would do in this situation. Say: ***We can ask God to bless our words and to help us think kindly before we speak.*** Allow a few moments for your child to reflect.

Reflect: Pages 185–186

- ▶ Invite your child to grow quiet. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 185. Then pray aloud the psalm, praying the Group One verses yourself and having your child pray the Group Two verses. Say: ***This psalm asks for God's protection. We ask God to help us use words to praise him and to avoid evil.***
- ▶ Invite your child to close his or her eyes while you read aloud the second and third paragraphs of Pray the Psalms, pausing after each sentence to give your child time to reflect on the words. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Understanding the Psalms on page 186. Then read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.

Respond: Pages 187–188

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 187. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and give your child a moment to reflect.
- ▶ 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 188, then complete the activity together. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember the effects of our words on others, using only words that we would want spoken to us.***