

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 205

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Matthew 16:24–28. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ On a sheet of paper, write, *I know one thing: that I know nothing.* Read the sentence aloud. Discuss with your child how the sentence is a paradox, then read aloud the first paragraph. Allow time for your child to reflect. Then invite your child to read aloud the next two paragraphs. Say: ***During the Easter season, we celebrate the life that resulted from Jesus' death.***
- ▶ Say: ***Let's thank Jesus for what he did on Easter and ask him to be with us during this season.*** Pray aloud the prayer, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Page 206

- ▶ Explain what missionaries do. With your child, research missionaries and mission organizations in your area. Point out that missionaries are carrying on Jesus' mission on earth, just as he called his disciples to do. Invite your child to read aloud Our Mission During Easter on page 206. Say: ***God calls us to do all we can to serve others, including our family, our friends and neighbors, and people around the world whom we've never met.***
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for the first activity. Give your child time to complete the activity, then discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for the second activity. Discuss what your child thinks his or her mission from God is. Give your child time to complete the activity, then invite him or her to share his or her answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***The Gospel of Mark emphasizes the importance of serving others rather than being served. Service is more than just helping others; it also is a way to honor them. The important thing is to help others in Jesus' name and to do it to glorify him, not to receive praise.***

Reflect: Page 207

- ▶ Explain that the Church is made up of people who serve others in God's name. Point out some of the ministries and activities that are active in your local parish. Discuss how people in your church work together to make those ministries and activities possible. Invite your child to consider how the people you talked about are carrying out Jesus' mission.

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Mass During Easter and What We Experience on page 207. Say: ***During the Easter season, we celebrate more than the Resurrection. We also celebrate Jesus' Ascension into heaven and the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost. As we celebrate Mass, we are called to love and serve Jesus and others.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Provide your child with a church bulletin or remind him or her of your discussion about ministries and activities in your parish. Give your child time to think about service projects he or she has either participated in or wanted to participate in. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her answer.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Explain that the Feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus' Ascension into heaven on the Sixth Thursday after Easter or the Seventh Sunday of Easter, depending on the diocese.

Art Print: Page 208

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Jesus' disciples receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the symbols that are used and the expressions on the faces of the disciples. Say: ***Fire is a common symbol for the Holy Spirit.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 208. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Celebrating Pentecost. Say: ***Two thousand years after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is still helping us tell others about Jesus' promise of salvation.*** Invite your child to share about times he or she has noticed other people continuing Jesus' mission by telling others about Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Give your child time to complete the activity and discuss his or her answer.
- ▶ Invite your child to recall a time from his or her own life that was spiritually significant—for example, the first time your child prayed on his or her own or felt God's presence. Have your child draw a picture of his or her experience on a sheet of paper and include a caption. Encourage your child to display the picture in his or her room and to use it as a reminder to thank God for the ways he reveals himself in our lives.

Respond: Pages 209–210

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 209. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and discuss a kind act your child can perform for someone else.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Invite your child to pray aloud the prayer he or she wrote while you pray along silently.

- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 210, then make plans to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***During this Easter season, let's look for ways to serve God and others.***