

## Prophets Challenge the People

### Engage: Page 131

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 13:54–58. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Ask: ***Have you ever told a friend something he or she didn't want to hear? Why were you truthful?*** (to motivate them, to tell them something important) Say: ***In Scripture, we learn that the prophets often had to strongly repeat God's message to the people of Israel.***
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 131. Ask: ***Why were the people of Nazareth uncomfortable with Jesus' message?*** (They couldn't understand where he got such power and wisdom.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.

### Explore: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Discuss historical figures who have stood up for their beliefs, such as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and Dorothy Day. Ask: ***What did each hope to do? How did people react to their message?***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 132. Ask: ***What did prophets do?*** (They told people that society could live in harmony by following God's commandments.)
- ▶ Have your child read the rest of the page. Ask: ***What did Amos speak out against?*** (how the wealthy people in Israel treated those who were poor) ***What concerned Jeremiah?*** (people of Judah who were not obeying the covenant established with Abraham and Moses) ***What message did Jeremiah give the exiled Jews?*** (that God loved them no matter where they were)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud God Calls Isaiah on page 133. Invite him or her to look up the boldfaced word in the Glossary. Ask: ***How did the angel purify, or cleanse, Isaiah?*** (The angel used fire to get rid of Isaiah's sin.) ***What was Isaiah's response to God's call?*** ("Here I am; send me!")
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***In this verse, Isaiah was calling on God to comfort the Jewish people as they neared the end of their exile.***

### Art Exploration: Page 134

- ▶ Find in a book, magazine, or online a representation of the prophet Jeremiah.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how the prophet Jeremiah is dressed. Ask: ***How would you react if a prophet asked you to change your ways?*** Discuss your child's response.

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 134. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Prophet's Challenge. Say: ***Even though the people did not listen, the prophets did not give up.*** Ask: ***What did the prophets ask the rulers, priests, and people to do?*** (turn away from their sinful ways, turn their lives back to God) Ask your child to imagine a prophet asking a ruler to share his wealth. Ask: ***Why might this message have been difficult for some to hear? How might people respond today?*** Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud A Prophecy for Today. Allow time for your child to write his or her messages and share them with you.
- ▶ Have your child choose one prophecy they wrote on page 134 to illustrate as a bumper sticker. Make a long rectangle by folding a sheet of drawing paper in half. Ask your child to write the message neatly and illustrate the bumper sticker. Display the message in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 135–136

- ▶ Together look at page 136. Say: ***The boy in the picture is open to God's calling. Ask God to show you how to be open to his message and to be more like the prophets in sharing his message with others.***
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Have your child read aloud the prayer. Pause to allow a few moments for him or her to reflect on the words they just prayed. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What It Means to Reform on page 136. Ask: ***What are some reforms for which the Catholic Church works?*** (abortion laws, immigration, workers' rights, ending the death penalty) Point out that the pope often calls for reform on global issues such as war and the dignity of life.
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity and discuss his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Meet a Modern Prophet feature. Ask: ***What are some things that Dorothy Day tried to reform?*** (She worked to help those who were poor and those who were homeless. She protested war.)

### Respond: Pages 137–138

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Faith Summary on page 137. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud the Prophet Puzzlers and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 138. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer together. Say: ***Throughout the coming week, think about how you can be like the prophets and share God's message with people you meet.***