

Sacraments of Initiation

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 28:16–20. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask: *If you could change your name, what name would you pick? Why?* Discuss your child's answer. Say: *Having a new name means having a new identity. In the Sacraments of Initiation, we take on a new identity.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the paragraphs on page 147. Ask: *What are the Sacraments of Initiation?* (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Say: *The Church has sacred rituals known as sacraments*. Ask: *What do you know about Baptism?* Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first section on page 148. Ask: *What do we call adults preparing for Baptism today?* (catechumens) *What must they learn?* (Church teachings, how to respond to God's call)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity introduction and directions. Explain that the Easter Vigil, the final part of the Easter Triduum, takes place on the night of Holy Saturday. Point out that the Triduum celebrates the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus and is when adult Baptisms are celebrated.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *Holy water is a sacramental that helps us remember our relationship with God*. Ask: *What images of water from Scripture are used during the blessing of baptismal water at the Easter Vigil?* (the Spirit breathing upon the waters at creation, the Red Sea parting, the baptism of Jesus)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 149. Ask: *Why is the Eucharist so important?* (It nourishes us so that we can go out and serve others. It forgives venial sin. It brings us closer to Christ.) Say: *The sacraments are signs of grace given to us by Jesus and his Church. Through the sacraments, we encounter Christ and receive his divine life.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *This passage from John's Gospel tells us that Jesus is present to us and gives us eternal life in the Eucharist.*

Art Exploration: Page 150

- ▶ Find in a book, magazine, or online a representation of Saint Peter's Church in France that includes the statue of Saint Peter as the keystone in the arch.
- ▶ Say: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the statue of Saint Peter as the keystone in the arch. Ask: ***How did Saint Peter hold together the members of the early Church?*** Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 150. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Stone That Holds Everything Together. Ask: ***Who is this Bible verse about?*** (Jesus) ***What does this verse mean to you?*** (Possible answers: Jesus Christ is the center of the Church; we are the home of the Holy Spirit.) ***Who else is like a keystone in the Church? Why?*** (the pope because he is our leader and teacher)
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***What does Peter mean when he speaks of a living stone?*** (an active member in supporting God's household, the Church)
- ▶ On a large sheet of paper, have your child draw a single outline of a house with a slanting roof and a cross on top, and one large stone inside at the top. Write *Jesus* on the stone. Invite your child to draw stones and while the names of your family and friends inside. Discuss ways that these people can build up the Church.

Reflect: Pages 151–152

- ▶ Together look at page 151. Say: ***When you pray, focus on God's presence. Ask God to help you learn how to live as a faithful member of his family.***
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Invite your child to pray aloud the prayer with you. If possible, have your child bless himself or herself with holy water. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Changed for Life on page 152. Invite him or her to look up the boldface word in the Glossary. Say: ***Sanctifying grace makes us children of God and heirs to heaven.*** Ask: ***How does Confirmation change us?*** (It deepens our faith, it completes our Baptism, we are left with a permanent mark, and we receive grace to become more active Christians.) ***How does the Eucharist change us?*** (It nourishes and strengthens us.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Changed Lives Are Meant to Change Lives. Ask: ***What are some ways you can respond to your baptismal call to serve others and spread the Good News?*** (offer to pray for people, treat others with dignity and respect, volunteer to help those who are poor and homeless)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: ***The age of reason is the age at which the Church considers a person to be old enough to begin to take personal responsibility for his or her decisions.***

Respond: Pages 153–154

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Faith Summary on page 153. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity. Allow your child time to write his or her responses.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 154. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer together. Say: ***We become members of the Body of Christ and a Temple of the Holy Spirit when we are baptized.***