

Sacraments of Service

Engage: Page 181

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud John 21:15–19. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child to name people he or she knows who works in professions such as health care or law enforcement. Say: *These people put your needs before their own. As followers of Jesus, we are committed to putting the needs of others before our own.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the paragraphs on page 181. Say: *Those who choose the Sacraments of Service make a commitment to put the needs of others before their own.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 182–183

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 182. Ask: *What is a vocation?* (a way of life that God call us to) Say: *Both Matrimony and Holy Orders are ways of life that help teach others about our faith. These vocations are a call from God to serve the Church.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the rest of the page. Ask: *What are the people in a marriage called to do?* (serve each other and their family) *How do parents teach their families about our Catholic faith?* Discuss your child's answer.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Serving God, the Church, and the World on page 183. Ask: *What are the three levels of ordained ministry who serve as Church leaders?* (deacon; presbyter, or priest; bishop) Say: *Laypeople share in Christ's priesthood by living their call to holiness in their words and actions. Ordained ministers serve by teaching the faith and proclaiming the Gospel.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: *What are some charisms, or gifts of the Spirit, you have observed in other parishioners? What gifts do you have to share?* Discuss your child's responses.

Art Exploration: Page 184

- ▶ Find in a book, magazine, or online a representation of the *wedding at Cana*.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the continent on which the artist chose to depict Jesus and the wedding guests.
- ▶ Say: *God blesses married couples and their promise to each other in a special way.*
- ▶ Ask your child to turn to page 184. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Marriage: A Holy Calling on page 184. Ask: ***When a man and a woman get married, whom do they make a covenant with?*** (with each other and with God) Say: ***Their marriage reflects the union between Christ and the Church. This covenant cannot be broken.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child complete it. Tell them to ask you, their grandparents, or another couple about their marriage ceremony.
- ▶ Together make congratulation cards for couples in your parish who have been married for 50 or more years. Include some of the things your child has learned about Matrimony. Give the cards to the church office to distribute.

Reflect: Pages 185–186

- ▶ Together look at page 185. Say: ***Think about what it means to be holy. Our prayer is about holiness in our everyday lives. Praying is one way for us to grow in holiness.***
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the introductory paragraph. Say: ***Talk to God about your calling and his plan for your life. Listen to God with your heart.*** Invite your child to pray the prayer silently. Allow time for reflection. Close by praying aloud the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph. Ask your child to close his or her eyes and imagine where he or she will be in 20 years. Say: ***God has a plan for all of us. He speaks to you about your true vocation in your heart.***
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for the activity. Work together to complete it. Emphasize that all the clues tell about the word *service* on the completed acrostic.

Respond: Pages 187–188

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Faith Summary on page 187. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud Summarize the Sacraments of Service. Review with your child what he or she has learned about the Sacraments of Service and discuss how they are similar to and different from the Sacraments of Initiation and the Sacraments of Healing. Then have your child complete the chart.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 188. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer together. Say: ***The Church is one family that reflects the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Within that family, there are many diverse ways we can serve God's plan of salvation. In prayer this week, listen for God in understanding his plan for your life.***