

Caring for the Earth

Engage: Page 189

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Psalm 24:1–6. Then say: *The Word of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God*.
- ▶ Ask: *If you could spend a day just enjoying God’s creation, what location would you choose?* Discuss your child’s response. Say: *God creates all things, including us*. Ask: *What special responsibility does God give us?* (caring for his creation)
- ▶ Ask your child to aloud the paragraphs on page 189. Say: *Pope Francis confirms our responsibility to care for the earth*. Ask: *What are some ways you can care for creation?* Discuss your child’s response.

Explore: Pages 190–191

- ▶ Say: *God gives us the responsibility to lead others in caring for his creation*.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the first two sections on page 190. Invite him or her to find the sentences that introduce and define the word *dominion*. Ask: *What did Pope John Paul II say about dominion?* (It is not an absolute power.) *What does moral law mean?* Discuss your child’s response then ask him or her to read aloud the definition from the Glossary. Say: *Pope Francis also emphasizes our moral obligation to practice conservation*. Ask: *How can we use our dominion for the good of all people?* (by conserving water and energy, by recycling)
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to pages 276–277 and discuss the themes of Catholic social teaching.
- ▶ Read aloud Environmental Abuse. Have your child complete the activity, then discuss his or her examples together.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Solidarity on page 191. Say: *When we ask others to help us fulfill our responsibility to care for God’s creation, we are showing unity with God and with others. Another word for unity is solidarity*. Ask: *Why do you think solidarity with people around the world is so important?* (Possible answer: The way we treat the environment and other people can have far-reaching effects.) *What are some ways we can show our solidarity with people all over the world?* (Accept reasonable responses.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Ask: *How does this psalm show us how to love God’s creation as he intended?* Discuss your child’s response.

Art Exploration: Page 192

- ▶ Find in a book, magazine, or online a representation of human life coexisting with nature.
- ▶ Say: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what is nature and what is made by humans. Ask: ***How do we prevent the treasures of nature from becoming rare?*** (Possible answer: Answer God's call to take care of creation.)
- ▶ Have your child to turn to page 192. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph. Discuss ways we have a relationship with the natural world.
- ▶ Have your child read the second paragraph. Invite him or her to read aloud the definition for *encyclical* from the Glossary. Ask: ***What are the main points of the pope's letter?*** (All life is sacred and a gift from God; we have a responsibility to care for the earth; we should promote life and show reverence and love for it.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to write ways he or she can actively preserve the environment.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: ***The Prayer of the Faithful is proclaimed by a reader or cantor and is followed by a concluding prayer offered by a priest.***
- ▶ Invite your child to choose a medium to make an art piece that shows one human-made thing surrounded by nature. Tell your child to give the artwork a title. Discuss the picture and display it in your home.

Reflect: Pages 193–194

- ▶ Together look at page 193. Ask your child to read the introductory paragraph.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer slowly while your child follows along, pausing briefly after each sentence to allow time for reflection. Close by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Display local maps for your child to look at. Point out the location of your parish church. Ask: ***What parks or landmarks are close to our church?*** (Accept reasonable responses.) Say: ***All around is God's creation. Our God-given responsibility to care for the earth may seem overwhelming. We can begin by thinking about things we can care for in our own environments.***
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Exercise Your Dominion on page 194. Provide colored pencils and have your child read the page and complete the drawing. Discuss areas that need to be improved and what can be done to improve them.

Respond: Pages 195–196

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Faith Summary on page 195. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Showing Solidarity and 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 196. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer together. Say: *Remember that God created the world and its people and he calls us to care for all of creation.*