

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 205

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet him or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 24:1–10. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Say: *An individual or a team becomes a champion by defeating all opponents. However, next season, the competition starts all over again. Jesus defeated sin and death once and for all by dying and rising.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 205. Ask: *As a result of Christ's victory, which we celebrate at Easter, what do we receive?* (the gift of everlasting life)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Page 206

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 206. Ask him or her what the word *salvation* means to them. Then ask them to look up the word in the Glossary. Say: *Salvation is a gift as well as a challenge. We receive the gift of salvation from Jesus through the Church.*
- ▶ Invite your child to stand and raise his or her right hand and repeat the following words: *I promise to love our earth and everything on it as much as God does from this day forward. I pledge to recycle, avoid littering, conserve water, use electricity wisely, walk or ride my bike when I can, and learn more about how my actions affect the planet. I promise to do these things in God's name.* Invite your child to complete the activity by writing what he or she can do.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *In the Book of Genesis, God tells Adam and Eve that they have dominion over all of creation. Dominion does not mean we can do anything we want, no matter what. God entrusts us with the responsibility to care for and protect all creation.*

Reflect: Page 207

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph on page 207. Share your recollections of an Easter Vigil you have attended. Emphasize how different it is from Easter Sunday Mass. Say: *Part of celebrating Christ's Resurrection is celebrating and protecting the natural world around us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Discuss how the church is filled with God's creations—flowers, plants, and people gathered to celebrate the risen Christ. Say: *We are part of God's creation. Our salvation is tied to the salvation of all creation, which is why we are charged with caring for the earth.*

- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *Pentecost marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. We read in the Acts of the Apostles that the Holy Spirit came down as tongues of fire above the disciples' heads 50 days after the Resurrection.*

Art Exploration: Page 208

- ▶ Find in a book, magazine, or online a representation of the many gifts God has given us.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the many gifts God gives us. Say: *We have a great responsibility to appreciate, protect, and share God's gifts to us with others.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 208. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph. Ask: *How does Jesus bring us peace and hope through his Resurrection and Ascension? How can we bring these same gifts to others?* Discuss his or her responses.
- ▶ Invite your child to read the rest of the section. Ask: *What is the hardest thing you ever had to hope for?* Discuss how it was possible for God's people from the Old Testament to wait in hope and yet never see the Messiah come.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and allow time for your child to complete it. Discuss the response.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a poster titled *Keepers of God's Earth*. Using magazine pictures or drawings, have your child make a collage showing ways to protect and care for our planet and its inhabitants. Have your child pray a silent prayer accepting his or her mission to care for God's creation and its inhabitants.

Respond: Pages 209–210

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Faith Summary on page 209. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus.
- ▶ Read aloud Signs of Easter 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 210. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer together. Say: *Remember God's greatest gifts to us—all of creation and salvation through his Son, Jesus. Pray that others will hear the Good News and learn to love and share the gospel message.*