



Jesus Brings Us New Life

Engage: Page 159

- ▶ Discuss what it means to make a sacrifice. Brainstorm a list of tasks your child might do as a sacrifice for others, such as mow the lawn, practice piano, and babysit a sibling. **Say:** *One possible motivation for making a sacrifice is to gain something better later on.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and discuss the text in the box on page 159. **Ask:** *For whom would you make a sacrifice? What would make your sacrifice worth it? What sacrifice did Jesus make? Why did he make it?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Pray aloud the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 160–161

- ▶ Together make a list of your choices for the top three movies of all time. Identify key scenes that give meaning to the stories. Tell your child that he or she will learn about a key scene in the Gospel of Mark.
- ▶ Read aloud Mark 16:1–7 in the Bible. Then invite your child to read aloud the article title An Empty Tomb. Take turns reading aloud the first three paragraphs on page 160. **Say:** *This is a key scene in our story of faith. The message here is that the women were looking for Jesus in the wrong place. He was not among the dead. He was among the people he served.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section The Resurrection. **Ask:** *How does the verse from First Corinthians reflect beliefs of our faith?* (Death is the end of our human life, but Jesus conquered Death by his Resurrection. He gave us hope for eternal life with him.) Emphasize that the Resurrection is the central mystery of our faith.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. Read aloud the meaning of *social justice* in the Glossary. Explain that as members of the Church, we are called to share in Jesus' mission of building the Kingdom of God right now.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Where Will I Find Jesus? on page 161. Read aloud the definition of *marginalized* in the Glossary. Then read aloud the section Jesus Is with Us. **Say:** *As we accept and welcome the grace of the Holy Spirit, every day becomes a discovery of the presence of God in places where we least expect it.* **Ask:** *Where do we discover Jesus' presence?* (Possible answers: in prayer and worship, in Christian community, in situations of love and respect, in peacemaking and working for justice)
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the section Serving the Kingdom. Explain that we are challenged to seek Jesus, not only among family and friends but also among those who are powerless and forgotten. **Ask:** *Can you describe a time when you were looking for Jesus in the wrong places, like the women who found an empty tomb?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *Jesus is among the living.*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 162–163

- ▶ Discuss clubs or organizations to which you or your child belong. Talk about what you did to become members. **Say:** *When we receive the Sacraments of Initiation, we become members of the Church. However, our membership is not the same as a club membership. We enter into the Body of Christ, marking a new beginning in our spiritual journey.*



- ▶ Read aloud the article title Sacraments of Initiation on page 162. Take turns reading the paragraphs in the first column. **Ask:** *Which sacraments are not repeated?* (Baptism and Confirmation) Emphasize that Baptism is always the first sacrament received, no matter what age the recipient. Discuss the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).
- ▶ Read aloud the section Baptism. **Ask:** *How is knowing the meaning of the word Baptism helpful to understanding the sacrament?* (By entering into the water of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and enter a new life of grace.) Discuss what occurs during the Rite of Baptism, and point out the outward signs of water, a white garment, oil, and fire.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the sections Confirmation and Eucharist on pages 162 and 163. Point out that the Confirmation rite uses the same signs that Peter and John used. **Ask:** *What did Jesus mean by asking the disciples to wait until they were “clothed with power from on high”?* (The Holy Spirit would come.) Emphasize that the Liturgy of the Eucharist is more than a simple reenactment of Jesus’ words at the Last Supper. **Say:** *After the consecration at Mass, Jesus Christ is present, and we are spiritually nourished by his Body and Blood when we receive the Eucharist.*
- ▶ Take turns reading the section Initiated Into the Body of Christ. **Ask:** *After receiving the Sacraments of Initiation, what is your mission as a member of the Church?* (to make the light of Christ evident in the world)
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Together find the definition of *doxology* in the Glossary. Ask your child to identify what he or she sees in the fine art image and to interpret its meaning. Recite the words prayed by the priest during the Eucharistic Prayer in the Concluding Doxology: “Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever.”
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 164–165

- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 22:36–40. Have your child read aloud the title Reflecting God’s Love and the paragraphs in the left column on page 164. Discuss the concept of love and its impact on what we say and do every day. **Say:** *God’s love for us is immeasurable. Every time we reflect his love in the world, we are living our faith.*
- ▶ Take turns praying the Reader parts of the prayer Witnesses for Christ. Pray the Response together. Pray each petition and allow time for meditation. Conclude by praying together the Lord’s Prayer and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Look at page 165. Have your child read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? Then read aloud the article The Day Everything Changed. **Say:** *When you have a change of heart, you see the entire world in a new way.* Take turns reading aloud the article. **Say:** *God is always inviting us into relationship with him, but we are free to accept or reject his invitation. When the author was free to make her own choices in college, it took her a while to rediscover her Catholic faith. Rediscovering the Church in her new home helped the author live life fully and wisely.*
- ▶ Have your child complete the Eyes of Faith activity independently. Point out that sometimes we are the ones who need to change or see things in a new way to grow closer to God.



Respond: Page 166

- ▶ Read aloud the directions in What's What? Have your child complete each sentence and then find the secret word.
- ▶ Review the terms you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Ask your child to consider people who could use a kind word or gesture. Then invite your child to write a response.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.