

The Church Reaches Out

Engage: Page 151

- ▶ Discuss some events that occurred to either of you this past week. **Say:** *While we might not have realized it, God was present in those events.* Provide an example of something you experienced recently and identify what God may have been trying to say to you. Invite your child to identify what God may have been saying to him or her through personal experiences.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the blue box. **Say:** *In this session we are going to learn more about how we can discover God's presence in our everyday experiences.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 152–153

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine that you are asked to live in a room that is no bigger than 10 feet by 10 feet. The room does not have access to the Internet, and you cannot have a cell phone or an MP3 player.* **Ask:** *How would you spend your time?* Explain that this article tells about a man who chose to live in such conditions so that he could grow in his relationship with God.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the title Ignatius of Loyola, the first paragraph, and the section A Journey to Faith. Point out that Ignatius chose to live a life of asceticism so that he could grow closer to God. **Ask:** *What did Ignatius's experience help him realize?* (that he wanted to serve others by helping them recognize the presence of God in their lives)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Jesuits. **Ask:** *What did Ignatius and his friends do together?* (study, preach the Gospel, offer spiritual direction)
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Ignatian Spirituality on page 153. **Ask:** *What is the charism of the Jesuits?* (to help people find God in all things) Explain that the Spiritual Exercises are often done during a 30-day retreat. The Jesuits have adapted the Spiritual Exercises so that people can incorporate components of the Spiritual Exercises into their daily lives. **Ask:** *How can practicing the tenets of Ignatian spirituality help you find God in the world around you?* (Possible answer: Ignatian spirituality can help us reflect on our daily experience so that we can find God in the midst of everyday events.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. If possible, research information together online about Jesuit ministries in your diocese.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 154–155

- ▶ Give your child a moment to reflect on his or her favorite aspect of creation. **Say:** *Thank God for creating this gift.* Invite your child to share the gifts for which he or she is thankful. **Ask:** *What can you do to care for this gift?*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the title Caring for God's Creation, the first paragraph, and the section The Fifth Commandment. **Ask:** *What does the Fifth Commandment remind us?* (that every person has dignity as a human being created in God's image and likeness) Draw your child's attention to the terms *moral law*, *abortion*, and *euthanasia*. Read aloud the Glossary definition of the term *moral law*. **Say:** *Sometimes this term is referred*

to as natural law. Through its teachings on abortion, euthanasia, child labor, the sexual exploitation of human beings, and child soldiers, the Church reminds us that all people are made in God's image and likeness. Because of this, we are called to respect the life and dignity of all people.

- ▶ Read aloud The Sixth and Ninth Commandments. **Say:** *The Sixth Commandment is "You shall not commit adultery."* **Ask:** *What is the Ninth Commandment? (You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.)* Draw attention to the words *adultery* and *chastity*. Have your child read aloud from the Glossary the definition of each word. **Say:** *Chastity means viewing our sexuality as a precious gift.* Point out that one way to show thanks for a gift is to treat it with respect.
- ▶ Read aloud Our Catholic Character. **Say:** *One way to protect ourselves from the temptation to covet is to practice detachment.* **Ask:** *How can detachment prevent us from giving into the temptation to covet? (Possible answer: By practicing detachment, such as by donating items I no longer need, I am reminded that God alone is the source of true happiness.)*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 156–157

- ▶ Read aloud the title God's Fingerprints and the paragraphs in the left column. Explain that nurturing our prayer life helps us grow in our ability to recognize this grace in our lives.
- ▶ Pray aloud the reflection Finding God in All Things, giving your child time to reflect after each paragraph and question. After praying together the last paragraph, pray together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some blessings that you have received? (Possible answers: God's grace, my family's love)* Point out that God's grace works in interesting ways and that we can receive blessings when we least expect them. Read aloud the introductory paragraph in Where Do I Fit In? on page 157.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Unexpected Blessings. **Ask:** *What blessings came to the author and her family from the bad news? (community support, the joy of learning, gratitude for solutions)*
- ▶ Have your child complete the Unexpected News activity independently and invite him or her to share the response with you. **Say:** *Finding the blessing in bad news isn't about ignoring the pain or pretending everything is fine. It is about staying open to God's mysterious ways.*

Respond: Page 158

- ▶ Read aloud the directions. Remind your child to use the page references to help answer the questions. Have him or her complete the activity independently.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? **Say:** *When we give thanks to God, we show our appreciation for the many ways that he has revealed himself to us through our daily experiences.* Have your child complete the activity and then together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.