

Called by God

Engage: Page 195

- ▶ Brainstorm areas in the world that are in need of Christ's love. Discuss with your child how he or she can share surplus time and talent with the people in those situations to help share Christ's love. **Say:** *Whenever we use our gifts to help others, we share God's love.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the blue box. **Say:** *In this session we will learn more about how we can respond to the call of holiness.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 196–197

- ▶ Together share stories about a time you had to adjust to change, such as moving to a new city or beginning a new job. **Ask:** *How can you support people who are experiencing change in their own lives?* (Possible answers: treat them with kindness, offer words of welcome and support) **Say:** *In this article we are going to read about how the Church responded to cultural changes.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the title The Second Vatican Council and the text below it. **Say:** *Pope John XXIII realized that the Church needed to try new approaches to connect with the modern world. To many, the old ways were more comfortable. But the pope knew that for the Church to continue serving people, change was necessary.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Sacred Art feature. **Ask:** *Why do you think the painter chose to place the cross in a prominent position?* (Possible answer: to remind Church leaders that they are responsible for leading the Church founded by Christ)
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Providing Direction for the Future. **Say:** *Bishops are responsible for the spiritual needs of the people in their dioceses. Point out that people living in different parts of the world can have drastically different needs. One of the challenges the bishops faced during the council was addressing the needs of the people they served.* If possible, show a Web clip of the council opening.
- ▶ Read aloud Renewal on page 197. If possible, together research online documents promulgated during the Second Vatican Council. Read aloud the titles of the documents to help your child understand the breadth of issues discussed by Church leaders.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. **Ask:** *Why did the changes that were approved during the Second Vatican Council help people enter into the celebration of the Mass?* (Possible answers: People were able to pray more actively. People were able to participate in the Mass in their own language.)
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 198–199

- ▶ Design a T-chart with the headings *Sacraments of Initiation* and *Gifts Received*. Together list the sacraments and the gifts that we receive through each sacrament. Turn to pages 284–285 in the back of the book for information about the sacraments.

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the title Called to Holiness and the first section.
Ask: *Why are we called to lead holy lives? (We are made in God's image.)* Point out that the Sacrament of Baptism welcomes us into the Christian community and that the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the grace that we receive through our Baptism.
Say: *Through the Eucharist, Christ has given us a model of how to live. We are called to share ourselves with others.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Many Gifts. Identify the gifts named in the Scripture passage.
Ask: *In which vocations can people practice each gift? (Possible answers: Expression of Wisdom—counselors; Expression of Knowledge—teachers; Mighty Deeds—advocates for peace)*
- ▶ Brainstorm ways that you and your child work to build up the Kingdom of God. **Say:** *Through the work that we do, we help build up the Church, and we model the Church in action.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Ready for Confirmation on page 199. Then turn to pages 94–95 to review the Marks of the Church. Invite your child to summarize each Mark of the Church.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 200–201

- ▶ Read aloud the title Abundant Harvest and the paragraphs in the left column. Point out that Catholics believe that God alone is worthy of our worship. **Say:** *We do not worship Mary and the saints, but we do pray to them, asking them to intercede on our behalf.*
- ▶ Pray aloud, taking turns reading each part of Interceding for Others. After praying, **say:** *Take a moment to pray your own prayers of intercession silently.*
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph in Where Do I Fit In? on page 200. **Ask:** *Why is it important to share, take turns, and help others? (Possible answers: because God wants us to, because that is how we make God's love present to the world, because loving works better than hating)*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Why Am I Being Sent? **Say:** *The author reminds us that the Kingdom of God is inside us and in our relationships with others when we choose to do his will.* **Ask:** *In the story about the two sons, what was the second brother's first response to his father's request? (He complained and refused to do it.) What happened next? (He decided to do the work.)* **Say:** *We may complain sometimes and turn away from God. But this doesn't make us unfit to serve him. God will always rejoice when we turn back to him.*
- ▶ Have your child complete the Witness to Love activity independently and invite him or her to share the response with you.

Respond: Page 202

- ▶ Read aloud the directions. Remind your child to use the page references to help find responses to 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:** *God has given each of us different gifts that, when used together, can respond to all of the world's needs.* 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.