



The Church Welcomes Us

Engage: Page 105

- ▶ **Ask:** *How can you help someone feel welcome? (smile, shake hands, talk to them) Act out your suggestions. **Say:** Jesus and his followers preached and baptized people so that they would welcome God's love.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the chant. Then repeat it, with your child shouting out each even-numbered line. **Say:** *Our Church welcomes us into God's family when we are baptized.*
- ▶ Repeat the chant, changing the name *Philip* to names of your family members. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Display a picture of a baby or a doll. **Ask:** *What does a baby need? (food, sleep, care, a name) **Say:** A baby also needs to be baptized.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 106. Have your child point to the word *Baptism*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. Then talk about what is happening in the picture. **Say:** *Baptism is one of the seven sacraments.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Use the Glossary to remind your child of the definition of Original Sin.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What does the priest pour over the baby's head when the baby is baptized? (holy water)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentence on page 107 to learn about the signs of Baptism. Then read aloud the directions and help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ After you read aloud the Reading God's Word feature, **say:** *The water of the Baptism ceremony gives us new life by making us one with the Holy Spirit.*



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 18 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a Baptism.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the people and their actions.
- ▶ **Say:** *Baptism is the first sacrament we celebrate in the Church. Being baptized welcomes us into God's family, the Church.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 18. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section We Are Welcomed. **Ask:** *Why do we have Original Sin?* (Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden.) **Say:** *When we are baptized, we are freed from Original Sin.*
- ▶ If possible, show your child a picture of his or her Baptism. Then read aloud the section I Belong to the Church and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Help your child make a Baptism Book using six note cards, markers, and a stapler. On the first card, write *My Baptism Book* by _____. This is the cover. Then have your child decorate four note cards, each with one sign of Baptism: a water droplet, a candle, a bottle of Chrism, and a church. On the last card, include a picture of your child at his or her Baptism. Help your child staple the cards together to make a book.

Reflect: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Together look at page 108. **Ask:** *Where is the girl in the picture?* (in a forest or park) *Why do you think she is looking up?* (Answers will vary.) **Say:** *We give praise to God for the things that bring us joy.*
- ▶ Read aloud the page. Then invite your child to pray the prayer with you a second time. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What has God made or done for you that makes you want to shout for joy?* (Answers will vary.) Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 109. **Say:** *Praising God gives us a chance to express our joy!* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.

Respond: Page 110

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word *Baptism*. **Say:** *We have talked about the gift of Baptism, which makes us part of the Church, and the signs of Baptism.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of Baptism. Being part of God's family fills us with joy.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.