



Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some signs of the spring season? (spring blossoms, baby animals) Say: Our Church celebrates a season called Easter where we feel joy and think about things being new again.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. Have your child point to the word *Easter*. Help him or her find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *We feel joyful at Easter because Jesus rose from the dead.*
- ▶ Together find Easter on a calendar. Count out 50 days to identify the season. Pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Page 148

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is a promise? (A promise is when you assure someone that something will be done.) Have you ever made a promise? What is it like to keep a promise? (Answers will vary.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences. **Say:** *Jesus kept his promise that he would always be with us.*
- ▶ Point out the word *Alleluia*. Help your child find it in the Glossary. Discuss the definition. **Say:** *We say and sing Alleluia often at Easter. Have your child complete the activity.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Everyone was surprised and confused when they didn't find Jesus' body in his tomb. Read to your child the story of the Resurrection, found in Matthew 28:1–8, from a children's Bible or retell it from your Bible using simple language. Encourage your child to ask questions.*

Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ Talk about how your family celebrates Easter. **Ask:** *What are our family's Easter traditions? (Answers will vary.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the sentences. **Say:** *Jesus gives us new life when we celebrate his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Have your child complete the activity.*
- ▶ Read aloud the I Go to Church feature. **Say:** *The paschal candle reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World. He is always with us, lighting our way.*



Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 25 Blackline Master

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus' friends finding angels in Jesus' tomb.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what he or she sees (or what is missing) in the tomb.
- ▶ **Say:** *Easter, the day we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection, is the most important holiday in our Church. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.*
- ▶ Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 25. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Jesus Is Risen. **Say:** *Easter is such a joyful season that the Church celebrates for 50 days! We celebrate the knowledge that Jesus is with us always.*
- ▶ In advance, prepare an outline of a cross on paper and tear tissue paper into small pieces. Read aloud the section Easter Cross. Demonstrate steps as needed to help your child complete the activity. Display the Easter Cross in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The woman who found the empty tomb may have been scared and confused, but Jesus was soon there to comfort her.*
- ▶ Play a recording of a joyful "Alleluia." **Say:** *Alleluia means "Praise the Lord." We sing "Alleluia" to praise God and to celebrate the new life Jesus gave us when he kept his promise and rose from the dead.* Encourage your child to sing along as you play the song again. Remind your child to listen for songs with the word *Alleluia* when you sing them at Mass during Easter season.

Respond: Page 150

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words *Easter* and *Alleluia*. **Say:** *We have talked about how Jesus kept his promise to be with us always. We say and sing "Alleluia!" because we are so happy that Jesus has risen.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray silently while you pray aloud. **Say:** *Dear Father, thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus. His life fills us with joy and peace.* 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.