

God Saves Us

Engage: Page 13

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud James 1:12–15. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to name his or her favorite foods. Say: **Just as we have desires for certain foods, we also have desires for other things that we think would make us happy. The problem is, not everything we desire is good for us.** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on the page. Say: **When we feel tempted, Jesus is nearby, giving us strength to make good choices.**
- ▶ Say: **Let's ask Jesus to help us make good decisions when we are faced with temptations.** Pray aloud the prayer, concluding with *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 14–15

- ▶ Together, look at the headlines in newspapers, magazines, or online. Identify good-news headlines and bad-news headlines. Ask: **What kinds of problems did the headlines describe?** (Accept reasonable responses.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 14. Point out the term “human condition.” Ask: **What is the contradictory nature of the human condition?** (Although people often make bad choices that inflict pain on others, they also make good choices and work to help those in trouble.) **What is sin?** (humans’ rejection of God and opposition to his plan)
- ▶ Read aloud the question at the bottom of the page and have your child write his or her answer in the book. Discuss what he or she wrote.
- ▶ Read aloud page 15. Say: **The word reconcile means “to restore to friendship.”** Ask: **What were the effects of Adam’s sin?** (Sin entered the world, and with it came death.) **What does Jesus bring to the world?** (victory over sin and death)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature and discuss it. Ask: **Why is it wrong to hurt ourselves or others?** (God creates all life and calls it good, so we should not harm those whom he has given life.)

Art Print: Page 16

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Peter Claver.
- ▶ Ask: **What do you see in this picture?** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including Saint Peter Claver’s appearance and what he is doing in the picture.

- ▶ Say: ***Saint Peter Claver was an advocate for enslaved people. He had faith in Jesus' mission, just as we should when faced with hard choices.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 16. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first section. Ask: ***How did Saint Peter Claver help the enslaved people of South America?*** (He provided physical and spiritual care. He comforted them and tried to persuade their overseers to treat them humanely.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Our Humanity. Ask: ***Can you think of other ways in your daily life in which you can live as Saint Peter Claver did?*** Have your child write his or her goal on the lines.
- ▶ Provide art supplies and invite your child to make a poster that promotes positive actions and living as good Christians. Suggest that he or she think of images or slogans that might encourage family members to take positive action. Display the poster in your home.

Reflect: Pages 17–18

- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 17, then invite your child to get comfortable and focus his or her attention inward during reflective prayer.
- ▶ Invite your child to close his or her eyes as you slowly read aloud the second paragraph on page 17, pausing after each sentence to allow time for personal reflection. Then have your child open his or her eyes. Together, pray aloud the responsive prayer in the Prayer box. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the activity directions on page 18. Read aloud each problem and brainstorm solutions with your child. Point out that each problem may have more than one correct solution.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***When Jesus became man and died for our sins, he gave us new life, restored our friendship with God, and brought the promise of everlasting life.***

Respond: Pages 19–20

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 19. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Invite your child to suggest specific ways in which he or she can comfort and include someone who is being excluded.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 20. Obtain or view online a copy of your parish bulletin and complete the activity together. Then pray aloud the prayer.