

God Directs Our Lives

Engage: Page 29

- ▶ Read aloud the session title and say: ***Jesus' concept of happiness is quite different from the world's.*** Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Matthew 5:1–10. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.* Ask: ***What was so different about Jesus' view of suffering?*** (He taught that we are near to God when we suffer.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let us thank God for being near to us in all circumstances.*** Pray aloud the prayer, concluding with *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 30–31

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 30. Ask: ***Who did Jesus say was the greatest in the kingdom?*** (a child) ***Why do you think he said this?*** (A child is humble and recognizes his or her dependence on parents.)
- ▶ Give your child a note card. Invite your child to write what he or she thinks Jesus wants to teach him or her in Matthew 18:3–4 on one side. On the other side, invite your child to write what he or she will do as a result of this teaching. Encourage your child to put the card on your refrigerator as a reminder of Jesus' lesson.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***As God's people, it is important for us to love and trust God.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 31. Ask: ***Why are the Beatitudes important to follow?*** (They help us live as members of God's kingdom and act as signs of God's goodness.)

Art Print: Page 32

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Philip Neri listening to the confession of Pope Clement VIII.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting the actions and dress of the people.
- ▶ Say: ***We feel good when we can talk to a trusted friend and when we can be that friend to someone else.*** Have your child turn to page 32. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud page 32. Ask: ***How did Philip inspire others?*** (He encouraged people to be happy and to receive the sacraments.) Read aloud the activity directions and allow time for your child to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answer.

- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Discuss people you know who try to live their lives like Jesus, such as clergy or teachers.
- ▶ Draw an outline of your child on a sheet of paper. Invite your child to decorate his or her outline with talents and attributes that he or she is proud of, such as “I’m a good singer” or “I’m a good listener.” Then ask your child to write one way he or she can use those talents to help someone.

Reflect: Pages 33–34

- ▶ Together look at page 33. Invite your child to share how the picture makes him or her feel. Say: ***The Beatitudes give us direction on how to live our lives each day. Now we are going to pray a prayer that also gives us direction for daily living.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 33. Pray aloud the prayer while your child prays along silently. Conclude by praying aloud the Glory Be to the Father, found on page 247.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Meaning of the Beatitudes on page 34, then read aloud the activity directions. Look on page 269 to find the Beatitudes, then work with your child to complete the activity. When you are finished, ask: ***What three words do you think best describe a person who lives the Beatitudes?*** (Possible responses: generous, kind, caring)

Respond: Pages 35–36

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 35. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss with your child possible volunteer opportunities that will allow him or her to help people who are less fortunate.
- ▶ 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 prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read aloud With My Family on page 36. Discuss and complete the activity together. Pray aloud the prayer together. After the prayer, say: ***The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes are wonderful gifts that help us know how God wants us to live every day.***