

Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 37

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: ***In this session, we will learn about Ordinary Time—the part of the year when we strive to understand Jesus better and think about how to follow his ways.*** Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 5:12–16. Say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Find and show pictures of traffic signs to your child and ask what they signify. Say: ***Signs tell us what we can expect to encounter ahead. The signs that Jesus and the Apostles performed tell a story of a God who desires to be close to us.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 37. Ask: ***What do we call the outward signs that the Church celebrates?*** (the sacraments)
- ▶ Say: ***Faith is not practiced only on Sundays or feast days. We live our faith every day as we walk with Jesus.*** Pray aloud the prayer, then pray *Amen.*

Explore: Page 38

- ▶ Invite your child to talk about the sacraments he or she has celebrated, such as Baptism, the Eucharist, and Penance and Reconciliation. Say: ***The sacraments draw us closer to God and help us understand how he wants us to live our lives.***
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 38. Ask your child each of the three questions following the first paragraph. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Read aloud How Can I Grow? and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss why the sacrament your child drew is so meaningful to him or her.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***We pray to Jesus and ask him to be with us and guide our steps to live as he did. When we ask this of Jesus, God blesses our lives.***

Reflect: Page 39

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 39. Ask: ***What are some examples of sacramentals?*** (sacred oils, prayers, the Rosary) Say: ***We incorporate sacramentals into our everyday lives to help us remember how much God loves us and how he is ever present in our lives.***
- ▶ Read aloud God Touches My Life and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answer.

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: ***Vestments and altar cloths reflect the current season's designated color. White is for Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday, Christmas, and Easter; red is for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Pentecost; green is for Ordinary Time; and violet is for Advent and Lent.***

Art Print: Page 40

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a person surrounded by symbols or objects that represent peace.
- ▶ Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail.
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 40. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two sections on page 40. Say: ***During Ordinary Time we focus our attention to the gift of the sacraments.*** Remind your child of the seven sacraments.
- ▶ Read aloud Ordinary Joy and give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Say: ***One kind of sacramental object is the rosary.*** Give your child beads, a simple cross, and thread to string a decade of their own rosary. The decade should include one large Lord's Prayer bead, 10 Hail Mary beads, and one small cross for the Glory Be to the Father. Turn to pages 252–253 in the book to teach your child how to pray the Rosary.

Respond: Pages 41–42

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 41. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Discuss with your child possible opportunities to show kindness to younger children in your family, at church, or at school.
- ▶ 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 42. Discuss the activity together and make plans to complete it the next time you attend Mass together. Pray aloud the prayer. After the prayer, say: ***The liturgical calendar holds all of the days of the year together in God, just as the branches and fruit are held together by the vine. Our faith reminds us that we are connected in many ways!***