

Joining God's Family

Engage: Page 99

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine you are in a hot desert without any water. How do you feel? Give your child a glass of water.* **Ask:** *How does the water taste to you now?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Ask:** *Can flowers live without water? Can animals? Can people? (No.)* **Say:** *All these things need water to live and grow. In this session we will learn why water is also important for us in the Church.*
- ▶ Ask your child to look outside and talk about all the things he or she sees that need water to live. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 100–101

- ▶ **Say:** *Water is an important sign for members of our Church.* **Ask:** *What is a sacrament in which water is very important? (Sacrament of Baptism)* Find photos of your child's Baptism and discuss that day.
- ▶ Read aloud page 100. **Say:** *Through Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit. Holy water is kept in a holy-water font.* **Ask:** *What do we do when we enter the church and pass the holy-water font? (dip fingertips in the holy water and pray the Sign of the Cross)*
- ▶ Read aloud Godparents Are Special People on page 101. **Say:** *Godparents are special people who promise to help their godchildren grow in God's family.* **Ask:** *How do godparents show they care? (going with us to church, remembering us on special days)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Who do you think said these words? (Jesus)* **Say:** *Jesus wants everyone to be part of God's family.* **Ask:** *How do we do this? (through Baptism, being baptized)*

Art Exploration: Page 229

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Peter.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the object that Saint Peter is holding.
- ▶ **Say:** *In Baptism we join God's family and become followers of Jesus'.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 229. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud Followers of Jesus. **Ask:** *What two things did Peter say the people should do to follow Jesus? (Love God and join his family.)* **Say:** *When we love God and one another, we show that we are Jesus' followers.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Are Invited and have your child color the picture.
- ▶ Using poster board and art supplies, ask your child to make a poster that illustrates any of the following: *Love God, Follow Jesus, God's Family, Jesus Loves Me, or I Love Jesus.* Ask him or her to write the caption on the poster and explain the drawing. Display the poster in your home.

Reflect: Pages 102–103

- ▶ Together look at page 102. **Ask:** *What do you think the girl in the picture is doing? (making the Sign of the Cross)* **Say:** *She knows that God is our Father and that we are all brothers and sister with Jesus, his Son.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Then demonstrate how to dip your right hand into holy water and pray the Sign of the Cross. Ask your child to do it with you. **Say:** *We are all part of God's family.*
- ▶ Read aloud What Is the Word? on page 103. Allow time for your child to write his or her answers and then go over them together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *When we enter and exit the church, we dip our hand into the holy water. Then we pray the Sign of the Cross, which reminds us that we are baptized and part of God's family.*

Respond: Page 104

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can let people know about the Church.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.