



## Marks of the Church

### Engage: Page 81

- ▶ Invite your child to cut out pictures from magazines and diocesan newspapers and make a collage showing how people are living out the purpose of the Church.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Ask:** *What does the word Church mean to you? What do you think the purpose of the Church is?* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about four qualities called the Marks of the Church and how we are called to live out these qualities.*
- ▶ Invite your child to add a caption to his or her collage that describes how the pictures and articles relate to the purpose of the Church. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 82–83

- ▶ **Ask:** *What four words would you use to describe our family?* Work together to come up with the words. Ask your child to explain his or her choices.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the three sections on page 82. **Ask:** *Where do we find the Marks of the Church? (in the Nicene Creed) What are the four Marks of the Church? (one, holy, catholic, apostolic)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *At Mass, when we stand and pray the Nicene Creed, we are "taking a stand" for our faith.*
- ▶ Have your child read silently the three sections on page 83. **Ask:** *What does catholic mean? (universal)* **Ask:** *What makes the Church apostolic? (Its tradition began with the apostles and continues their teachings.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *This is a verse from the Magnificat—Mary's song of praise to God.*

### Art Exploration: Page 242

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Paul preaching to a crowd of people.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the reactions of the crowd.
- ▶ **Say:** *Paul reminds us that we must follow Jesus' example and treat one another with love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 242. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Have your child read aloud Paul Speaks of Love and Unity. **Say:** *Paul's letters are important to us in many ways. They are read at Mass to remind us of the Christian qualities we should live by.*
- ▶ Write on a sheet of paper *humility, gentleness, patience, and love*. Discuss why these qualities are important. Have your child read aloud Christian Qualities and complete the activity.
- ▶ Tell your child that Paul visited many places to speak about qualities that Christians should have in their daily lives and how believers were to treat one another. Have your child write a speech about the importance of following Jesus' example.  
**Ask:** *Will your message be like Paul's? What will you tell everyone?* Invite your child to give his or her speech to your family.

### Reflect: Pages 84–85

- ▶ Together look at page 84. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is focused on her prayer. The Nicene Creed is another prayer that we take to heart because we are praying our fundamental beliefs each time we pray it.*
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Take turns reading the prayer and the reflection. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and joining your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read silently Peace and Unity on page 85. **Ask:** *Why does God give us so many kinds of gifts? (so that we can do good in the world) Do you think we all have the same gifts? Why or why not? (No, we all have different gifts to serve in many different ways.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Exploring Virtues. **Say:** *Virtues are gifts from God.* Have your child complete the activity and then discuss your child's responses.

### Respond: Page 86

- ▶ 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 treat others with love and kindness.
- ▶ 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.