



## Celebrating Easter

### Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Together sing an Alleluia your parish uses as a Gospel Acclamation during the Easter season. **Say:** Alleluia means “praise God.” During the Easter season, we praise God for raising Jesus from the dead.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Say:** *It’s fitting that we celebrate Easter during the spring. We celebrate the new life we receive through Jesus’ Resurrection at the same time that nature is blooming and coming to life again. In this session we will learn more about Easter.*
- ▶ **Ask:** How else can we praise God? (pray a prayer, attend Mass, celebrate the sacraments). Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 148

- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Celebrate Our Salvation During Easter. **Say:** *Salvation is a gift as well as a challenge. We receive the gift of Salvation from Jesus through the Church. We respond in faith, saying “I believe” to all the Church teaches us.*
- ▶ Have your child stand and raise his or her right hand and read aloud Our Pledge. Invite your child to complete the activity by writing what he or she can do.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. **Say:** *In the Book of Genesis, God tells Adam and Eve that they have dominion over all of creation. Dominion does not mean we can do anything we want, no matter what. God was telling them that it’s their responsibility to care for and protect all creation. Today God asks the same of us.*

### Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ Share your recollections of an Easter Vigil you have attended. Emphasize how different it is from Easter Sunday Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. **Say:** *Part of celebrating Christ’s Resurrection is celebrating and protecting the natural world around us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Discuss how the church is filled with God’s creations—flowers, plants, and people gathered to celebrate the risen Christ. **Say:** *We are part of God’s creation, and through our Salvation we are charged with caring for the earth.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Pentecost marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. We read in the Acts of the Apostles that the Holy Spirit came down as tongues of fire 50 days after the Resurrection.*



### Art Exploration: Page 253

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of various gifts God has given us.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the many gifts God gives us.
- ▶ **Say:** *We have a great responsibility to appreciate, protect, and share God's gifts to us with others.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 253. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Church Celebrates Easter. **Ask:** *What is the hardest thing you ever had to hope for?* Discuss how it was possible for God's people from the Old Testament to wait and yet never see the Messiah come.
- ▶ Read aloud Interviewing Our Faith and allow time for your child to complete the activity. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a poster titled *Keepers of God's Earth*. Using magazine pictures or drawings, have your child make a collage showing ways to protect and care for our planet and its inhabitants. Have your child pray a silent prayer accepting his or her mission to care for God's creation and its inhabitants.

### Respond: Page 150

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be kind and respectful to someone.
- ▶ 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.