



Jesus Performs Signs

Engage: Page 99

- ▶ Place an empty backpack on your child's back. Add a small weight, such as a book, and ask him or her to carry the weight across the room and back. Repeat the activity, each time adding a little more weight. Prompt your child to describe the ease or difficulty of the walks. **Ask:** *Why is commitment needed to see a difficult task all the way through?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the box on page 99. **Ask:** *How do you think commitment and the session title might be related?* (Jesus committed himself to his mission as the Messiah. Jesus' signs revealed God's commitment.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray aloud the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 100–101

- ▶ Show or draw some simple signs, such as a road sign, a Chi-Rho, or a mathematical sign. **Ask:** *What do these signs have in common?* (They express a thought, an idea, a belief, or a command.) **Say:** *Signs are useless unless you know their meaning.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title Miracle at Cana on page 100. Take turns reading aloud the first three paragraphs. Point out that John uses the word *signs* instead of *miracles* to reveal Jesus as the One sent by God. Invite your child to read aloud the definition of *signs* in the Glossary. Together read more about the Gospel of John on pages 261–262 in Prayers and Practices.
- ▶ Read aloud the section "Do Whatever He Tells You." **Ask:** *How does Mary show faith?* (Mary trusts Jesus. She sets the stage for Jesus' glory to be revealed to his disciples.) **Say:** *Abundant wine was a sign of God's kingdom. When Jesus brought new wine from these jars, he replaced man-made, rigid rules with God's bountiful love, mercy, and compassion.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Our Catholic Character feature. Discuss the idea that Christian marriage is more than a civil union. Explain that Matrimony is a sacrament and that the fidelity of the union signifies the fidelity of Christ and the Church.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the sections Miracles of Abundance and Living Abundantly on page 101. Review the meaning of God's grace—a gift from God that helps us live our lives the way God would want us to live. Encourage your child to notice times during the week when he or she thinks "What does this have to do with me?" **Say:** *Think about ways God is present during little acts of goodness.* **Ask:** *What might God's grace enable you to do this week?*
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Discuss Mary's last recorded words in Scripture, "Do whatever he tells you," and talk about how they reveal faith worthy of imitation. Identify popular devotions to Mary, such as praying the Rosary.
- ▶ Close the discussion. **Ask:** *How can we imitate God's generous love and mercy in practical ways? How often do we respond to Mary's command "Do whatever he tells you"?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.



Explore: Pages 102–103

- ▶ **Ask:** *What traditions are followed at a birthday party?* (Possible answer: blowing out candles on a cake) *What about a wedding?* (Possible answer: exchanging rings or making a toast) **Say:** *Traditions identify and help us set apart special occasions.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the first two paragraphs of the article Sacraments as Signs on page 102. Explain that a sacrament is a sacred rite. Read aloud the definitions of *sacraments* and *rite* in the Glossary. When we celebrate the sacraments, we use objects and actions to make present the sacred. Distinguish the difference between a Church rite and a popular tradition such as blowing out candles on a birthday cake. **Say:** *A rite is a religious act. It is not the same as a popular tradition within a culture.*
- ▶ Read aloud the sections Instituted by Christ and Sacraments of Initiation. Remind your child that Christ is present in the sacraments. **Say:** *The Eucharist is a sacrament received more than once.* Explain that we join together as a faith community to celebrate the sacraments. In this way we become part of the Body of Christ.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the two sections on page 103. Review the terms *penance* and *repentance* in the Glossary. Ask your child to read aloud Matthew 18:22–35. **Ask:** *What is Jesus teaching?* (We are called to forgive others in the same way that the Father forgives us.) **Say:** *All seven sacraments are Christ's actions in our lives. The sacraments confer grace.* Talk about each sacrament.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. Discuss traits needed to do Christ's work in the world, such as commitment, courage, and perseverance. Describe times when you have acted as a witness to your faith. Ask your child to do the same.
- ▶ Bring the article discussion to a close. **Ask:** *What is our responsibility to ensure that the sacraments are fruitful in our lives?*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 104–105

- ▶ Read aloud the title Filling Our Water Jars on page 104 and the paragraphs in the left column. Point out that *lectio divina* is a special way to read the Word of God that involves four steps: listening to Scripture, meditating, praying, and contemplating.
- ▶ Read aloud John 2:1–12. Then guide your child through each step of *lectio divina*. Conclude by praying together the All part. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Look at page 105 and read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? Discuss Jesus' miracles. Ask your child when he or she has seen God's hand at work in the world. Together read aloud Miracles, Really.
- ▶ Work together to find responses to the first part of the Making Miracles Happen activity. Then ask your child to complete the remainder independently.
- ▶ Encourage your child to look at the world with "miracle eyes" that see God everywhere.

Respond: Page 106

- ▶ Read aloud the directions in What's What? Encourage your child to find a supporting detail for each main idea by referring to the cited pages.
- ▶ Review the words you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Encourage your child to think about the sacraments, sacramental rites, and his or her understanding of grace before writing a response.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.