



Morality, Our Lived Faith

Begin

Say: *I'll give you clues about a special family member. Call out her name when you know the person. She loves you even when you do something wrong. She prays that you will always love God.* (Possible answers: mother, grandmother, stepmother) Read aloud the unit title on page 121. *In this unit we will learn that God and Jesus are with us with every choice we make. The saint we will read about was also a mother.*

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture and read aloud the text. **Ask:** *Who was Saint Monica's son?* (Saint Augustine) *What was Monica's prayer for him?* (She wanted him to be baptized.)

Turn to page 122 and point out the pictures. Read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask: *How do we know that Saint Monica loved Jesus very much?* (She wanted her family to share in Jesus' love and prayed for her family members to be baptized.)

Have your child read aloud the second paragraph. **Ask:** *What are some ways Monica showed her love for Augustine?* (never stopped praying for him, continued to hope for his conversion) **Ask:** *How did God answer her prayers?* (Augustine was baptized and became a great bishop and teacher.)

Read aloud the third paragraph. **Say:** *Some people do not know about Jesus' never-ending love for them. Like Monica, we can pray for them.*

With your child add Monica's feast day, August 27, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the patience of Saint Monica.

Faith, Hope, and Charity

Engage: Page 123

- ▶ Have your child trace his or her hand on construction paper and then cut out the paper hand. **Say:** *Let's think of a handful of ways you can help those in our parish or community.* Write an idea on each finger of the paper hand.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this session we will learn ways to follow the guidance that Jesus provides and to use God's gifts to lead good lives.*
- ▶ Choose one of the ideas on the paper hand and plan to do it together. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 124–125

- ▶ **Ask:** *How did Mary trust in God? (accepted God's invitation to be Jesus' mother) How did Joseph trust in God? (took care of Mary and Jesus)*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Saints Who Showed Hope in God on page 124 and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What does it mean to follow "the right path"?* (follow God's rule, live by Jesus' example, have faith in God) Talk about ways your family has helped your child follow Jesus. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. **Say:** *Saint Monica and Saint Augustine were good examples of the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Important Virtues on page 125. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What are three of the most important virtues?* (faith, hope, and charity)
- ▶ Read aloud A Person of Virtues. Have your child complete the activity and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Saint Paul wrote this in a letter to his friends in Corinth, a city in southern Greece. He wanted them to know how important it is for Christians to love one another.*

Art Exploration: Page 247

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus and his heart, which is the symbol for the virtue of charity.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including Jesus' pierced hands and the heart he is holding.
- ▶ **Say:** *Charity is how Jesus wants us to show our love for one another.*

- ▶ Have your child turn to page 247. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Symbols of the Virtues. **Say:** *Think about each virtue and how to make it present in your life.*
- ▶ Read aloud Matching Virtues. Allow time for your child to write his or her answers and then check them together.
- ▶ Using art supplies, have your child draw the symbol for the virtues of faith, hope, and charity and give the poster a title. Encourage your child to be creative and add details he or she thinks would enhance the poster. Display the poster in your home.

Reflect: Pages 126–127

- ▶ Together look at page 126. **Say:** *The boy and his dog are enjoying a walk. During this peaceful walk, the boy might be saying a prayer of thanks. When you pray, stay calm by inhaling the strength of the Holy Spirit and exhaling any concerns.*
- ▶ Read aloud the reflection slowly and thoughtfully. Pause between sentences so that your child has time to thank God for his gifts.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud She Lived Like Jesus on page 127. **Say:** *On October 11, 2009, Jeanne Jugan was declared a saint.*
- ▶ Read aloud Living Like Saint Jeanne Jugan and have your child complete the activity. Encourage him or her to share the story behind the picture.

Respond: Page 128

- ▶ 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 be friendly to a child who seems lonely.
- ▶ 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.

Making Good Choices

Engage: Page 129

- ▶ Display a variety of small, healthful treats. **Say:** *You get to choose what treat you would like. Then say: We make choices every day. This choice was easy, but some are difficult.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Making decisions is like deciding which path to take. In this session we will learn how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit help us make good moral choices.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about whom they might ask for advice when making a hard choice. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 130–131

- ▶ **Say:** *You made an easy choice when you picked your treat. Ask: Did your choice involve right or wrong? (No.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 130. **Ask:** *Who can help us examine our choices? (the Holy Spirit) Discuss how Ana's response corresponds to each question.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Saint Paul tells us that our words and actions reflect our willingness to follow Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 131. **Ask:** *What does it mean to follow the moral law? (do good and avoid evil) Say: God gave us these commandments to help us love others.*

Art Exploration: Page 248

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus alone in the desert.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the gloomy colors and the body language of Jesus'.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Some decisions are difficult to make. Knowing we are loved by God always makes us feel better. God shows his love through our friends and family.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 248. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Is Tempted. **Say:** *In making these choices, Jesus never doubted his Father's love.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Prayer of Petition and have your child write a prayer. Ask your child to share the prayer with you.

- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *What did Jesus teach us?* (to follow God's will, to resist temptation)
- ▶ Ask your child to think of a time that he or she was tempted to make a bad choice, but instead did the right thing. Have your child paint a self-portrait showing the struggle to make the choice or the feeling of relief for making a good choice. Display the artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Together look at page 132. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is on a morning walk. Remember that each day is a new gift from God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph softly and slowly. Invite your child to pray aloud the Morning Offering with you. Then read aloud the last paragraph slowly. Pause after each sentence to give your child time to reflect. Together pray *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud Follow the Commandments on page 133. **Say:** *When we face difficult choices, the commandments can help us with our decisions.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud And the Correct Commandment Is ... Remind your child to look back at page 131 or page 212 if he or she needs help remembering the numbers of the commandments. Check the answers together.

Respond: Page 134

- ▶ 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 make good moral choices by following the Ten Commandments.
- ▶ 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.

Living as God's Children

Engage: Page 135

- ▶ Together look through a family photo album. Recall happy times that your family has spent with one another.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *How can you tell the people in this family are enjoying themselves?* (They are laughing.) **Say:** *In this session we will learn more about living as God's children.*
- ▶ Together plan a family get-together for the near future. Think about an activity that will make everyone in your family happy. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ Display a greeting card. **Ask:** *When do you send cards?* (for birthdays, when someone is sick, to congratulate) *Why do you give cards?* (to show you care)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Call to Care on page 136. **Ask:** *What is another word for justice?* (fairness)
- ▶ Read aloud My Letter of Thanks. After your child completes the letter, invite him or her to share it with you.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Saint Louise de Marillac Cared on page 137. **Ask:** *What do the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul do?* (work in orphanages, hospitals, and schools) **Say:** *Louise de Marillac is an example of how the smallest effort spreads God's love to many people.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *A burden is something that is difficult to carry. When we help people with their problems, we are sharing their burdens.*

Art Exploration: Page 249

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Paul.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors and the halo around Saint Paul's head.
- ▶ **Say:** *Paul was happy when he saw how his Church family grew in its faith.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 249. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage of Saint Paul's Joy. **Ask:** *How did Paul's friends know he loved them? (He wrote them letters.)* **Say:** *Paul started churches in many places. He stayed close to his Church family, just as we are close to those we love.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Check the Sunday Connection at www.loyolapress.com to find a Second Reading from Paul for an upcoming Sunday.
- ▶ Give your child a cross that is cut from construction paper. In advance cut out two-inch pieces of its interior, allowing the paper to serve as "lead" for a stained-glass window. Ask your child to cut and tape colored cellophane behind the cross, making a faux stained-glass picture to hang in one of your windows.

Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Say:** *These are photos from one family. We can show our love for our family members by holding each of them in our hearts as we pray. We can look at them with Jesus' eyes of love, and we can ask Jesus to bless them.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph slowly, pausing for a few seconds between sentences so that your child can reflect on your family. Continue with the second and third paragraphs. Pause for personal reflection. Lead your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 139. **Say:** *When we work together with family members, we show one another that we care. By sharing the work, we help bring peace to our families. Work through each situation together, coming up with ways your child could help in each situation.*

Respond: Page 140

- ▶ 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 do chores for someone who needs help.
- ▶ 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.

All Life Is Sacred

Engage: Page 141

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you remember about our study of God's creation? (God created the world out of love for us; all of God's creation is good; we know God through his creation.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *Imagine how much God loves us to entrust his world to our care. All life is sacred. We can show how much we care for God's gifts by helping and respecting others. In this session we will learn more about God's creation.*
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine he or she is outside. **Ask:** *What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel and smell?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 142–143

- ▶ **Ask:** *How did Saint Louise de Marillac show her love for others? (helped Saint Vincent DePaul work with people who were poor, helped found an order of sisters to work with people who were poor)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Life of Caring on page 142. **Say:** *Frederic and his friends proved that they could make a difference in the world.* **Ask:** *What parables have we read about small acts of love reaching many people? (parables about the mustard seed and yeast)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God's love lives in all of us. Praise God by sharing that love with others.*
- ▶ Read aloud Treat Others with Respect on page 143 and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *Why are all people important? (God makes us sacred from the first moment of life.)* **Say:** *Every choice we make affects other people.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Make Choices That Show Respect and complete each sentence. Discuss his or her responses.

Art Exploration: Page 250

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of people sharing God's creation and helping one another.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of the people and the mood of the picture.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus calls us to share with one another in any way we can.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 250. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud *Small Acts Make a Big Difference*. **Ask:** *When we have a large task in front of us, what are ways to accomplish it?* (begin with a small step, work with others)
- ▶ Read aloud *Small Steps and Teamwork*. Have your child complete the activity and share it with you.
- ▶ Together with your child, trace around one of your feet on a sheet of construction paper. **Say:** *Inside your footprint write a way in which you can take a step toward making a better world.* Cut out your footprints and decorate them. Make a path of footprints in your home. Write a shared goal at the end of the path. Invite other family members to add footprints to the path.

Reflect: Pages 144–145

- ▶ Together look at page 144. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is at her school. We are blessed to be able to go to school and learn about the world around us, God's creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph slowly and reverently. Pause after each sentence to give your child time to reflect on God and his creation. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud *Praise for God's Creation* on page 145. **Say:** *We have said that God must love us very much to entrust the care of his world to us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Parts of Creation*. Give your child time to complete the activity. Encourage him or her to think of other plants and animals not pictured on the page for each letter.

Respond: Page 146

- ▶ 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 brighten the day of someone who is sick.
- ▶ 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.

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Display Easter symbols such as a decorated egg, lilies, or a picture of a lamb.
Ask: *What important day of the Church year do these symbols represent? (Easter)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate on Easter? (the Resurrection of Jesus) Is Easter on the same date each year? (No, it is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring.)* **Say:** *In this session we'll learn more about Easter.*
- ▶ Together find the date for Easter on a calendar. Have your child count the next 50 days to identify Pentecost Sunday. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 148

- ▶ **Say:** *Think of a time someone hurt your feelings, but you forgave him or her.* **Ask:** *Did you want to forgive the person or were you still mad? How did it feel?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Show Mercy During Easter and point out the vocabulary word. **Ask:** *What did Jesus do when Thomas saw and believed that Jesus had risen? (Jesus showed him mercy.)*
- ▶ Read aloud The Mercy of Friendship. Invite your child to write a prayer for a friend who needs compassion and forgiveness.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *When we have doubts about God, what can we do to strengthen our faith? (pray to God, think about his gifts)*

Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ Discuss where you have seen lambs during Easter. (chocolate lambs, cake lambs, butter lambs) **Say:** *These Easter traditions symbolize Jesus, the Lamb of God.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass During Easter. **Say:** *At one time lambs were sacrificed as religious offerings. We use this symbol today because of the great sacrifice Jesus made by dying on the cross for our sins.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Ask:** *Why is joyful music played? (because the parish rejoices that Jesus is with us always) What is the liturgical color for the season? (white)*
- ▶ Read aloud What Lamb of God Means to You. Invite your child to share his or her paragraph with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The Feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus' Ascension into Heaven 40 days after his Resurrection.*

Art Exploration: Page 251

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows Christian symbols.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including each symbol.
- ▶ **Say:** *These symbols give us a message. The person and animals represented in the painting all have wings, which are symbols of heavenly power. They have books, which are the Scriptures.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 251. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the sections Celebrate Easter and The Resurrection.
Ask: *Why did God send Jesus?* (to show us his mercy and love.) *How can we live as disciples?* (by committing ourselves to the service of others)
- ▶ Read aloud In Celebration of Easter. Give your child time to draw a picture and share it with you.
- ▶ Recall the Art Print. Using colored pencils and drawing paper, invite your child to draw his or her own symbols for Easter. Use the symbol to decorate your home.

Respond: Page 150

- ▶ 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 forgive others even when it is difficult.
- ▶ 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.