



Morality, Our Lived Faith

Begin

Ask: *What are some rules in our home? What are some rules you have at school? What would the world be like without any rules?* Read aloud the unit title on page 121. **Say:** *We are going to learn about God's rules, the most important rules of all. God's rules help us live happy, peaceful lives. Saint Ignatius of Loyola was an important saint who lived by God's rules.*

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on page 121. Read aloud the saint's name and look at his picture. Read aloud the sentence. **Say:** *We can see God's love everywhere too: in our parents, in the people who teach us about God, in priests, and in our friends and family members.*

Turn to page 122. Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph.

Ask: *Was Ignatius born a saint?* (No) Read aloud the second paragraph.

Ask: *What happened to Ignatius?* (He was hurt in battle.) *As he healed, what began to happen?* (He changed.)

Read aloud the third paragraph. **Ask:** *What did Ignatius decide?* (He decided to live like Jesus.) *Whom did Ignatius put first in his life?* (God) **Say:** *Ignatius cared so much for others. He gave his clothes to those who were poor.*

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** *Following God was the most important decision in Ignatius's life. Let's try to follow his example and put God first in our lives.*

With your child add Ignatius's feast day, July 31, to your calendar. Plan events together to honor the teachings of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.



Making Good Decisions

Engage: Page 123

- ▶ **Ask:** *What kinds of signs do you see every day? (stop signs, street signs, signs in stores) What do signs tell us? (what to do, how to act, the rules)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *A rule tells us how we should act; it is something we are expected to do.*
- ▶ Have your child name family rules, school rules, and traffic rules. **Ask:** *What would happen if one of these rules did not exist?* Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about special rules that God gave to us. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

Explore: Pages 124–125

- ▶ **Say:** *God gives us rules too.* **Ask:** *What do you think of when I say the word commandment? Commandment is a special word for one of God's rules.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 124. **Say:** *We find God's commandments in the Bible.* Turn to pages 200–201 for a complete list of the Ten Commandments. Discuss each commandment. Ask your child to explain what it means to him or her.
- ▶ Read aloud Decisions on page 125 and discuss each question. **Say:** *Tell me which of the commandments we're talking about. When you are finished, say: God knows it can be hard to do what's right. God gave us his commandments so that we know what he wants us to do.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Grace helps us follow God's commandments.*

Art Exploration: Page 233

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of someone serving food to people in need.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including how the person is helping all the people gathered.
- ▶ **Say:** *If we remember to love God and love our neighbor in everything we do, we will be following God's commandments.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 233. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the three questions of Good Decisions. **Say:** *Why is it important to think through decisions before making them? (to be sure it is what God wants us to do, that we will not hurt anyone, and that the decision is a good one)*



- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to write his or her answer and share the response with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What did Jesus mean when he said we should love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves? (We should treat others the way we want to be treated.)* **Say:** *Jesus summed up all the commandments into two simple ones. If we remember to love God and love our neighbor in everything we do, we will be following God's commandments.* **Ask:** *What are some things you can do to love your neighbor? (Be kind, share, and help others.)*
- ▶ Invite your child to cut out magazine pictures to show a meal that he or she might like to serve to a person who is hungry. Have your child glue the cutouts to paper plates and draw utensils. Staple the plate to a sheet of poster board titled *Feeding the Hungry Is a Good Decision*.

Reflect: Pages 126–127

- ▶ Together look at page 126. **Say:** *The boy in the picture is beginning the day with a prayer to God. By praying the Morning Prayer, we ask God's help in making good decisions all day long.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. Ask your child to pray the prayer with you. Read aloud the third and fourth paragraphs. Pause for a few deep breaths to give your child time to talk to God in his or her heart. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions on page 127, pointing to the faces in the circles. Read aloud each situation and **ask:** *Is this a good decision or a bad decision?* After your child completes the activity, discuss the correct answers.

Respond: Page 128

- ▶ 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 to treat others the way he or she likes to be treated.
- ▶ 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.



Jesus Cares for Us

Engage: Page 129

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some examples of bad decisions people make? (saying hurtful things, not allowing someone to play, not listening to parents)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *We all make bad decisions sometimes. In this session we will learn that there are always things we can do to make a wrong decision right. We'll also learn that God cares for us no matter what we do.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about bad decisions he or she has made toward other family members. **Ask:** *How did it make you feel?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 130–131

- ▶ **Ask:** *Do you feel good or yucky when you do something wrong? Maybe you told a lie or hurt someone's feelings.* **Say:** *When we do something wrong, it is called a sin.*
- ▶ Read aloud God Always Forgives on page 130 and point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *When we sin, we hurt our friendships with God and with others. What are some sins that hurt our friendship with God? (using God's name in ways that are not nice, forgetting how important God is to us) What are some sins that hurt our friendships with others? (taking things, not telling the truth)*
- ▶ Read aloud Avoid Sin and have your child complete each sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 131 and point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *God will always forgive us when we are sorry for doing or saying hurtful things. All we have to do is tell him we are sorry.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *We can be like Jesus and forgive others with the help of God's gift of grace.*

Art Exploration: Page 234

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Jesus is doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus cares for us as a shepherd cares for his sheep.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 234. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the Scripture passage. **Ask:** *How do you think the shepherd felt when he lost one of his sheep? (worried, frightened)* **Say:** *God is worried when we don't follow him or do what he asks of us. He is happy when we say we are sorry and follow him again.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child complete the maze.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a lamb from air-dry clay. Have your child add small balls of clay to represent wool and use plastic utensils or small art tools to add details. **Say:** *Share your sheep with the rest of our family. Tell the story of the lost sheep. Describe how Jesus is our shepherd.*

Reflect: Pages 132–133

- ▶ Together look at page 132. **Say:** *Whenever you feel lost or sad because you've done something wrong, Jesus is watching over you and is ready to forgive, no matter what. Always take time to say you are sorry.*
- ▶ Read aloud Pray for Forgiveness. Pause after each sentence and question to give your child time to imagine what you are describing and how he or she would respond. When you are finished, **say:** *Now is your time to talk to Jesus.* Count silently to 10, then invite your child to pray *Amen* with you.
- ▶ Read aloud A Caring Shepherd on page 133. Allow time for your child to use the words in the word box to complete each sentence. Read the sentences aloud together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Who is the Good Shepherd? (Jesus)* **Say:** *Like the Good Shepherd, God protects us, keeps us safe, and always forgives us.*

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 to forgive others the way Jesus forgives us.
- ▶ 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.



Jesus Loves Families

Engage: Page 135

- ▶ Review family rules with your child. **Ask:** *Why do we ask you to obey these rules?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *It's not always easy to obey your parents. Remember that we have rules for you because we love you. In this session we will learn how those rules help us grow into healthy, happy people.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she feels when he or she disobeys you. Ask them to think about how it makes you feel. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you think Jesus was like when he was your age? What kinds of chores and rules do you think his parents had for him to follow?*
- ▶ Read aloud page 136. **Ask:** *Why did Mary and Joseph become so worried about Jesus? (They didn't know where he was.)* **Say:** *Even though it is difficult sometimes, obeying our parents keeps us safe and happy.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 137 and point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *You were a special gift to me.* **Ask:** *What special commandment is about your parents? (Obey your parents.)* **Say:** *We honor people when we give them the respect they deserve. By obeying your parents, you are honoring us.*

Art Exploration: Page 235

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a family spending time together outside.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the parents.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we obey our parents and listen to them, we show God that we are obeying him and listening to him.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 235. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *Why is God happy when we obey our parents? (We are following one of the commandments that God gave us.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Allow time for your child to draw a picture and share it with you.



- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Jesus obeyed his parents. You can be like Jesus when you follow this commandment.*
- ▶ Find a family photo that you don't mind cutting up. Tell your child to cut each family member's face out of the photo. Have your child glue the photo faces to a sheet of paper and draw around them to add bodies and make a family portrait. Invite your child to show your family holding hands or eating dinner together. Display the family portrait in your home.

Reflect: Pages 138–139

- ▶ Together look at page 138. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is ending her day with the Evening Prayer. Let's try to spend time alone with God in both the morning and the evening.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Then pray the prayer, pausing after each sentence. Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** *Now you may take a few moments to talk to Jesus in your heart. If you'd like, you can ask him to bless the members of our family. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.*
- ▶ Read aloud Show You Care on page 139. **Say:** *It makes me happy when you honor, love, obey, and help me. These four words are hidden in the word search. Look for each word. When you find it, circle it.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *All that we've learned today about obeying our parents is in the Bible.*

Respond: Page 140

- ▶ 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 to love, honor, obey, and help his or her parents.
- ▶ 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.



God Loves the World

Engage: Page 141

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you think the world would be like without trees or oceans or animals? Where did all the amazing things in the world come from?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this session we will learn that God created everything in the world. God creates people, so something made by people, like a shovel, is really created by God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about why God created all that he did. **Say:** *He did it to give us everything. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

Explore: Pages 142–143

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is one of your favorite things in God's world?* **Say:** *God is so good to give us all these wonderful things!*
- ▶ Point out the pictures on page 142. Read aloud Caring for Our World. **Say:** *Neighbors are the people all around us.* **Ask:** *What are some things we can do to care for the world God gave us? (care for animals and plants, recycle, feed the birds, not litter, not waste water)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *If we protect forests, we will protect the people and animals God created.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 143. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can show we care about wild animals? (return them to where they belong, treat them with respect, leave them be)* **Say:** *You should always be careful around unfamiliar animals. Make sure to ask me or another adult for help around them.*

Art Exploration: Page 236

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the Garden of Eden from the Bible.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the animals.
- ▶ **Say:** *God wants us to care for the world he created.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 236. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the passage from Genesis. **Say:** *Dear God, we thank you for the wonderful world you have created and for the creatures in it.*



- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and have your child write a sentence to share with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God truly does bless us with the wonderful world he created! Every day let's think about our blessings and thank God for them.*
- ▶ Take turns selecting an animal and pretending to be that animal while the other person guesses what the animal is. After each performance, thank God for something about that animal. An example is *I thank God for the tiger because of its beautiful striped fur.*

Reflect: Pages 144–145

- ▶ Together look at page 144. **Say:** *The boy in the picture looks happy to be outside. We can thank God every day for his beautiful creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud each paragraph, pausing to give your child time to thank God for all the amazing things he created. Pray *Amen* together.
- ▶ Read aloud What Can You Do? on page 145 and have your child complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the drawing and the sentence with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can help the world stay beautiful? (don't litter, plant new flowers and trees)* **Say:** *When we take care of all the gifts God gives us, such as plants, animals, and clean air, we are showing our love for God's world.*

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 to care for God's world.
- ▶ 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 an Easter lily or a look at a picture of one. **Ask:** *Have you ever seen a lily like this at Mass?* **Say:** *On Easter, Jesus Christ rose from the dead, giving all of us new life. The lilies we see at Easter time are a symbol of our new life with God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Ask:** *When does the Easter season begin? (at the Easter Vigil)* **Say:** *The Easter Vigil is the Mass that begins the Easter season with a celebration of light. In this session we'll learn more about Easter, the time of year when we rejoice knowing that Jesus is with us always.*
- ▶ Together find the date of Easter on a calendar and mark off the next 50 days to identify the season. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 148

- ▶ **Ask:** *Why is Easter a special time? (because Jesus rose from the dead)* **Say:** *The snow melts, trees begin to bud, and baby animals are born in the springtime. Springtime is also when we celebrate Easter. Just as there is new life in God's creation, we celebrate the new life we share with Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Celebrate During Easter, stopping before the activity directions. **Say:** *Easter is a time to rejoice and remember that Jesus died for each one of us. We celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter and every Sunday of the year.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Review the color key, making sure your child understands which number goes with which color. Then color one piece of the window together. Invite your child to complete the activity. Together read the hidden word.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God gives us peace. How can you share peace with others? (by helping a friend, being kind, obeying parents)*

Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ **Ask:** *Have you heard the word Alleluia before? Where have you heard it? The word Alleluia means "praise the Lord." We sing Alleluia to praise God and to rejoice in the new life Jesus has given us.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. Sing aloud the Alleluia melody used in your parish. **Ask:** *How does this song make you feel?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Discuss the symbols of Easter. Invite your child to complete the Easter lily activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The White House has had this tradition since 1878. The event now involves thousands of families.*



Art Exploration: Page 237

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the risen Jesus Christ and the women who went to the tomb on Easter morning.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how it makes him or her feel.
- ▶ **Say:** *Easter is a time to celebrate how Jesus saves us all.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 237. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs of Celebrating Easter. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate on Easter Sunday? (Jesus' rising from the dead) What is one of the ways that we celebrate? (singing and praying Alleluia)*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and allow time for your child to complete the picture. **Say:** *We can meet Jesus when we are with our families, at Mass, or anywhere.*
- ▶ Have your child trace his or her hand on white construction paper. Show your child how to make a lily. Cut out the tracings and wrap the fingers around a pencil to curl them slightly. Cut a yellow craft stem into three equal pieces and twist together to form the stamen, then twist the stamen onto a green craft stem. Wrap the paper hand around the craft stem until the thumb touches the pinky finger. Glue and tie a ribbon around the base of the flower.

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 to give of himself or herself to help others.
- ▶ 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.