

CHAPTER 24 The Savior Is Jesus, the Son of God

Centering

- ♦ Ask: **Where did we find the Israelites at the end of the last class?** (in Palestine) **Why?** (They had been allowed to return there after the Exile.)
- ♦ Say: **The events in today's lesson took place about 500 years after the events in the last lesson, so you will need an update on what happened in between.**

Sharing PAGE 207

- ♦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the section The Exiles Return on page 207. Ask: **Who led the Jewish people in their fight against the Syrians?** (the Maccabees)
- ♦ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of A New Testament Prophet and Luke 1:5–25. Ask: **What was God's message to Zechariah?** (The angel told Zechariah that he and Elizabeth would have a son named John.)
- ♦ Have your child read silently the rest of this section. Ask: **Why didn't the neighbors and relatives understand why the baby was named John?** (No one in the family had that name.) **What happened when Zechariah wrote "John is his name"?** (He regained his speech. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to prophesy.)
- ♦ Take turns reciting Zechariah's Canticle in Luke 1:68–75. Say: **This canticle, or song, is prayed every morning in the Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the Church. It praises God for the Savior and reminds us to be prophets.**
- ♦ Have your child complete the activity at the bottom of the page.

Sharing PAGES 208–209

- ♦ Read aloud the remainder of the story of Zechariah on page 208.
- ♦ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of John the Baptist's Preparation for the Messiah. Talk about ways that people train for various careers. (A pro football player will not only practice playing, but will also do strength training.)

- ♦ Have your child read silently the rest of the section. Ask: **What was John the Baptist's mission?** (to prepare the way of the Messiah) Read aloud the rest of Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 40:1–5.
- ♦ Say: **John prepared by going to the desert to discipline himself through prayer and penance. Penance is doing or accepting difficult things, such as fasting and sacrificing for others.**
- ♦ Have your child read silently Preparing the People on page 208 and John the Baptist in Advent on page 209. Write down the following phrases. For each one, ask your child to find a phrase or sentence from the reading that applies to John. The phrases include *realized his place* ("John prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah."); *obedient* ("he did what Jesus wished"); *led them to Jesus* ("told his disciples to follow Jesus"); *brave* ("He got into trouble for telling King Herod that the king was living in sin. Herod had him arrested."); *willing to suffer and die for Jesus* ("John was later beheaded").
- ♦ Have your child read silently You Can Be Like John the Baptist on page 209 and complete the activity.
- ♦ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Guide your child to reflect on the following: **Think about one area in which you would like to improve or a virtue you would like to acquire to be a good follower of Christ.** [Pause.] **What self-training plan can you follow to achieve your aim?** [Pause.] **Dear Lord, give me courage to be able to follow my self-training plan and become the kind of follower you want me to be. Amen.**

Sharing PAGE 210

- ♦ Have your child read silently The Promise Fulfilled on page 210. Allow time for him or her to read silently Luke 1:26–38 and answer the questions.
- ♦ Ask: **What happened when Mary agreed to become God's Mother?** (Jesus became incarnate—he became man.) **What is the mystery called?** (the Incarnation) **What did Mary say to God in the Magnificat?** (She praised and thanked him.) Say: **The angel Gabriel tells us that Jesus is the perfect fulfillment of all that Israel hoped for.**
- ♦ Take turns reading aloud Mary's Magnificat.

Sharing PAGE 211

- ♦ Have your child read silently Jesus Christ—the Messiah on page 211. Ask: **What is the Good News of Christ?** (He has come to tell us of God's love for us and to bring forgiveness and salvation. The Kingdom of God has come to the earth.)

- ♦ Say: **Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah, was the fulfillment of the promise made by God to our first parents and to Abraham and his descendants, and repeated through the prophets of the Old Testament.**
- ♦ Have your child read aloud *The Center of Mary's Life*. Ask: **What difficulties did Mary face as the Mother of Jesus?** (not understanding, having him leave, seeing him crucified)
- ♦ Have your child complete the activity *The Center of Our Lives*. Direct your child's attention to the last paragraph, and encourage him or her to take time to think of what he or she can do to make Jesus the center of his or her life.

Sharing PAGE 212

- ♦ Discuss the purpose of a timeline. Then have your child read aloud *Preparing the Way of the Lord* on page 212. Ask: **What does B.C. stand for?** (before Christ) Say: **The letters A.D. stand for *anno Domini*, which, in Latin, means "in the year of the Lord."**
- ♦ Ask: **What are the major times shown by the timeline?** (Time of the Patriarchs, Time in Egypt, Time of the Exodus, Time of the Judges, Time of the First Kings, Time of the Prophets, Time of the Exile in Babylon, Time of Restoration, Roman Rule, Fullness of Time)

Acting PAGES 213–214

- ♦ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 213 and 214.
- ♦ Conclude with a prayer that changes the questions from *The Center of Our Lives* (on page 211) into petitions. Replace "Do you" at the beginning of each line with "Holy Spirit, help me." Also, change "you" if it appears later in a sentence to "me."
- ♦ Have your child add the terms *Zechariah*, *John the Baptist*, *self-discipline*, *Hanukkah*, *Essenes*, *Magnificat*, and *Incarnation* to the vocabulary section of his or her journey log.
- ♦ Encourage your child to share the Things to Do at Home section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 215–216**INSPIRE**

- ♦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 215. Ask: **What does John the Baptist call us to do?** (Turn our hearts back to God; he calls us to conversion.) Say: **John's call applies to us today.**

PROCLAIM

- ♦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **The *Angelus* recalls the mystery of the Incarnation.** Point out the *Angelus* on the inside front cover of your child's book.
- ♦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The Magnificat is also known as the Canticle of Mary in the Liturgy of the Hours.**
- ♦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 216. Say: **On a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Angela Merici was suddenly struck blind. On the return trip home, while praying before a crucifix, her sight was restored at the same place where it had been lost.**
- ♦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ♦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ♦ Invite your child to spread hope by performing the spiritual works of mercy. Say: **Saint Paul tells us that hope is the expectation of God's love. How can you share God's love with other people?** Suggest that your child perform one of the spiritual works of mercy listed on page 269 during the week.
- ♦ Together pray aloud Psalm 130.