

**SESSION ONE**

# Belonging to the Church

## Believe

In the first part of the session, your child will learn how Baptism is the doorway through which we enter into the Church and into God's family.

- Turn to page 8. Invite your child to reflect on your family life by completing the activity.
- Read page 9 together. Respond to the question after the first paragraph. You might want to share a photo of the day your child was baptized.
- Read the story of Pentecost on page 10. Reflect together on what words or phrases touched your heart in this reading. Together look at the Scripture art on pages 10 and 11 as you read the Scripture story again. What do you see?



## Celebrate

In the next part of the session, your child will learn how members of the Church come together to pray, celebrate the sacraments, and share God's love.

- Read pages 12 and 13 together. Talk about ways your family takes part in your parish by praying, going to Mass, and showing your love for God and one another.
- Read together pages 14 and 15. Explain the Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Share memories of celebrating your Confirmation or First Communion. Look at the pictures and captions. Talk about how the baby is being welcomed into the Church.
- Review with your child any highlighted words, and help your child understand what each one means. You can also look up the definitions in the glossary on page 95.

## Live

The last part of the session describes what it means to live as a member of the Church through participation in a parish and by living as a disciple of Jesus.

- Provide assistance as your child completes the activity on page 16.
- Read the story of the saint on page 17. Take turns talking about what the saint teaches us about discipleship.
- You may wish to pray together the prayer on page 18 using holy water obtained from your parish church. Read the parts of the leader.

Sing or say the responses together. Bless each other with the water. After the prayer, ask your child what it was like to pray together and to be blessed with the water.

- Bring the session to a close with a hug and a sharing of what each of you enjoyed during your time together.

### Spiritual Practices for the Home

Bestowing a blessing is an act of love and affection, one in which we ask God to care for and watch over the people we love. A simple way to bless a child is by tracing a cross on the forehead

or simply placing your hand on the child's head. Use a simple formula, such as "May God bless and protect you," and pause for a brief moment of silence.