**Unit 4 – Session 24 – Old Testament Roots of the Eucharist, Part 1**

Parents,

This week is about the Lamb of God. Here is some vocabulary that may help you. This is not for your child but to help you as you explain this session to them.

* Lamb of God: A title given to Jesus that describes His sacrifice to free us from sin. In the Old Testament, a lamb was sacrificed for the temporary forgiveness of sin. Jesus’ sacrifice makes the forgiveness of sin possible for everyone for all time.
* Sacrifice: To give something up freely

The students should learn

* Ancient people offered animal sacrifices to praise God, to thank God, to mark new beginnings, and to show sorrow for their sins.
* Jesus is the Lamb of God, who offered Himself as a sacrifice to pay the price for our sins.

**Here is what you need to do this week.**

* Reasons for Sacrifice
  + Read page 204 with your child. Then talk through the questions.
* The Sacrifice of Isaac
  + Turn to page 208 and have them look at the picture as you read Genesis 22: 1-18
    - Some time afterward, God put Abraham to the test and said to him: Abraham! “Here I am!” he replied. Then God said: Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There offer him up as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you. Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac, and after cutting the wood for the burnt offering, set out for the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham caught sight of the place from a distance. Abraham said to his servants: “Stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over there. We will worship and then come back to you.” So Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham. “Father!” he said. “Here I am,” he replied. Isaac continued, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?” “My son,” Abraham answered, “God will provide the sheep for the burnt offering.” Then the two walked on together. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he bound\* his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” “Here I am,” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the angel. “Do not do the least thing to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you did not withhold from me your son, your only one.” Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son. Abraham named that place Yahweh-yireh;\* hence people today say, “On the mountain the LORD will provide.” A second time the angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven and said: “I swear by my very self—oracle of the LORD—that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your son, your only one, I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants will take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth will find blessing, because you obeyed my command.”
    - When you are done ask the following questions
      * Who are the people in the painting?
      * What is the creature on the lower right?
      * How was Isaac obedient to his father, Abraham?
      * How was Abraham obedient to his Father, God?
      * How did God reward both Abraham and Isaac’s obedience and faith at the end of the story?
      * Then talk about how like Abraham, God the Father was willing to sacrifice His only Son, Jesus for us on the Cross but that there is a difference, in that Jesus was actually sacrificed. All this is because God the Father loves us so much.
* Lamb of God
  + Turn to page 203.
    - Look at the picture and ask what stands out to you about these two images?
    - What is the stained-glass window an image of?
    - How are these two images similar?
    - How are they different?
  + Read John 1:29
    - John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and saind, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
    - Explain that this is the first time John the Baptist meets Jesus. He points Jesus out to his own followers and tells them that Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
    - Then ask
      * Why do you think John the Baptist would call Jesus the Lamb of God?
      * Why do you think the lamb is holding a flag? (The flag is a flag of victory. It symbolizes the victory over sin won for us by Jesus’ sacrifice”
      * Can you think of any other times we refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God? (At every Mass, just before we receive the Eucharist, we say these same words of John the Baptists. We proclaim Jesus to be the Lamb of God and ask Him to have mercy on us- to forgive our sins.)
* Turn to pages 297
  + Explain that they will be keeping a journal as they grow close to 1st Communion. Then turn to pages 299 and write a response to the given prompt.
* Complete online activities for session 24.