

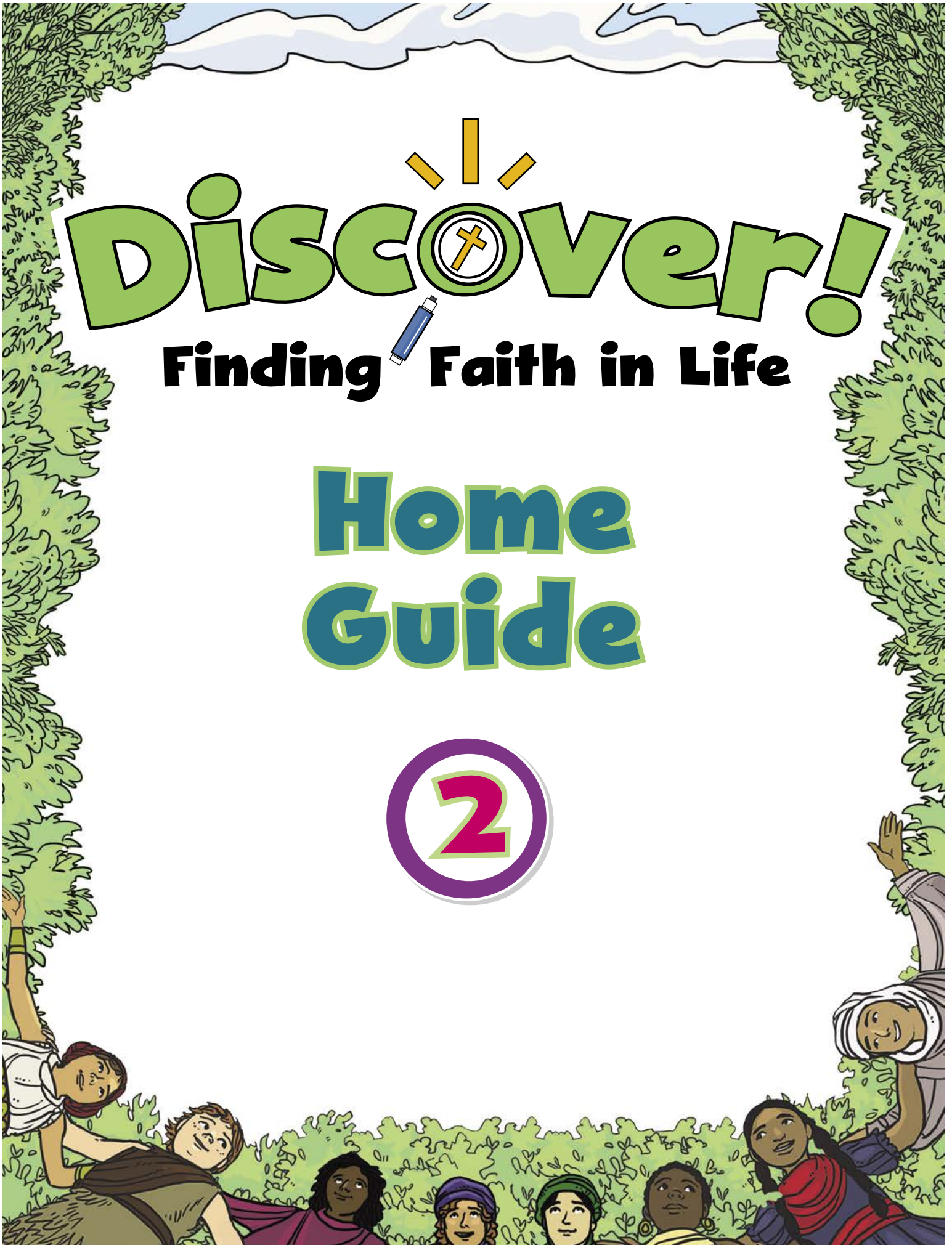


# Discover!

Finding  Faith in Life

## Home Guide

2



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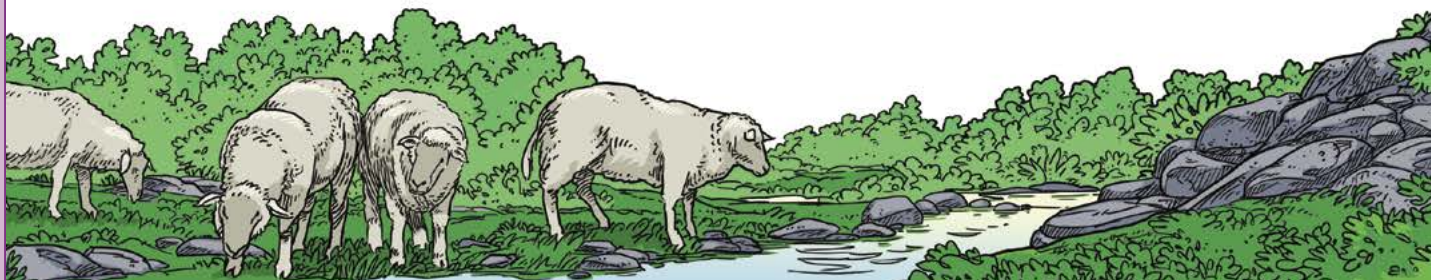
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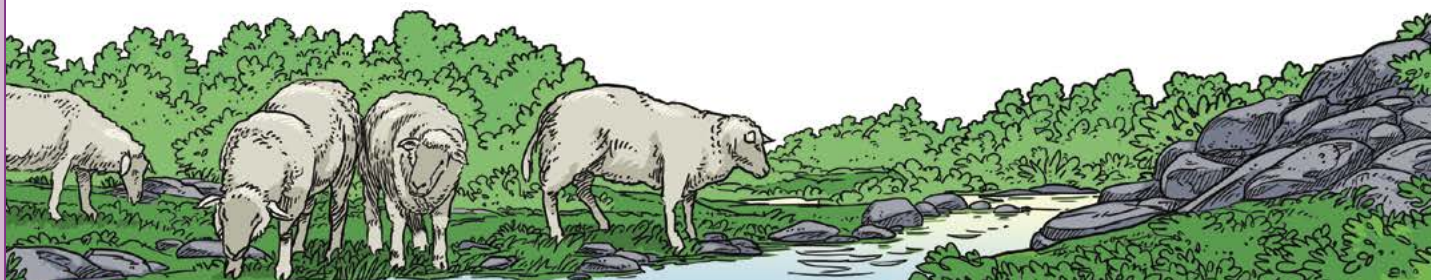


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# Understanding the Home Guide

The **Lesson Goals** section identifies the key desired outcomes of the chapter.



## God Created Us

Scripture Focus: Genesis 1:26–31

The **Parent Preview** section offers steps parents can use to prepare for the lesson.

The **Get Ready!** part of the lesson begins with an opening prayer and an activity that will spark interest in the lesson focus.

### Lesson Goals

- to state that God created human beings
- to explain that God created us to love and to be loved
- to describe God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 22 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:26–31).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 23 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

The **Discover!** part of the lesson involves a short reading to support understanding.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Discuss** with your child what it feels like to create something and what we feel about the things we make.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson introduces something very special and important that God has made.

### Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "We Created to Love and to Be Loved" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 1 activity booklet. Answers: Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Featured Story on page 22 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:26–31).
- ☐ **Ask** your child these questions:
  - What does the passage tell us that God made? (*human beings, animals, and plants*)
  - What did God say about human beings? (*We will be like God. We will have many descendants.*)
  - How did God feel about what he made? (*God was very pleased.*)

☐ **Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 23 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

☐ **Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 1 activity booklet. Answers: 1. human beings; 2. children (or descendants); 3. in charge; 4. grain, fruit; 5. pleased

### Go! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.
- ☐ **Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to locate the turtle on the lower left of page 22 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find the image of the turtle on the folder. It can be found in five different places.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.

The **Dive In!** part of the lesson involves direct use of *The Catholic Children's Bible* and learning through a key Bible story.

The **Go!** part of the lesson invites the child to recall what he or she learned and closes the lesson with a fun activity and a prayer.





The reading on this page relays important information related to the lesson.



## We Are Created to Love and to Be Loved

When you draw or decorate a birthday card for your mom or dad, how do you feel when you show it to your parents? How do you feel when they put it on the refrigerator or the bathroom mirror, so they can see it every day? Now imagine how you would feel if they just threw it away.

Today's reading from the Book of **Genesis**, tells us that God created something special: human beings. He created us to love and to be loved. He created us to respect and care for all the animals and plants he created. And he gave us the special responsibility of loving and respecting all people—the ones we know, and the ones we don't know.

God wants us to work together in peace and love, just as the **Holy Trinity** does. The Holy Trinity is the **mystery** of three Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Father created us out of love, and he is always with us. He sent us his Son, Jesus, to teach us how much the Father loves us. God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us all the time. The Holy Spirit reminds us that God loves us! The Holy Spirit also helps us love God and each other.

Just as we want the people to love the things we create, God wants us to love the things he created. How can you care for the things you created this week?

The **Review!** section offers several questions that reinforce key concepts from the lesson. Answers are provided.

The **Key Words** section highlights any words in the reading that may need additional definition.

### Key Words

**Genesis** The first book of the Bible; the word genesis means creation or beginning.

**Holy Trinity** Three Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**mystery** Something difficult or impossible to understand.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activities in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "God Made the World," page 6
- "God Made You" + activity, pages 7–8
- "God Wants You to Know Him and Love Him," page 9
- "Three Persons in One God" + activity, pages 10–11

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activities.

### Review

1. Who created human beings?
2. What is the Holy Trinity?
3. How can you show people you know that you love and respect them? What about people you don't know?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

The **We Know and Live Our Faith** resource provides additional content that can be used to support the lesson.



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## Chapter

## 1

# Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

## God Created Us

Scripture Focus: Genesis 1:26–31

### Lesson Goals

- to state that God created human beings
- to explain that God created us to love and to be loved
- to describe God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 22 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:26–31).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.

**Discuss** with your child what it feels like to create something and what we feel about the things we make.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson introduces something very special and important that God has made.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 22 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:26–31).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What does the passage tell us that God made? (*human beings, animals, and plants*)
- What did God say about human beings? (*We will be like God. We will have many descendants.*)
- How did God feel about what he made? (*God was very pleased.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 23 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.  
*Answers: 1. human beings; 2. children (or descendants); 3. in charge; 4. grain, fruit; 5. pleased*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "We Are Created to Love and to Be Loved" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.  
*Answers: Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity*

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the turtle on the lower left of page 22 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find the image of the turtle on the folder. It can be found in five different places.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.





## Chapter 1

# We Are Created to Love and to Be Loved

When you draw or decorate a birthday card for your mom or dad, how do you feel when you show it to your parents? How do you feel when they put your card on the refrigerator or the bathroom mirror, where they can see it every day? Now imagine how you would feel if they just threw it away.

In today's reading from the Book of **Genesis**, we learn that God created something special: human beings! He created us to love and to be loved. He commanded us to respect and care for all the animals and plants he created. And he gave us the special task of loving and respecting all people—the ones we know, and the ones we don't know.

God wants us to work together in peace and love, just as the **Holy Trinity** does. The Holy Trinity is the **mystery** of three Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Father created us out of love, and he is always with us. He sent us his Son, Jesus, to teach us how much the Father loves us. God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us all the time. The Holy Spirit reminds us that God loves us! The Holy Spirit also helps us love God back.

Just as we want the people we love to respect the things we create, God wants us to care for everything he created. How can you care for something God created this week?

### Key Words

**Genesis** The first book of the Bible; the word genesis means creation or beginning.

**Holy Trinity** Three Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**mystery** Something difficult or impossible to understand.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activities in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "God Made the World," page 6
- "God Made You" + activity, pages 7–8
- "God Wants You to Know Him and Love Him," page 9
- "Three Persons in One God" + activity, pages 10–11

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activities.

### Review

1. Who created human beings?
2. What is the Holy Trinity?
3. How can you show people you know that you love and respect them? What about people you don't know?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

*1. God. 2. Three Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. 3. Accept all reasonable responses.*



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## Chapter 2

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# We Celebrate Baptism

Scripture Focus: Matthew 3:13–17

### Lesson Goals

- to identify sacraments as meetings with Jesus
- to state that the Sacrament of Baptism makes us children of God and Christians
- to explain that in Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we are promised eternal life

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1452 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 3:13–17).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to share how we use water every day and how important water is for life.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores how the waters of the Sacrament of Baptism help us live in God forever.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1452 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 3:13–17).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Why did Jesus go to John? How did John react? (*Jesus went to be baptized, and John tried to make Jesus change his mind.*)
- Why did Jesus insist on being baptized anyway? (*because God required it*)
- What happened when Jesus came out of the water? (*Heaven opened, the Spirit of God came down like a dove, and a voice proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1453 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.

Answers: 1. Jordan, 2. obey, 3. baptize, 4. pleased, 5. water, 6. Son, 7. dove

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Meeting with Jesus" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.  
Answers: 1. Jesus, 2. Baptism, 3. Christians, 4. life, 5. sins, 6. Church

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 2 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the dove on page 1452 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find the image of a dove on the folder. It can be found in four different places.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.



## Chapter 2

# Meeting with Jesus

Think about signs that remind you of important days, ideas, or feelings. A birthday cake celebrates someone turning a year older. The American flag is a sign of our country. Some people wear sports logos to show which teams they support. And of course, a cross is a sign of Jesus.

Baptism is one of Seven Sacraments in the Church. A **sacrament** is a sign too—except that a sacrament also has the power to do something, not just mean something. A sacrament shares God's life and love with us. We can think of the sacraments as meetings with Jesus. Every sacrament helps us know Jesus better and become more like him.

The Sacrament of Baptism also includes many signs—especially water. In today's reading, Jesus

was baptized in the water of the Jordan River. Today, water is still poured over us when we are baptized. This holy water is another sign that does something. It gives us God's life inside us. Other signs of Baptism include the fire of the baptismal candle, which reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. We are anointed with holy oil (Sacred Chrism) as a mark of Christ's strength in our lives. The white gown or garment is a sign of being clothed in Christ and his love.

The Sacrament of Baptism is the sacrament that makes us children of God. Baptism gives us God's life, forgives our sins, and makes us members of the Church. If we keep faith in Christ, we will someday meet him in Heaven!

### Key Word

**sacrament** A meeting with Jesus; an outward sign or symbol that gives God's life.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Sacraments" and "The Seven Sacraments," pages 20–21
- "Baptism" and "The Gifts of Baptism," pages 24–25

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

### Review

1. What is a sacrament?
2. What happens in the Sacrament of Baptism?
3. What signs are used in Baptism?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. A meeting with Jesus; an outward sign or symbol that gives God's life. 2. We become Christians and children of God; we are given God's life, our sins are forgiven, we become members of the Church, and, if we keep faith in Christ, we will someday meet him in Heaven. 3. Holy water, a lit candle, holy oil or Sacred Chrism, a white garment.



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## Chapter 3

## Discover! Finding Faith in Life

# We Belong to the Church

Scripture Focus: 1 Corinthians 12:14–18, 27

### Lesson Goals

- to identify why the Church is also called the Body of Christ
- to indicate that each member of the Church has different gifts
- to state that each one of us is needed in the Church

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1808 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Corinthians 12:14–18, 27).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 3 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 3 activity booklet.

**Help** your child identify some of the gifts he or she has to share with others.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores what it means to be part of the Body of Christ.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1808 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Corinthians 12:14–18, 27).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- How does Saint Paul describe what makes up the body? (*He says the body is not one part, but many parts.*)
- Can body parts decide not to belong to the body? (*no*)
- How did God create the body? (*He put every different part in the body just as he wanted it to be.*)
- Who makes up Christ's Body? (*All of us—each of us is a part of his Body.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1809 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the puzzle on page 2 of the chapter 3 activity booklet.  
*Answers: See solution on the third page of this home guide chapter.*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "We Are One Body in Christ" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 3 activity booklet.  
*Answers will vary.*

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 3 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the three children at the bottom of the main image on page 1808 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 3 activity booklet.







## Chapter 3

# We Are One Body in Christ

How could you breathe without your nose? How could you hear without your ears? How could you play piano, throw a ball, or build a block tower without your hands? In today's reading, Saint Paul points out that every part of our own body serves a **unique** and important task.

The Church is called the Body of Christ. Jesus is the Head of the Body. And we become members at Baptism. We all serve as Christ's hands and feet and voice on Earth when we do good works and share the Good News he taught us.

Each of us is a gift from God. God has also given each of us unique gifts to help the Body of Christ. Some people draw, play music, or take good care of animals. Some like to read. Some are good at math. Every gift or talent can be used to help the other members of the Church—and in fact, the world. The Church needs each one of us, with our different gifts.

Take some time to write down your unique gifts and talents. Think of school subjects you enjoy, things you like to create, sports you like to play, or abilities you can perform. Now pick five of those gifts. How can you use each gift to help the Church and the world this week?

### Key Word

**unique** One of a kind.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Gifts of Baptism," page 25
- "The Character of Baptism," page 26
- "Who May Be Baptized?" + activity, pages 26–27

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

### Review

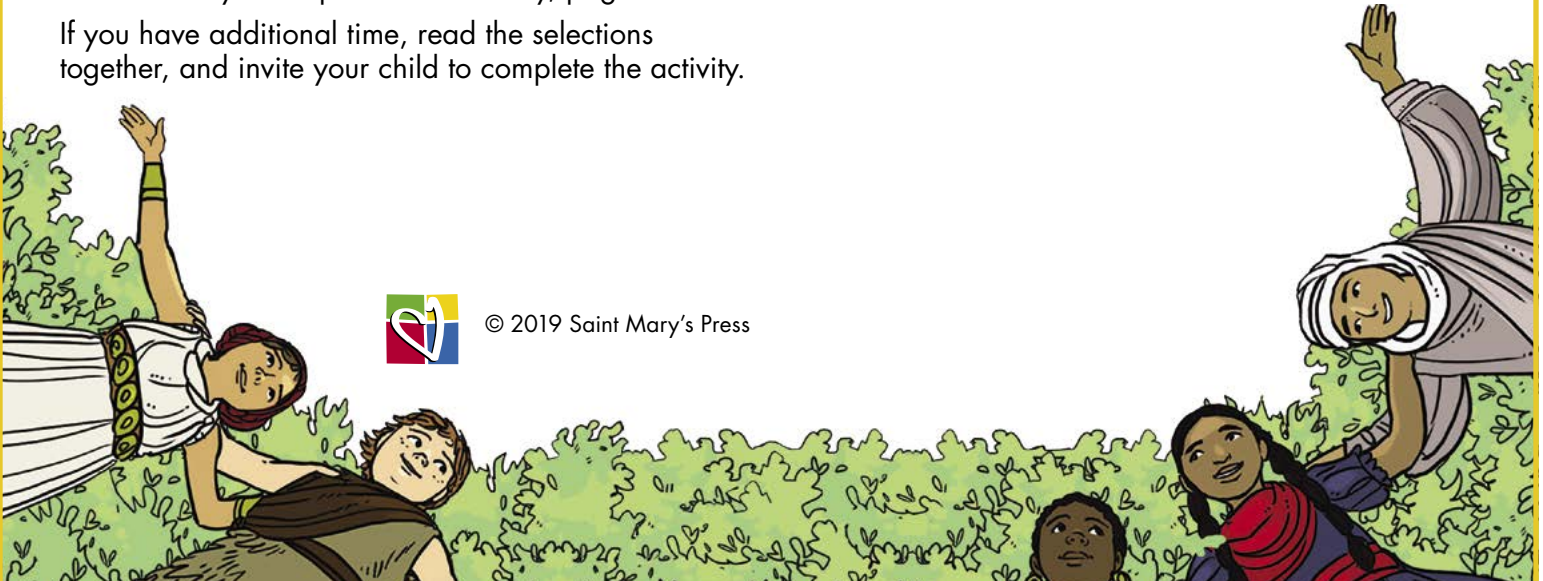
1. Who is the head of the Body of Christ?
2. When does someone become part of the Body of Christ?
3. Why is everyone important to the Body of Christ?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

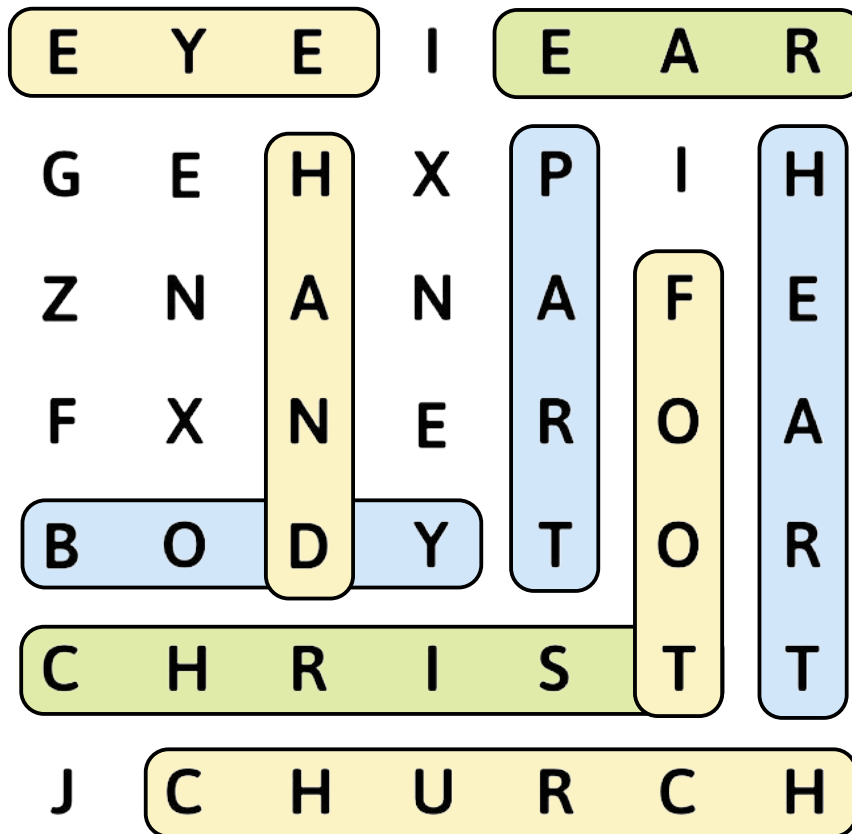
*1. Jesus Christ. 2. At Baptism. 3. Each person is a gift from God, and he gave each of us unique gifts and talents to share with the Church and the world.*



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# Answer Key



## Chapter

## 4

Discover!  
Finding Faith in Life

## We Celebrate and Care for All Creation

Scripture Focus: Psalm 148:3–13

## Lesson Goals

- to state that the entire universe and all creatures praise God by their very existence
- to explain that God loves everything he has made, so we should take care of it
- to affirm that in caring for the environment, we are caring for ourselves and our earthly home

## Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 956–957 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Psalm 148:3–13).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.

**Have** your child recall a favorite spot in nature, noting that it is part of God's creation.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson will explore how we can praise God for all he has created.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Scripture on pages 956–957 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Psalm 148:3–13).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What are some things in creation that can praise the Lord? (*angels, sun and moon, stars, waters, sea monsters, lightning, snow*)
- How can animals and other creatures praise the Lord? (*by being alive, running and jumping, being companions*)
- How can we praise the Lord? (*by singing and dancing, being good people, treating others as we would like to be treated*)

**Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 4 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.  
*Answers: drawn pictures of sun, stars, lightning, clouds, trees*

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Protect All Creation" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.  
*Answers: happy face for two pictures at top; sad face for two at bottom*

## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the two children on page 1 of the activity booklet for this chapter. Encourage your child to find this image in one place on the folder, explaining that the children are facing a different direction.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.







## Chapter 4

# Protect All Creation

To **praise** God means to give him our love and respect—not for doing anything specific, but just for being God! People have been singing songs of praise to God for thousands of years. Many of these songs are found in the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament. A psalm is a song or poem-prayer to God. A **psalm** might thank God, ask him for help, or pray for forgiveness.

Today's reading comes from Psalm 148. We learn that all of creation praises God, just by its very **existence**, by being what it is and doing what it is supposed to do. You might remember from the Book of Genesis (see chapter 1) that God gave human beings special responsibility to care for his creation. All creation is a sign of how much God loves us. In fact, God loves everything he has made. Taking good

care of everything God has made is one way we praise him.

Taking care of God's creation means we must love and protect the environment. When we use cloth shopping bags, fewer plastic bags wind up in rivers and streams. When we plant flower gardens, we create homes for butterflies and bees, two insects that help our food crops grow strong and healthy. When cities **recycle** paper, cans, and bottles, this helps keep trash out of landfills.

What are some Earth-friendly actions that your family already does? What is one Earth-friendly action you can start doing this week? When we care for the Earth, we care for ourselves and the home God gave us.

### Key Words

**existence** State of being; purpose for being.

**praise** To show someone love and approval, in words or actions.

**psalm** A song or poem-prayer to God.

**recycle** Reuse or remake for a new purpose.

### Review

1. How can creation praise God?
2. What is one important way people praise God?
3. How can we be responsible and care for creation?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "God Made the World" + activity, pages 4 and 6

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

1. Each part of creation praises God just by existing—  
being what it is and doing what God made it to do.  
2. By caring for creation. 3. Accept all reasonable  
answers.



## Chapter 5

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# We Pray Together

Scripture Focus: Psalm 150:1–6

### Lesson Goals

- to explain that praise is a form of prayer
- to name some of the reasons that God deserves our praise
- to identify that we praise God together as a Church through music and song

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 958 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Psalm 150:1–6).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.

**Discuss** with your child some of the key things God has done for him or her.

**Tell** your child that together you will learn about praising God through music and dance.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 958 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Psalm 150:1–6). Invite your child to dance and play his or her shaker as you read.

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What does the word praise mean? (*saying good things about another person, in this case, God*)
- What are some ways this psalm suggests we can praise God? (*singing, playing instruments, dancing*)
- Who should praise the Lord? (*all living creatures*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 959 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.  
*Answers: Temple, mighty, supreme, cymbals, creatures*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Praise the Lord!" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.  
*Answer: We praise the Lord with all our hearts!*

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 5 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the different images of cymbals on pages 958 and 959 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find cymbals on the folder. They can be found in two places.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.



## Chapter 5

# Praise the Lord!

When you do something good, it feels good to be praised for it. You want your parents to thank you for setting the table. You want your siblings to thank you for helping them with homework. You want your teacher to notice that you were kind to a new student today.

God also likes to hear that he is good and has done good things for us! When we praise God, we tell him how wonderful he is. We celebrate that he made us and loves us, and that we appreciate the beautiful world that he has made. We remember that we depend on him for everything.

When we praise God, we are **praying**. Praise is one of many ways we can pray to God—and we can praise God anywhere, at any time. We praise him in

a special way when we gather for Mass, especially Sunday Mass. We call Sunday the Lord's Day because we set aside this day to gather and praise God together as the Body of Christ. When we pray and sing at Mass, we join our hearts and voices in helping one another to praise God. It's like turning up the volume on our prayers! We praise him with all our hearts!

Although many people can only make it to Mass on Sundays, the Church praises God every day at Mass. Many people in the Church also praise God every day by praying the psalms in the **Liturgy of the Hours**. And of course, you can offer a prayer of praise to God whenever you want. What are some ways you can praise God today?

### Key Words

**Liturgy of the Hours** Prayers prayed during seven different times of day in the Church.

**praying** Speaking to or listening to God.

### Review

1. Why should we praise God?
2. When and where can we praise God?
3. How should we praise God in church?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activities in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "What Is Prayer?" and "We Pray in Church," pages 47–48
- "We Pray with the Church and the Church Prays with Us" + activity, pages 51–53
- "The Church Prays" + activity, pages 54–55

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activities.

*1. God made us, loves us, and gave us this beautiful world.  
2. Anytime and anywhere. 3. With all our hearts.*





## Chapter

## 6

# Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

## Jesus Welcomes Everyone

Scripture Focus: Matthew 19:13–15

### Lesson Goals

- to state that Jesus shows us God's love for us
- to identify that Jesus loves and welcomes everyone, including children
- to explain that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those with a childlike faith

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1496 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 19:13–15).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.

**Guide** your child to contrast what it feels like to be ignored and what it feels like to be included.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores a time when Jesus welcomed children who were being ignored by adults around him.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1496 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 19:13–15).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Why did the people bring their children to Jesus? (*They wanted him to pray for them.*)
- What did Jesus' disciples do when the people brought the children? (*scolded the people*)
- What did Jesus say about the children? (*See verse 14.*)
- How do you think Jesus treated all children? (*He loved them, blessed them, and was kind.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1497 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.  
*Answers: children, pray, disciples, Kingdom, heaven, hands*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "The Kingdom Belongs to You" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the puzzle on page 3 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.  
*Answers: See solution on the third page of this home guide chapter.*

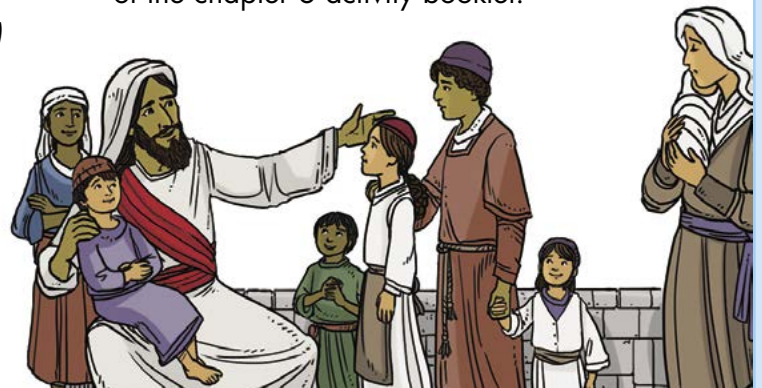
### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 6 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of Jesus with a child on his lap on page 1496 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image in one place on the folder.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.





## Chapter 6

# The Kingdom Belongs to You

What is your favorite fairy tale story or movie? By now you probably know that a **kingdom** is a land ruled by a king or queen, or sometimes a princess or prince. So what do you know about the Kingdom of Heaven? What details do you picture in your mind?

**Heaven** means life forever with God. The Kingdom of Heaven is a community of peace, mercy, and love, with God as its ruler. We become part of God's Kingdom by believing in Jesus, being baptized, and loving others like Jesus loves us. Sometimes we think that the Kingdom of Heaven is where we go after we die—but the truth is that the Kingdom begins here. We can be peaceful, merciful, and loving right now!

In today's Scripture reading, Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to everyone who is like a little child. The Kingdom welcomes all people who do their best to love God, themselves, and other people just like small children do—without holding anything back. No matter how old or young we are, we can all be part of the Kingdom right now by loving and trusting God like a young child would.

How can you become more trusting in God this week?

### Key Words

**Heaven** Life forever with God.

**kingdom** Place ruled by a king or queen.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Jesus Became Human to Make Us More Like God," page 14

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

### Review

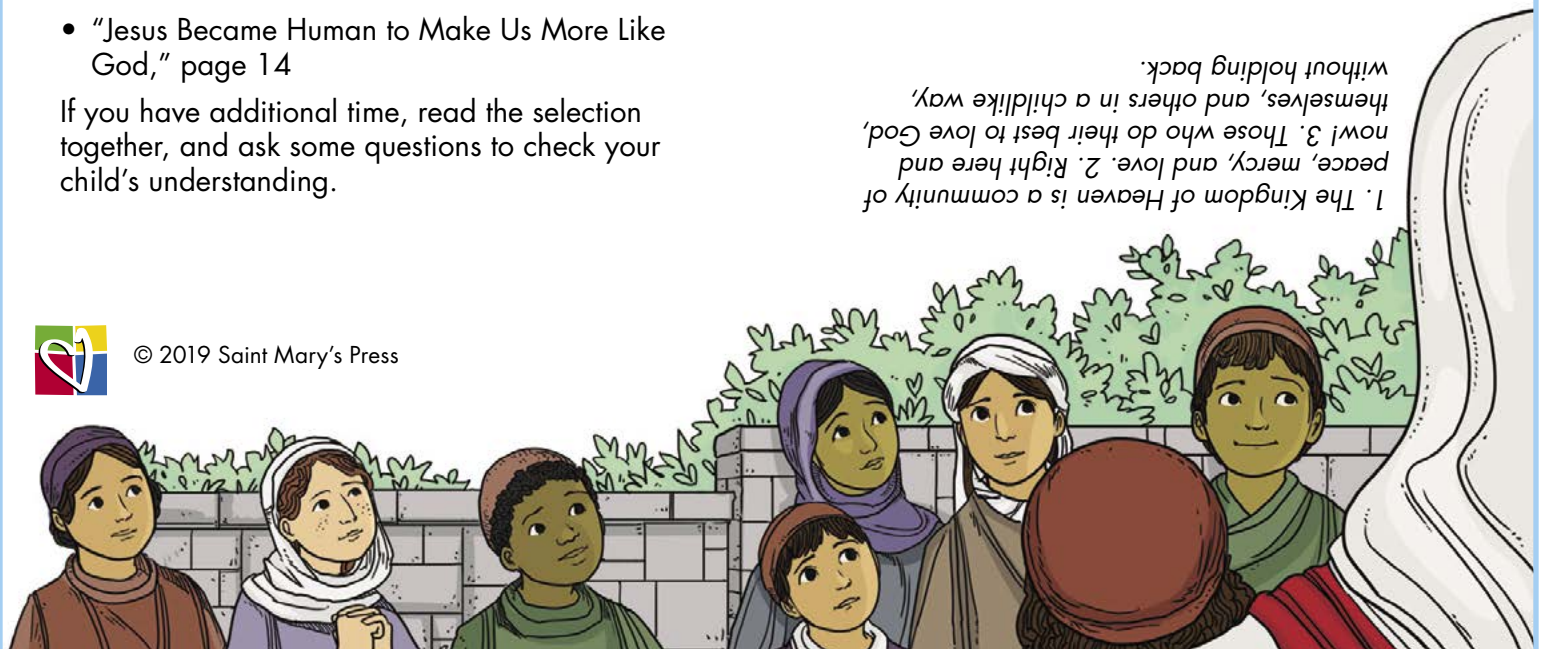
1. What is the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. When and where does the Kingdom of Heaven begin?
3. Who is welcome in the Kingdom of Heaven?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

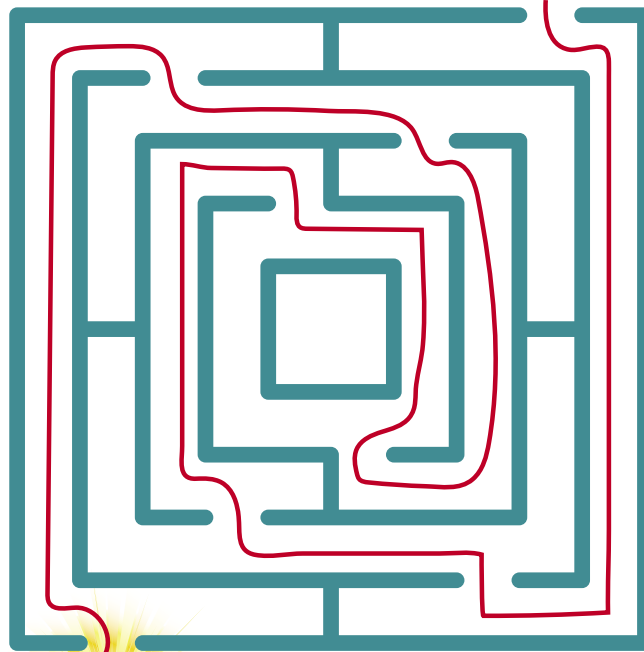
1. The Kingdom of Heaven is a community of peace, mercy, and love. 2. Right here and now! 3. Those who do their best to love God, themselves, and others in a childlike way, without holding back.



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## A cartoon illustration of a young boy and a young girl standing side-by-side. The boy on the left is wearing a white cap, a blue and white striped shirt, and red pants. The girl on the right is wearing a yellow dress and a pink headband. They are both smiling and looking towards the viewer.



# Kingdom of Heaven



## Chapter 7

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# We Celebrate Reconciliation

Scripture Focus: Psalm 51:4, 7–10

### Lesson Goals

- to state that we can ask for God's forgiveness at any time
- to explain that we celebrate the forgiveness of our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- to state that the Sacrament of Reconciliation brings us peace and joy

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 878 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Psalm 51:4, 7–10).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to tell you about a recent good choice, and then ask your child to recall a choice that didn't work out well.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson looks at how we can ask God to help us when we make wrong or hurtful choices.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 878 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Psalm 51:4, 7–10).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Who is the writer speaking to in this passage? (*God*)
- What will happen if God removes the writer's sin and makes him or her clean? (*The writer will be clean and whiter than snow. "White as snow" does not refer to skin color, but rather to a clean and pure heart.*)
- What does the writer mean by having a "loyal spirit"? (*being faithful to God, listening to and following God's Word, and so on*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 879 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.  
*Answer: Create in me a pure heart O God.*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Create a Pure Heart" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.  
*Answers: 1. Reconciliation, 2. venial, 3. mortal, 4. forgives, 5. accident*

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 7 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the snow-covered trees on page 878 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find snow-covered trees on the folder. There are three trees.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.





## Chapter 7

# Create a Pure Heart

Have you ever made a choice that hurt someone? Perhaps you said something unkind or broke a promise. Maybe you yelled at someone. Maybe you hurt yourself by not brushing your teeth properly every day or not washing hands before meals.

We want to make good choices. But sometimes we are tempted to make a poor choice, a wrong or hurtful choice. We call this a **sin**. A sin is not the same as an accident. Sinning is a way of “missing the mark”—failing to do what we know is right. Dropping a dish by accident isn’t a sin—but throwing a dish in anger is a sin! There are two kinds of sin that hurt our relationships with God and one another:

- Venial sin is a less serious sin that weakens our relationship with God, but doesn’t break it.
- Mortal sin is a very serious sin, committed on purpose, that breaks our relationship with God.

### Key Words

**reconciliation** Bringing back together.

**sin** Choosing to do something that is wrong even when you know it is wrong.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- “The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation” and “Returning to God,” page 35
- “The Gifts of Penance and Reconciliation” and “Forgiveness of Venial Sins and Grave Sins,” pages 36–37

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child’s understanding.

When someone in your family makes a poor choice, a wrong or hurtful choice, it can hurt others. The Church is the same way, because we belong to God’s family. Our sins hurt other members of the Church, as well as God.

But we can always ask God for help in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The word **reconciliation** means “bringing back together.” The Sacrament of Reconciliation brings us back together with God and the Church. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we think about our sins, tell them to the priest, and say we are sorry. God forgives us, through the priest. When we love God and one another, and when we find peace and joy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are strong!

### Review

1. What is a sin?
2. What is the difference between a venial sin and a mortal sin?
3. What is the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. Choosing to do something that is wrong even when you know it is wrong. 2. A venial sin hurts our relationship with God. A mortal sin breaks our relationship with God. 3. A sacrament of God’s forgiveness that brings us back together with God and with the Church.



## Chapter

## 8

Discover!  
Finding Faith in Life

## Conscience Is a Gift of God's Love

Scripture Focus: Exodus 20:2–3, 6–8, 12–17

## Lesson Goals

- to identify that the Ten Commandments are God's loving rules to keep us safe and happy
- to summarize that the Ten Commandments teach us right and wrong
- to explain that when we follow our conscience, we are doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong

## Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 132 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Exodus 20:2–3, 6–8, 12–17).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 8 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 8 activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to name different rules he or she must follow at home, at school, and in the community.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores how God gave us ten rules to help keep us safe and happy.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 132 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Exodus 20:2–3, 6–8, 12–17).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What are the three commandments that tell us how to treat God? (See verses 3, 7, and 8.)
- Which commandments tell us how to treat other people? (See verses 12–17.)
- What does it mean to worship God? (Accept reasonable responses.)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 133 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 8 activity booklet.  
*Answers: Worship, generations, name, Respect*

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "How Is Your Conscience Today?" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 8 activity booklet.  
*Answers will vary.*

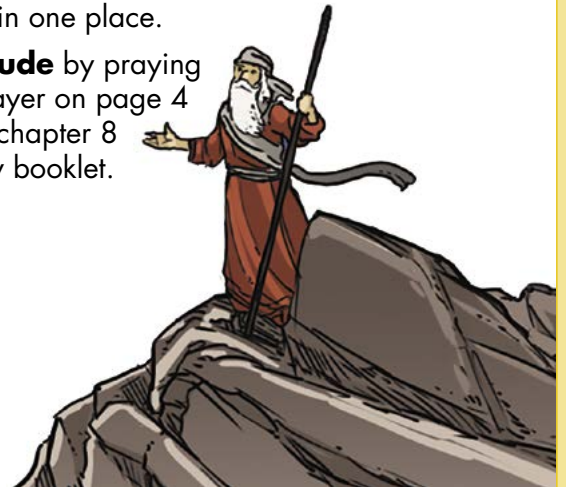
## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 8 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of Moses on the mountain on page 132 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage him or her to find this image on the folder. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 8 activity booklet.







## Chapter 8

# How Is Your Conscience Today?

"Let your **conscience** be your guide"—have you ever heard this advice? What do you think a conscience is? How can it guide you?

All of us have a conscience: the ability to learn and know what is right and what is wrong. When we listen to our conscience, we can be at peace. But sometimes we have trouble hearing our conscience—especially when we are really tempted to make a poor choice. This is why we sometimes count to ten when we are upset, or we "sleep on it" to make a big decision. These actions give us a chance to hear what our conscience is telling us.

We must also make the voice of our conscience louder! We can do this by praying, learning what our Church teaches, and asking trusted adults for advice.

A really great way to strengthen our conscience is to learn and follow the **Ten Commandments**. These are God's loving rules that keep us safe and happy. They tell us the right ways to act and help us learn to stay away from wrong choices.

Every time you pray, and especially when you prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you should examine your conscience. This means thinking about words and actions that might have hurt your relationships with God and other people. Once you examine your conscience, you can always ask God to forgive your sins. When you go to bed tonight, spend some time examining your conscience. Then ask God to help you make good choices tomorrow!

### Key Words

**conscience** The ability to learn and know what is right and what is wrong.

**Ten Commandments** God's ten rules about the right ways to treat him and one another.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Gift of Conscience," page 41

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

### Review

1. What is your conscience?
2. How do the Ten Commandments help develop our conscience?
3. Why did God give the Ten Commandments for us to follow?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. The ability to know the difference between right and wrong. 2. By telling us the right way to act. 3. To help us know what is right or wrong, and to help us be safe and happy.



## Chapter

## 9

Discover!  
Finding Faith in Life

# We Are Called to Kindness

Ephesians 4:1–6

## Lesson Goals

- to state that our kindness to others shows God's love
- to indicate that Jesus gave us an example of love and kindness to follow
- to discuss that love and kindness can heal hurts

## Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1846 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Ephesians 4:1–6).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 9 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 9 activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to brainstorm ways we can show kindness to others.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores how we are to treat one another so that we can be in union with one another and with God.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1846 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Ephesians 4:1–6).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What does it mean to be humble, gentle, or patient? (*Accept reasonable responses.*)
- How does this passage say we can show our love? (*being kind, being tolerant, preserving unity*)
- The word one appears in this passage often. What does the author tell us there is one of? (*body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1847 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 9 activity booklet.  
*Answers: body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, Baptism, God*

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "It's Cool to Be Kind!" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 9 activity booklet.  
*Answers will vary.*

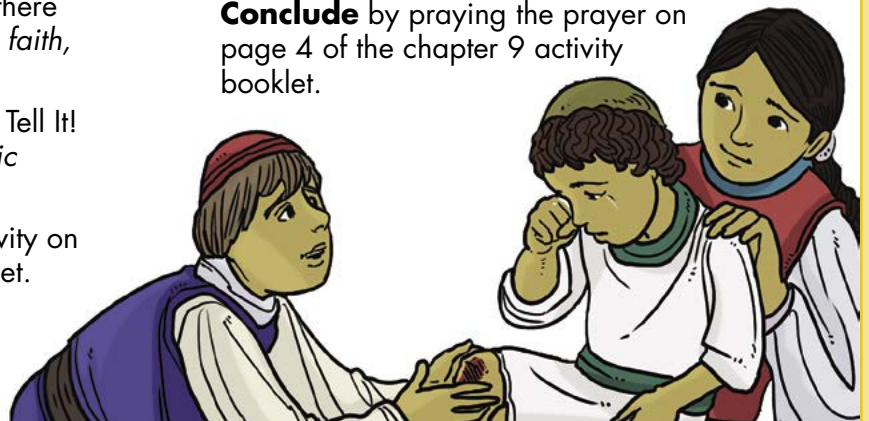
## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 9 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of the mother and child in the Tell It! box on page 1847 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder, explaining that it is facing a different direction. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 9 activity booklet.





## Chapter 9

# It's Cool to Be Kind!

You are probably kind all the time, without realizing it. Being kind just means treating one another in a loving way. How are you kind in your family? How are you kind to your classmates and teachers? How are you kind to yourself?

God wants us to treat one another with love and kindness. In this way, we can be at peace and show one another his love. He sent his only Son, Jesus, to show us how to treat others. Think of all the ways Jesus is kind in the Gospels: feeding the hungry, curing those who are sick, welcoming all people. He even forgave sins! Jesus showed us how love and kindness can heal the hurts of the world.

By now you might be thinking, "But sometimes it's hard to be kind!" It's not always easy. But God asks

us to remember that he created everyone in his image. That means everyone has **dignity**—even people we might not like. Everyone deserves kindness and respect. When we are kind, we show God's love to the world.

We are human, so we are sometimes unkind to one another. When we hurt another person, we must say we are sorry, ask for forgiveness, and find out how to make it better. And we should forgive those who hurt us too—just as Jesus forgave sinners, even those who crucified him. (If someone is hurting you, however, you should tell a trusted adult.)

By being kind to others, we create unity and peace. We become one!

### Key Word

**dignity** Being worthy of kindness and respect.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Everyone Has Equal Dignity" + activity, pages 45–46

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

### Review

1. Why does God want us to be kind and patient with other people?
2. How did Jesus show us how to be kind to others?
3. When we hurt someone else, what must we do?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

*1. So we can be at peace with others; so we can show his love. 2. Accept reasonable responses. 3. Say we are sorry, ask for forgiveness, treat that person with extra kindness.*





## Chapter 10

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# We Ask for Forgiveness

Luke 15:11, 20–24

### Lesson Goals

- to state that God will always love us and forgive us
- to explain that we can use reason, free will, and conscience to live in right relationship with God
- to name that we can ask God for forgiveness in our prayers

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1620 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 15:11, 20–24).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 10 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 10 activity booklet.

**Ask** your child to share a time he or she said, "I'm sorry" and asked for someone's forgiveness.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson focuses on how we can always ask God's forgiveness in our prayers.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1620 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 15:11, 20–24).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What did the forgiving father do when he saw his son? (See verse 20.)
- What did the son say to his father? (See verse 21.)
- How did the father celebrate his son's return? (with a new robe, ring, shoes, a feast)
- What did the father mean when he said his son had been dead, but now was alive? (Accept reasonable responses.)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1621 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 10 activity booklet.  
Answers: 1. pity, 2. feast, 3. alive, 4. ring, 5. sinned

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Lost and Found" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 10 activity booklet.  
Answers: 1. conscience, 2. reason, 3. free will, 4. pray, 5. loves

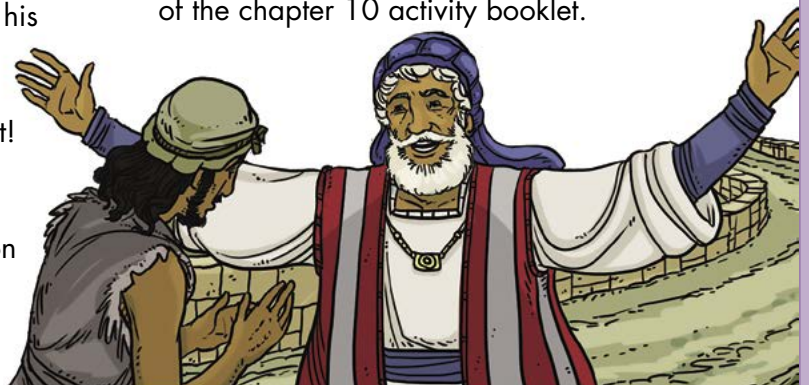
### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 10 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of the father with outstretched arms on page 1620 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 10 activity booklet.



## Chapter 10

# Lost and Found

Have you ever made a wrong choice that you didn't think you could ever fix? Have you been afraid to ask forgiveness from someone? In today's reading, Jesus tells about a son who hurt his father's feelings badly. The son took his father's money, left home, and wasted everything. He didn't know whether his father could ever forgive him. Imagine how he felt when his father welcomed him home with open arms and a big feast!

Jesus told this story to teach us an important lesson: God our Father will always love and forgive us too. God gave us a conscience to help us know the difference between right and wrong. God also gave each of us the gift of **free will**: the ability to choose how we act. When we sin, we use our free will to

make a hurtful or wrong choice. Finally, God gave us the gift of **reason**: the ability to think through the results of our actions.

We can use our conscience, free will, and reason to live in **right relationship** with God. When we don't use these gifts, we can go down the wrong path, like the son did in today's Scripture story. But when we do sin, we can always tell God we are sorry and ask him to forgive us. The best way is to meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But we can also do this in prayer—talking with God. When you can't find the words, remember: the Our Father; the Hail Mary; the Lord; Have Mercy at Mass; the Act of Contrition; and many other prayers can help you pray for God's forgiveness.

### Key Words

**free will** The ability to choose how we act.

**reason** Using our minds to think through our actions.

**right relationship** A relationship that respects and honors everyone involved.

### Review

1. What is free will?
2. What is reason?
3. How can we pray for forgiveness?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

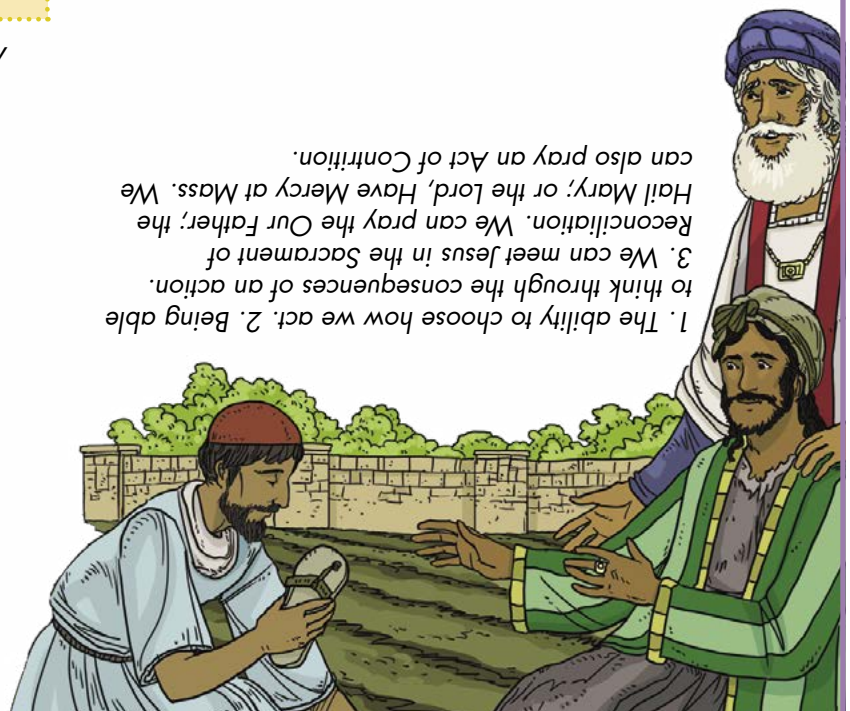
### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Gift of Our Minds" and "The Gift of Free Will," page 40
- "The Gift of Conscience," page 41
- "Using God's Gifts" + activity, pages 42–43

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

1. The ability to choose how we act. 2. Being able to think through the consequences of an action. 3. We can meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can pray the Our Father; the Hail Mary; or the Lord, Have Mercy at Mass. We can also pray an Act of Contrition.



# Jesus Gives Us Himself

Mark 14:22–24

## Lesson Goals

- to explain that Jesus gave us his Body and Blood at the Last Supper
- to articulate that in every Mass Jesus gives himself to us as he did at the Last Supper
- to state that ordinary bread and wine is changed into the Body and Blood of Christ at every Mass

## Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1560 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Mark 14:22–24).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 11 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 11 activity booklet.

**Talk** with your child about a special meal tradition in your family. Discuss how this tradition began and why this tradition means so much to you and your family.

**Tell** your child that together you will learn about a special meal that Jesus shared with his friends—a meal so important that we still remember it every time we go to Mass.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1560 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Mark 14:22–24).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What special action did Jesus take with the bread? (See verse 22.)
- What special action did Jesus take with the cup? (See verse 24.)
- What is a covenant? (an important agreement between two people or between God and people)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1561 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 11 activity booklet.  
 Answers: 1. This is my body, 2. This is my blood.

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article “Jesus Is Always with Us” on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child’s understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 11 activity booklet.  
 Answers: Bread—loaf; Chalice—gold cup; Vestment—priest; Wine—glass of wine

## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today’s lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 11 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of Jesus with the bread in the first Tell It! box on page 1561 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder, explaining that it is facing a different direction. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 11 activity booklet.





# Chapter 11

## Jesus Is Always with Us

Lots of books, movies, and TV shows feature a mystery. The characters must figure out who took the gem from a necklace, or who ate the cupcakes that were cooling on the windowsill. In these stories, the characters always solve the mystery and save the day.

But a **mystery of faith** is something different. No detective can ever solve a mystery of faith. In the Church, a mystery is something that is difficult or impossible to fully understand or explain. One of our most important mysteries is how the bread and wine change into the Body and Blood of Christ during Mass.

In today's reading about the Last Supper, we learn that Jesus said, "This is my body" (Mark 14:22) and "This is my blood" (verse 24). With these words, the

bread and wine truly became his Body and Blood. Jesus performed this miracle so he could stay with us forever.

Every time we go to Mass, Jesus gives himself to us again in the Eucharist, just like he did with his followers at the Last Supper. The words of the priest, through the power of the Holy Spirit, turn ordinary bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood. We call this the **consecration**. This is why we say that Jesus is present in the Eucharist.

Is this hard to understand? Yes! That's why we call it a mystery! It's not the kind of mystery we can solve with detective work. Our faith helps us know this mystery is true. Jesus gave us the Eucharist so he could always be with us. Alleluia!

### Key Words

**consecration** The part of the Mass when bread and wine change into Christ's Body and Blood.

**mystery of faith** A belief that is difficult or impossible to fully understand or explain.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Eucharist," page 28
- "We Share in the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ," page 29
- "The Special Signs of the Eucharist" + activity, pages 31–32

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

### Review

1. How are the Last Supper and the Mass alike?
2. What is the consecration?
3. Why do you think Jesus wanted to give himself to us?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

*1. The bread and wine change into the Body and Blood of Christ. 2. The part of Mass when the bread and wine change into the Body and Blood of Christ. 3. He wanted to be with us always; accept other reasonable responses.*



## Chapter 12

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# We Celebrate the Eucharist

Scripture Focus: John 6:8–11

### Lesson Goals

- to recall that the Eucharist nourishes our souls and brings us closer to God
- to explain that Jesus feeds people all over the world with the Eucharist at Mass
- to name the four different parts of the Mass

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1666 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 6:8–11).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 12 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 12 activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to name an event when she or he was part of a large crowd: a sporting event, a parade, or a concert.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores a day when Jesus talked to a crowd of more than five thousand people—and fed them too.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1666 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 6:8–11).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- How many people were in the crowd? (*about five thousand*)
- How much food did the boy have? (*five loaves of barley bread and two fish*)
- What did Jesus do with the loaves and the fish? (*He gave thanks and distributed them to the people.*)
- Did anyone in the crowd go hungry? (*No, everyone had as much as they wanted.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1667 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 12 activity booklet.  
*Answers: five, two, enough, grass, thousand, God, fish*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Jesus Feeds All of Us" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 12 activity booklet.  
*Answers: top row, 2, 3; bottom row, 1, 4.*

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 12 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of the boy with the loaves and fishes on page 1666 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder. It can be found in three different places.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 12 activity booklet.



## Chapter 12

# Jesus Feeds All of Us

Think about a special meal your family hosts on a big holiday, such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, or Easter. What happens in what order? (1) You probably begin by greeting and welcoming your guests. (2) Everyone shares stories and listens to one another's updates. (3) You provide snacks or a meal. (4) Finally, you say goodbye: "Take care!"

Did you know that we do these same four actions at every Mass?

1. Gathering: We greet one another, and the priest greets and welcomes us.
2. Liturgy of the Word: We hear the Word of God from the Bible, and the priest explains the readings to us in the homily.

3. Liturgy of the Eucharist: Bread and wine are brought to the altar, where they are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. Those who are able receive Communion.
4. Sending Forth: The priest offers a blessing and sends us out to serve God and others according to the Gospel.

Just as Jesus fed the large crowd of people with bread and fish, he feeds people all over the world in the Eucharist at every Mass. The next time you go to Mass, pay attention to each of these parts. You will have a new understanding of the Mass as the special meal we celebrate as the Church, the Body of Christ!

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Sunday Eucharist" + activity, pages 29–30
- "The Celebration of the Eucharist," page 31
- "The Gifts of the Eucharist" and "How Often Can We Receive Holy Communion?" page 34

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

### Review

1. What happens at Mass during the Gathering?
2. What happens during the Liturgy of the Word?
3. What happens during the Liturgy of the Eucharist?
4. What happens during the Sending Forth?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. The priest welcomes us, and we prepare to celebrate the Eucharist. 2. We hear the Word of God. 3. The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. They are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. 4. We are blessed and sent out to live according to the Gospel.





# Chapter 13

## Discover! Finding Faith in Life

# We Grow Strong in Christ's Love

Ephesians 3:14–19

## Lesson Goals

- to identify that Jesus lives in our hearts through the Eucharist
- to state that we are strengthened and grow in Christ's love by receiving the Eucharist
- to name that one way we grow in faith and love is through practicing virtue

## Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1844 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Ephesians 3:14–19).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 13 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 13 activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to share what he or she thinks it means to be a strong person.

**Tell** your child that together you will learn how an Apostle prayed a long time ago for all Christians to be strong in their love for Jesus.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Scripture on page 1844 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Ephesians 3:14–19).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What is the Apostle Paul asking God? (*that Jesus' followers will have strength in their inner selves*)
- What does it mean when Paul asks that Christ make his home in our hearts? (*Accept reasonable responses.*)
- How does Paul describe how big Christ's love is? (*broad and long, high and deep*)

**Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 13 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 13 activity booklet. *Answers: Father, Spirit, Christ*

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Develop Good Spiritual Habits" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the puzzle on page 3 of the chapter 13 activity booklet. *Answers: See solution on the third page of this home guide chapter.*

## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 13 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of the children on page 1 of the chapter 13 activity booklet. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 13 activity booklet.





## Chapter 13

# Develop Good Spiritual Habits

What are some good habits you practice? Do you brush your teeth twice a day? Do you make your bed? Do you say “please” and “thank you”? When you develop a good habit, you have to practice to make it a strong part of your daily life.

Having spiritual strength requires us to develop good spiritual habits—called **virtues**. Virtues include being helpful, kind, honest, patient, generous, and so on. The more we use these virtues, the more they become strong habits in our daily life.

Sometimes it’s hard to make good choices, isn’t it? Jesus will always help us, if we ask him, because

he loves us so much. He helps us especially when we receive him in the Eucharist. In Holy Communion, Jesus comes to live in our hearts in a special way. Because he is always with us, we can always ask him to help us grow in virtue and to love the people around us.

The virtues are like muscles in our bodies. The more we use our muscles, the stronger they become. The more we practice the virtues, the more spiritual strength we develop! What virtue would you like to work on this week?

### Key Word

**virtues** Strengths; good spiritual habits.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- “God Wants You to Know Him and Love Him,” page 9
- “Jesus Became Human to Make Us More Like God,” page 14
- “Living in Christ,” page 39

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child’s understanding.

### Review

1. What are virtues?
2. Are we alone in making good choices?
3. How does receiving Holy Communion make us closer to Jesus?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. Strengths; everyday good spiritual habits.  
2. No. Jesus helps us. 3. Through Holy Communion, Jesus lives in our hearts and helps us to grow strong in our faith and love for God.



# Answer Key

I	V	I	R	T	U	E	S	G	B
C	H	S	H	B	F	L	O	V	E
T	A	A	O	D	R	A	X	S	C
H	F	G	N	T	I	U	H	Y	X
E	X	G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S
L	O	F	S	M	N	N	E	M	X
P	U	M	T	O	D	H	C	X	N
I	P	O	Y	F	L	B	A	P	K
N	Z	C	A	T	Y	Z	R	T	N
G	J	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S



# Chapter 14

## Discover! Finding Faith in Life

# We Share Love with Our Community

1 Samuel 3:8–10

### Lesson Goals

- to state that the Eucharist brings us together as a community of faith
- to identify that members of the community help us grow in faith and hear God's voice
- to state that we must help all members of our community, especially the youngest and the oldest

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 372 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Samuel 3:8–10).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 14 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 14 activity booklet.

**Encourage** your child to think of people who help and support him or her.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores how other people can support and encourage us as we walk the path of faith. Point out that we have a whole community, the Church, to help us grow in faith.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 372 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Samuel 3:8–10).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- When the Lord called Samuel, who did Samuel think was calling him? (*Eli*)
- What did Eli tell Samuel to do? (*Go back to bed, and if he heard the call again answer, "Speak, LORD, your servant is listening" [verse 9].*)
- What happened when the Lord called Samuel again? (*Samuel gave the answer Eli told him to say.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 373 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 14 activity booklet.  
*Answer: SPEAK LORD YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Speak, Lord, I'm Listening" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 14 activity booklet.  
*Answers will vary.*

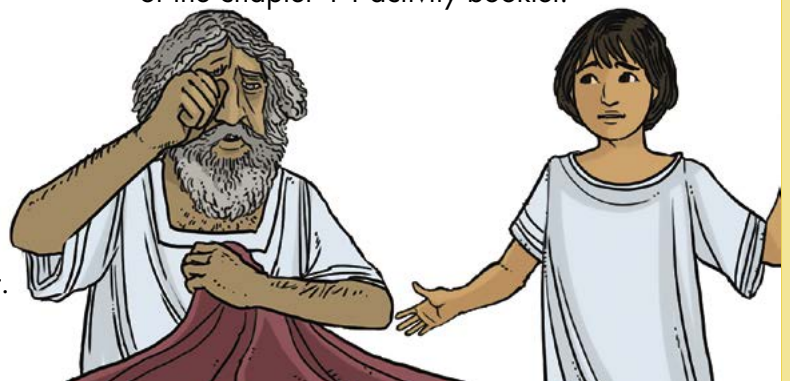
### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 14 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of Samuel on page 372 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 14 activity booklet.





## Chapter 14

# Speak, Lord, I'm Listening

If you hear your mom or dad call you from the kitchen, what do you do? Do you yell, "What?" Do you go into the kitchen to find out why you are being called?

Hearing God call us is not the same as hearing our parents call us. For most of us, hearing God's call means having a deep-down feeling about what he wants us to do. But that means we must be listening! God speaks to us in many ways: through his creation, through the Bible, through trusted grown-ups, and through the Church. Listening to God includes taking time for prayer, learning about God, and trying to understand what he is telling us.

In today's reading, Samuel needed Eli to help him know God's voice. Eli was older than Samuel. In the

same way, you have many people to help you hear God's voice, such as your parents, teachers, grandparents, priests, and other trusted grown-ups. The Eucharist especially brings us together as a **community of faith** so that we can help one another hear God's voice. Sometimes we give help, and sometimes we receive help. We must all do our part to respect and care for all the members of our faith community, from the oldest to the youngest.

Your parish offers many ways you can serve others in your community. You can help with a food bank, donate outgrown clothing, or pray for those who have recently died. Look at a recent parish bulletin, and identify one way you can help the Church this week.

### Key Word

**community of faith** A group of people united by belief.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Common Good," page 44

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

### Review

1. What does it mean to hear God's voice?
2. Who can help us to know God and hear his voice?
3. What does it mean to be part of a community?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

*1. Having a deep-down feeling about what God wants us to do. 2. Accept all reasonable answers. 3. We help one another the best we can.*



## Chapter 15

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# We Pray the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

### Lesson Goals

- to review the meaning of prayer as talking and listening to God
- to state that Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer to his followers
- to explain the basic meaning of each part of the Lord's Prayer

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1460 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 6:9–13).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 15 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 15 activity booklet.

**Ask** your child to name as many prayers as he or she can think of.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores the Our Father: who gave it to us, and what it means to us.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1460 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 6:9–13).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Where have you heard or said this prayer before? (*Accept all reasonable answers.*)
- Do you remember when we say this prayer at Mass? (*We say it after the Eucharistic Prayer, just before we receive Holy Communion.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1461 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 15 activity booklet.  
*Answers: Father, name, kingdom, will, food, wrongs, forgive, evil*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Our Father" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 15 activity booklet.  
*Answers: top row—4, 1; bottom row—3, 2*

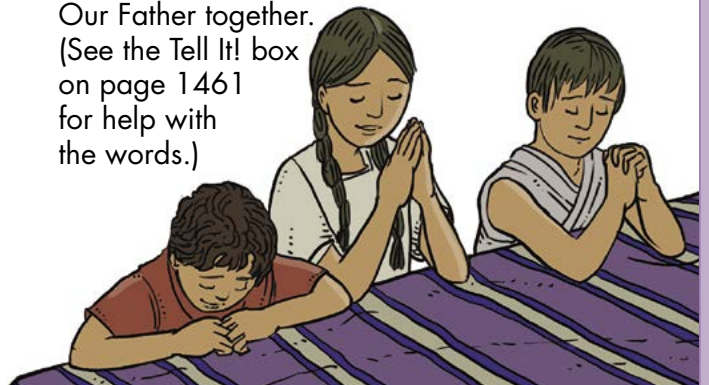
### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 15 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of the girl praying in the first Tell It! box on page 1461 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 15 activity booklet, or pray the Our Father together.  
(See the Tell It! box on page 1461 for help with the words.)







## Chapter 15

# Our Father

Do you remember what prayer is? Prayer is a way of talking with God. Just like any good conversation with a friend or a parent, we must both talk and listen when we pray to God.

Jesus himself gave us the Our Father (or the Lord's Prayer) to teach us how to pray. We begin the prayer by recognizing that God in Heaven is Father to us all, and we are his children. Then the Our Father has seven **petitions**, or things we ask for:

1. *Hallowed be thy name:* God's name and everything that comes from God are holy.
2. *Thy Kingdom come:* We hope to create God's Kingdom of love and justice, mercy and forgiveness, on Earth.
3. *Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven:* We ask God to help us live the way he wants.

4. *Give us this day our daily bread:* God is good, and he gives us what we need. We also remember the bread that becomes Jesus, Body in the Eucharist.
5. *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us:* We ask God to forgive our sins; we know we must also forgive other people.
6. *Lead us not into temptation:* We ask God to help us choose the difference between right and wrong and choose to do what is right.
7. *Deliver us from evil:* We ask God to keep us away from evil and close to goodness.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we are saying the words of Jesus. Use this prayer any time you want to reach out to God. He is always listening!

### Key Word

**petitions** Things we ask for.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Does God Hear Our Prayer?" page 47
- "We Pray in Church" and "We Pray the Our Father in Church," page 48

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

### Review

1. What do we do when we pray?
2. Why is the Lord's Prayer important?
3. Pick any phrase in the Lord's Prayer. What does it mean?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

*1. We talk and listen to God. 2. Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer. 3. Accept all reasonable responses.*



## Chapter 16

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# Jesus Died and Rose for Us

Mark 16:1–6

### Lesson Goals

- to state that Jesus died and rose for us
- to recall that we each have a personal relationship with Jesus
- to identify that Jesus is with us in good times and bad

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1568 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Mark 16:1–6).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 16 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 16 activity booklet.

**Ask** your child to name some things he or she thinks of that are associated with Easter.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson celebrates God's goodness and Jesus' Resurrection.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1568 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Mark 16:1–6).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Why did the women go to the tomb?  
(to anoint Jesus' body)
- What did they find when they got to the tomb? *(The stone had already been rolled back; a young man sat inside.)*
- What did the young man tell the women?  
(Jesus was not in the tomb because he had been raised.)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1569 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 16 activity booklet.  
*Answers: 1. anoint, 2. Alarmed, 3. tomb, 4. angel, 5. raised*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Alleluia, Praise the Lord!" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 16 activity booklet.

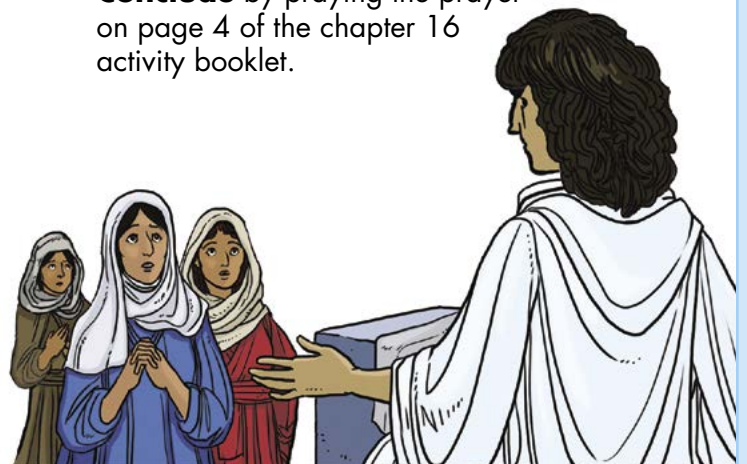
### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 16 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of the tomb on page 1568 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 16 activity booklet.





## Chapter 16

# Alleluia, Praise the Lord!

Think about a time when you felt hopeless. Maybe you had a tough spelling test, broke a favorite toy, or had a fight with a friend. Now think about what fills you with hope. What does hope feel like? How does your face look when you feel hopeful?

Jesus' dying and rising gives us great hope. He died and rose for us because we are so important to him. That's plenty of reason for us to hope. But our hope doesn't stop there! Because of Jesus' death and **Resurrection**, we know that God will give us new life when we die. He will take us to be with him in Heaven, where we will live forever, if we have followed Jesus in our lives. In fact, *Heaven* means "life with God forever."

But our hope *still* doesn't stop there. Jesus promised he would always be with us. Because

of his Resurrection, he can keep this promise! And because he is always with us, each of us can have a personal relationship with Jesus. When things are going well, or even when they are not going well, we can always depend on Jesus being with us. We can talk with him in prayer to tell him about our day—our good moments and our bad moments. We know that the Risen Jesus is also present to us in the sacraments, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

We die and rise with Jesus in the hard times and the happy times we experience each day. These are the "little deaths" and "little resurrections" in our own lives. No matter how difficult our life can be sometimes, we always have reason to hope and believe that things will get better. **Alleluia!** Praise the Lord!

### Key Words

**Alleluia** Praise the Lord!

**Resurrection** Jesus' rising from the dead on the third day after he died on the cross.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "God the Father Sent His Son to Us," page 12

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

### Review

1. What does the word *Alleluia* mean?
2. Why does Jesus' dying and rising give us great hope?
3. How do we experience little deaths and resurrections in our own lives?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. Praise the Lord! 2. We know that we will be raised to new life after we die; we know that Jesus is with us always. 3. In the hard and happy times of life, accept all reasonable responses.



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## Chapter 17

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# We Are Strengthened in Confirmation

Scripture Focus: Acts 2:1–6

### Lesson Goals

- to explain the event of Pentecost as the time when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples
- to recall that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in the Sacrament of Confirmation
- to identify that we are called to be disciples and tell others about Jesus

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1714 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 2:1–6).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 17 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 17 activity booklet.

**Ask** your child to share some ways we can become stronger in faith (such as reading Scripture, going to Mass, and receiving the Eucharist).

**Tell** your child that together you will learn about a powerful way that we are strengthened in our faith to follow Jesus and to tell others about God's love.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1714 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 2:1–6).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What was unusual about the wind on Pentecost? (*It was very strong and filled the house where the disciples were gathered.*)
- What were the tongues of fire in the reading? (*flames of fire that touched each one there*)
- What was unusual about the way the disciples began to speak? (*People who spoke different languages could all understand them.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1715 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 17 activity booklet.

*Answers: 1. Pentecost, 2. wind, 3. fire, 4. Holy Spirit, 5. languages*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Share God's Love Today" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the puzzle on page 3 of the chapter 17 activity booklet.  
*Answers: See solution on the third page of this home guide chapter.*

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 17 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Remind** your child that fire and flames are symbols of the Holy Spirit. Encourage your child to find an image of fire on the folder. It can be found in two places.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 17 activity booklet.





## Chapter 17

# Share God's Love Today

When you were baptized, the priest lit a white candle from the Easter candle and gave it to your parents. Your parents might even have kept that candle among your baby keepsakes. The flame of the candle was a sign that in Baptism, the Holy Spirit blessed you in a special way!

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** strengthens and deepens that gift of the Holy Spirit that we first receive in Baptism. In fact, the Holy Spirit strengthens us in Confirmation in the same way that the Holy Spirit strengthened the disciples at that first Pentecost.

In today's reading, we learned that wind is another sign of the Holy Spirit. Can we see wind? No, but we can see what it does—it moves grass, makes trees sway, and sends clouds across the sky. In just the same way, we cannot see the Holy Spirit. But we can see the gifts of the Spirit! We see these gifts when we are more kind and helpful to others, when we grow in our love for God, and so on.

The Holy Spirit makes us stronger in our faith. Just like those first disciples, we are also called to be disciples—to tell others about Jesus. What can you do to share God's love with others today?

### Key Word

**Sacrament of Confirmation** The sacrament by which the Holy Spirit strengthens us as followers of Jesus.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "We Belong to the Church" + activity, pages 18–19
- "Confirmation," page 26

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

### Review

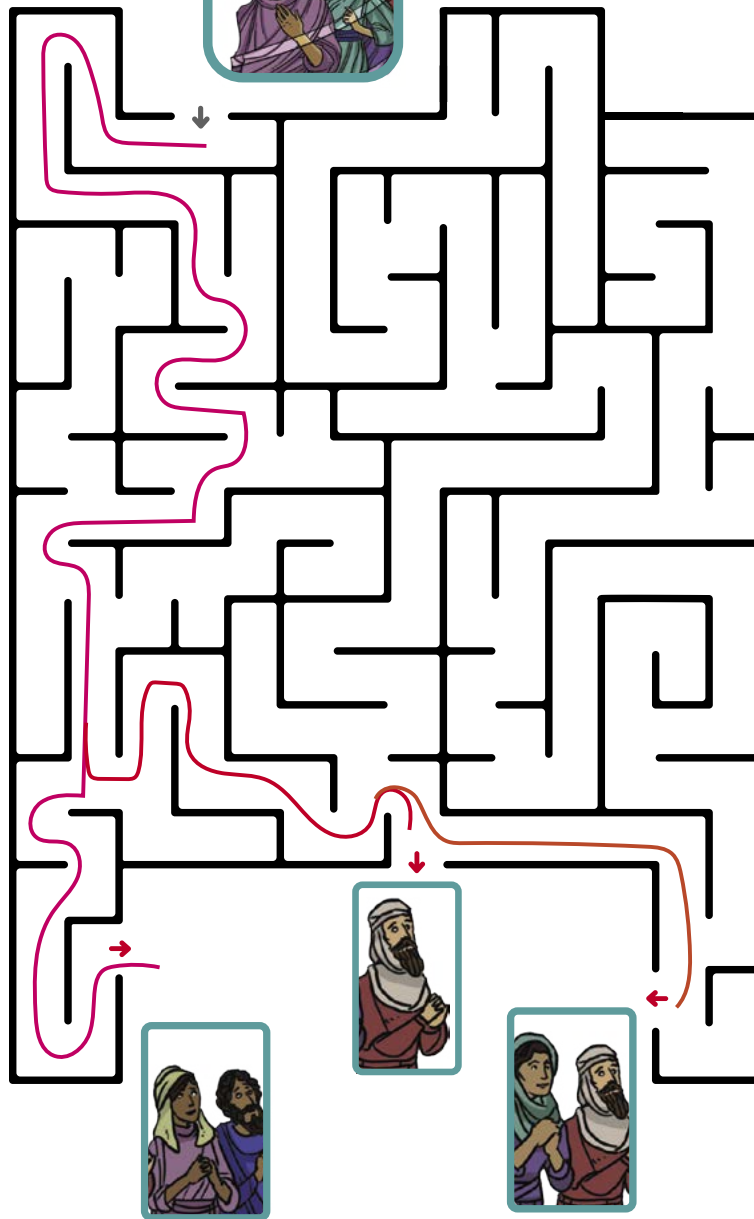
1. What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?
2. How do we see the gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit?
3. What does the Holy Spirit strengthen us to do?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. The Sacrament of Confirmation is the sacrament by which the Holy Spirit strengthens us as followers of Jesus. 2. We see these gifts through actions. 3. The Holy Spirit strengthens us to be disciples and tell others about Jesus. we are called to share God's love with others.



## Start





# Chapter 18

## Discover! Finding Faith in Life

# We Are Disciples

Scripture Focus: Matthew 28:16–20

### Lesson Goals

- to identify the work that the early disciples did
- to state that we bring others to Jesus by learning about him, talking about him, and living the way he taught
- to explain that Jesus promised to be with us and help us live as his disciples

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1520 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 28:16–20).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 18 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 18 activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to share what he or she thinks it means to follow Jesus.

**Tell** your child that together you will learn how to stand up for Jesus, by learning about him, telling others about him, and living as he taught us to live.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1520 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 28:16–20).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Whom did Jesus want the disciples to go to? (*to everyone, in all places*)
- Why did Jesus want the disciples to go to all peoples? (*to make them disciples of Jesus*)
- What did Jesus want his followers to teach all peoples? (*to obey everything that Jesus commanded*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1521 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 18 activity booklet.

*Answers: 1. disciples; 2. heaven, earth; 3. peoples; 4. Father, Son, Holy Spirit; 5. always*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Go and Make Disciples" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 18 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 18 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of Jesus on the left side of page 1520 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 18 activity booklet.





## Chapter 18

# Go and Make Disciples

Who are some heroes in your everyday life? in your family? your school? your town? What qualities make them heroes in your eyes? Which qualities do you want to have also?

The best heroes are **role models**: people we admire and want to be like. In today's reading, Jesus asked his disciples to be role models—to make new disciples by baptizing people and teaching them to obey all of his commands. His early disciples traveled far to teach about Jesus and create new communities of faith. Some wrote the Gospels and the letters in the New Testament. All faced difficult times, challenges, and even dangers, just so they could teach others about Jesus. They were our first Christian role models.

### Key Word

**role models** People with good qualities, whom we admire and want to be like.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "We Belong to the Church" (first paragraph), page 18

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

Jesus wants you to be a role model too! To be a disciple of Jesus, you must speak and act as Jesus did. When you speak kindly, help others, and share the message of Jesus' love, you are doing what Jesus told his first followers to do. You must also keep learning about Jesus, like you are doing right now. The more you know about him, the more you can understand his loving message and share it with others.

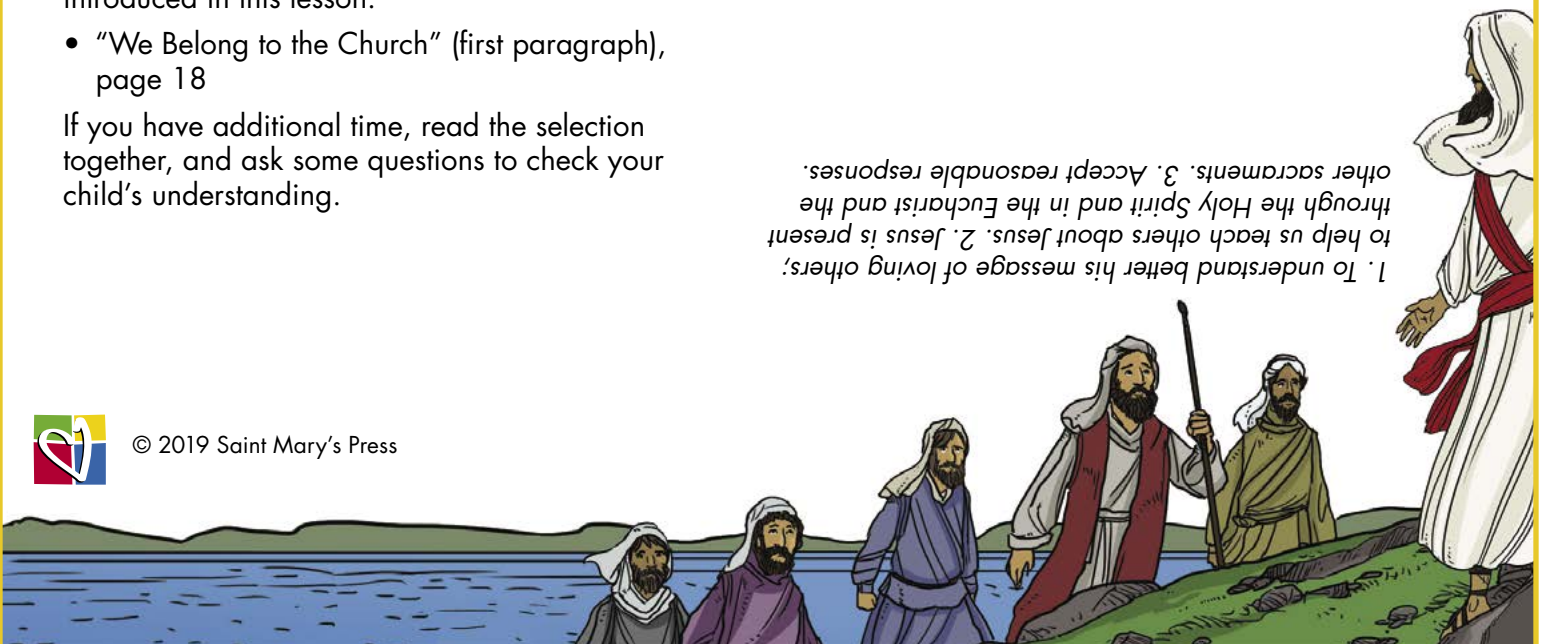
Does this seem like a big task? Jesus' first disciples thought so! But take comfort, because Jesus said that he would be with us always to help us live as his disciples. He is with us through the Holy Spirit, and he is with us every time we receive the Eucharist and the other sacraments. We are never alone.

### Review

1. Why is it important to continue learning about Jesus?
2. How is Jesus with us today as we continue to spread his message to others?
3. What are some things you can do as a disciple of Jesus?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

*1. To understand better his message of loving others;  
to help us teach others about Jesus. 2. Jesus is present  
through the Holy Spirit and in the Eucharist and the  
other sacraments. 3. Accept reasonable responses.*



## Chapter 19

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# We Love Those in Need

Scripture Focus: Matthew 25:34, 37–40

### Lesson Goals

- to indicate that Jesus is a king who identifies with the least important people
- to explain that we should serve those in need as followers of Jesus
- to state that people often have needs that cannot be seen

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1510 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 25:34, 37–40).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 19 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 19 activity booklet.

**Remind** your child that sometimes we see people around us, but we don't really know what they might be going through or what they really need.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores how we must serve and care for those in need, as followers of Jesus.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1510 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 25:34, 37–40).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Who are the righteous? (*good people*)
- What did the righteous people ask the King? (*When did we feed you, give you a drink, welcome you, clothe you, or visit you?*)
- What did the King answer the people? (*Whenever you helped one of the least important people, you helped me.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1511 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 19 activity booklet. *Answers: feed, drink, welcome, least important, me*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Caring for Those in Need" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 19 activity booklet. *Answers: From top picture to bottom: Visit the sick, Clothe the naked, Feed the hungry, Bury the dead*

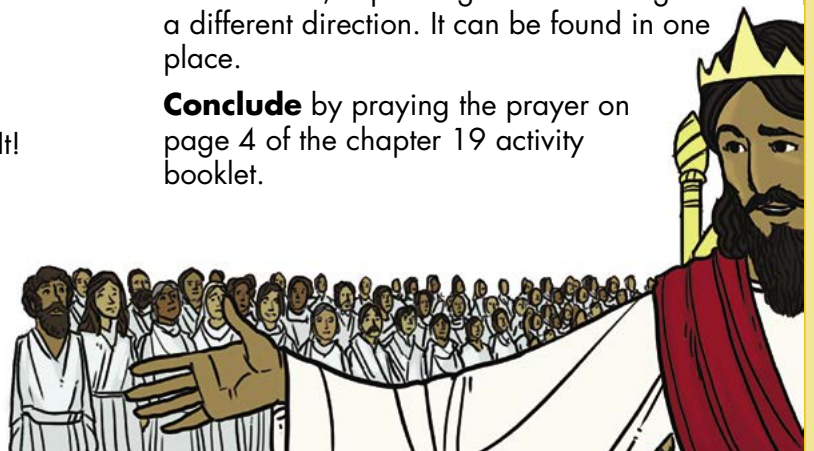
### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 19 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of the person with a crutch on the bottom of page 1510 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder, explaining that it is facing a different direction. It can be found in one place.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 19 activity booklet.





## Chapter 19

# Caring for Those in Need

Think of kings and queens you have met in books and movies. How do rulers act? What makes a good ruler? What makes a bad ruler?

Today's reading talks about a king. Jesus is that king! He explains that we are welcome in the Kingdom of his Father when we are kind and helpful to others. When we care for those most in need, we care for Jesus. This is how we live out our promise to be followers of Jesus.

The things we do to help others in need are called **Works of Mercy**. The actions Jesus mentions in today's reading are the Corporal Works of Mercy: things we do to take care of others' physical needs. We can also perform Spiritual Works of Mercy to

care for people spiritually. You can find both kinds of Works of Mercy on page 1989 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Look at those lists now, and think of some ways you and your family can live out those works. For example, you might not be able to visit those in prison, but you can pray for them.

We can't always see the needs that people have. But everyone has needs, and some people are suffering more than we can see with our eyes. We must always treat people with kindness and care, just as we want them to treat us gently. The next time you encounter a difficult person, stop and pray: "Jesus, I don't know what's going on in their life. Help them, and help me be understanding. Amen."

### Key Word

**Works of Mercy** Things we do to help those in need.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Everyone Has Equal Dignity" + activity, pages 45–46

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

### Review

1. How can the Works of Mercy show our love for Jesus?
2. Who are we caring for when we care for those most in need?
3. How can we be welcome in the Kingdom of God?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. Accept all reasonable responses. 2. When we care for those most in need, we are caring for Jesus. 3. By being kind and helpful to others, especially those most in need.



## Chapter 20

## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# Praying with Mary

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:30–33, 38

### Lesson Goals

- to identify that prayer can help us be open to God's plan
- to state that Mary is an example of complete trust in God
- to recall that we can always call on Mary to help us trust in God

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1574 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 1:30–33, 38).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 20 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 20 activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to share a few thoughts about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and what made her special.

**Tell** your child that together you will learn how Mary responded when God chose her to be the mother of Jesus.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1574 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 1:30–33, 38).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Who sent the angel to Mary? (*God*)
- What message did the angel give Mary? (*God has been gracious to her, and she would give birth to Jesus.*)
- What was Mary's answer to the angel? (*that she is the Lord's servant; yes*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1575 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 20 activity booklet.  
*Answers: afraid, gracious, Jesus, great, Son, servant, happen*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Say, Yes, to God" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 20 activity booklet.  
*Answers: 3, 1, 4, 6, 2, 5*

### Go! (10 minutes)

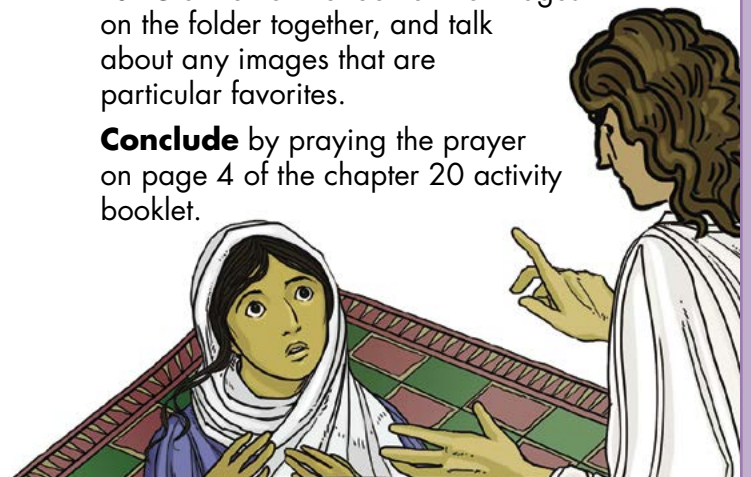
**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 20 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to locate the image of Mary and the angel on the bottom of page 1574 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Encourage your child to find this image on the folder. It can be found in one place.

**Take** a moment to look at the images on the folder together, and talk about any images that are particular favorites.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 20 activity booklet.



## Chapter 20

# Say "Yes" to God

Imagine what it was like to be Mary. An angel appeared in front of her and told her not to be afraid! The angel said that God had chosen her to be the mother of his Son. How would you have reacted? Would you have start laughing? Would you have fainted? Would you have rubbed your eyes to see if someone was playing a joke on you?

In today's reading, we learn that Mary did something amazing. She just said, "Yes!" Mary knew she could trust God and his special plan for her. So she told the angel that she would do what God asked her to do.

God also has a special plan for you. You probably don't know what it is yet! But if you talk to

God every day in prayer, you will understand, more and more, what God plans for you. Then you are also called to trust in God and say yes to his plan. Mary showed us, by her example, how to trust God completely. We can always ask Mary to help us understand God's plan for us, and we can ask her to help us grow in our faith and trust in God.

If you have trouble finding the words to talk to Mary, you can always say the Hail Mary. In this prayer, we recall what the angel said to her, and we ask Mary to pray for us always. Say this prayer with your family today, and open your heart so that Mary, our Mother, can guide you.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Mary Is the Mother of God," page 16

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

### Review

1. What does Mary's yes to God model for us?
2. How can we discover what God has planned for us?
3. What is one prayer we say that is devoted to Mary?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

*1. Complete faith and trust in God. 2. Keep talking to God in prayer. 3. The Hail Mary.*







## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# Celebrating the Saints

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:6–9

## Lesson Goals

- to identify that holiness is happiness according to the teachings of Jesus
- to state that on All Saints' Day we celebrate all the holy people in Heaven, even the ones that the Church has not officially canonized
- to state that our goal in life is to follow Jesus and to become saints, that is, holy people who love God, ourselves, and others

## Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1456 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 5:6–9).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the All Saints' Day activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the All Saints' Day activity booklet.

**Begin** by talking with your child about his or her patron saint, or about another saint important to your family.

**Tell** your child that together you will learn about some ways we can live a happy and holy life so that we will be happy with God in Heaven forever.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1456 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 5:6–9).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What does Jesus say will make us happy? (*We will be happy if our greatest desire, or want, is to do what God wants us to do.*)
- What will happen if we are merciful to others? (*God will have mercy on us.*)
- What will happen if we are pure in heart? (*We will see God.*)
- What will happen if we work for peace? (*God will call us his children.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1457 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the All Saints' Day activity booklet. *Answers: 1. merciful/merciful, 2. pure/see, 3. peace/children*

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Blessed Are You" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

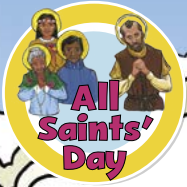
## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the All Saints' Day activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the All Saints' Day activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Explain that the prayer service is a form of litany: a list of similar prayers that all have the same response.





# Blessed Are You

What do you think it means to be holy? Can anyone be holy? Do you know anyone who is holy—who lives the way God asks us to live? Jesus' teachings in today's reading are called **Beatitudes**. The word *beatitude* means "blessed" or "happy." So Jesus is teaching us how to be holy!

Jesus wants us to be happy, now and in Heaven. To show us the way, he gave us eight Beatitudes. Today's reading focuses on four. The first reminds us that if we focus on doing what God wants, he will give us everything we need. The next three mention showing mercy, forgiving hurts, and working for peace. These are three ways to show kindness. Kindness helps everyone to be happy. The saints in Heaven followed these teachings, and now they are happy forever.

On All Saints' Day, we celebrate all the holy people in Heaven: those who loved God, themselves, and others while on Earth. The **Communion of Saints** includes all the saints in Heaven, even the ones that the Church has not officially **canonized** (or recognized). The Communion of Saints also includes all baptized people here on Earth and in Purgatory. That means you are part of the Communion of Saints. As a baptized person, you are also called to follow Jesus and become a saint in Heaven: a holy person who loves God, yourself, and others.

(To read the full list of Beatitudes, see page 1988 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*.)

## Key Words

**Beatitudes** Jesus' teachings on how to live a holy, happy life.

**canonized** Officially recognized as a saint.

**Communion of Saints** The union of all baptized people here on Earth, in Purgatory, and in Heaven.

## We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Church Prays," page 54

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

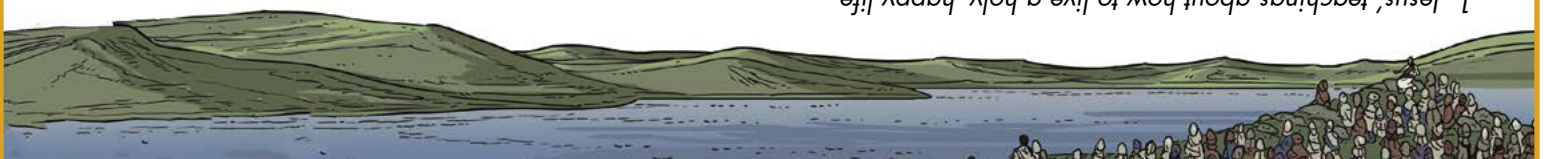
## Review

1. What are the Beatitudes?
2. Whom do we celebrate on All Saints' Day?
3. What is the Communion of Saints?
4. What does being canonized mean?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*



1. Jesus' teachings about how to live a holy, happy life.  
2. We celebrate all the holy people in Heaven. 3. This is the group of all the baptized people, followers of Jesus, here on Earth, in Purgatory, and in Heaven. 4. The Church has officially recognized someone as a saint.





## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# Welcoming Jesus

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:30–33, 38

### Lesson Goals

- to identify the Angel Gabriel as a messenger from God to Mary
- to explain that Mary agreed to become the mother of God's Son, Jesus
- to state that we can prepare for Christmas during Advent by saying "yes" to God

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1574 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 1:30–33, 38).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Advent activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Advent activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to share the names of some people that he or she trusts.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores a time when Mary didn't know what to expect from God's plan, but she trusted that he wanted only good things for her.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1574 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 1:30–33, 38).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What did the angel say to Mary? (*He said that God had been gracious to Mary. He said that Mary would become pregnant and give birth to a son.*)
- What did the angel say about Jesus? (*He said that Jesus would be great and would be called the Son of God.*)
- How did Mary respond? (*She agreed to what the angel said. She said that she was God's servant.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1575 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the Advent activity booklet.  
 Answers: 1. great, 2. afraid, 3. ancestor, 4. gracious, 5. birth, 6. happen, 7. descendants, 8. servant

### Discover! (20 minutes)

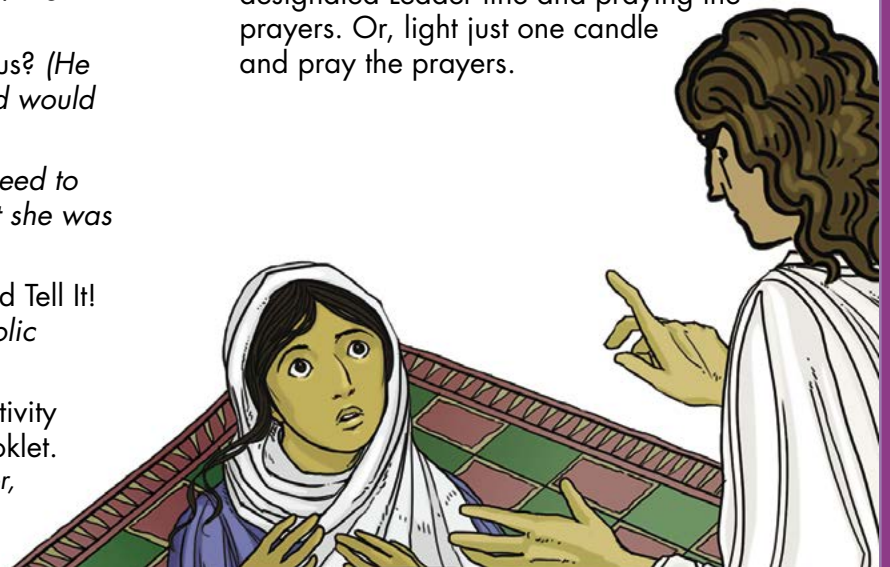
**Read** with your child the article "O Come, Emmanuel!" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the Advent activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the Advent activity booklet. If your family has set up an Advent wreath, use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet, lighting the candles at the designated Leader line and praying the prayers. Or, light just one candle and pray the prayers.







# O Come, Emmanuel!

You know that January is the beginning of each calendar year in our culture. But did you know that Advent is the beginning of the Church year? Every November, we finish the Church year by learning about Jesus Christ, King of Heaven. Then each December, we begin again to learn about Jesus. We start by recalling the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary to announce that she would become pregnant with God's Son, Jesus. *(You may want to refer to the handout "Church Year Calendar," found on the third page of this home guide chapter.)*

During Advent, we practice saying yes to God, just as Mary said yes to his plan in today's reading. You can say yes to God too, by acting the way Jesus wants you to act. You can listen to your parents and be kind to your brothers and sisters. You can pay attention in school, during sports practice, or during

a music lesson. You can open your heart and ask Jesus to come into your life. These are all ways to prepare for Jesus.

Advent is a time of preparation. In the Church **sanctuary**, you will notice that the banners, altar cloths, and priest's vestments all switch from green (the color of Ordinary Time) to the color purple, a color of preparation. Purple reminds us that we are preparing for Christ to come!

Jesus our Savior comes to us in three ways. He first came into the world when Mary gave birth to him. Every year at Christmas, he comes into our hearts and our lives once more. And finally, he will come into our world again at the end of time. At the next Advent Mass, sing with all your heart: O come, O come, **Emmanuel!**

## Key Words

**Emmanuel** A name that means "God-with-us."

**sanctuary** A holy room or space used for worship.

## We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Who Is Jesus?" page 13
- "Mary Is the Mother of God," page 16

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

## Review

1. What do we prepare for during Advent?
2. What color do we use during Advent, and what does that color mean?
3. What are some ways we can practice saying yes to God in Advent?

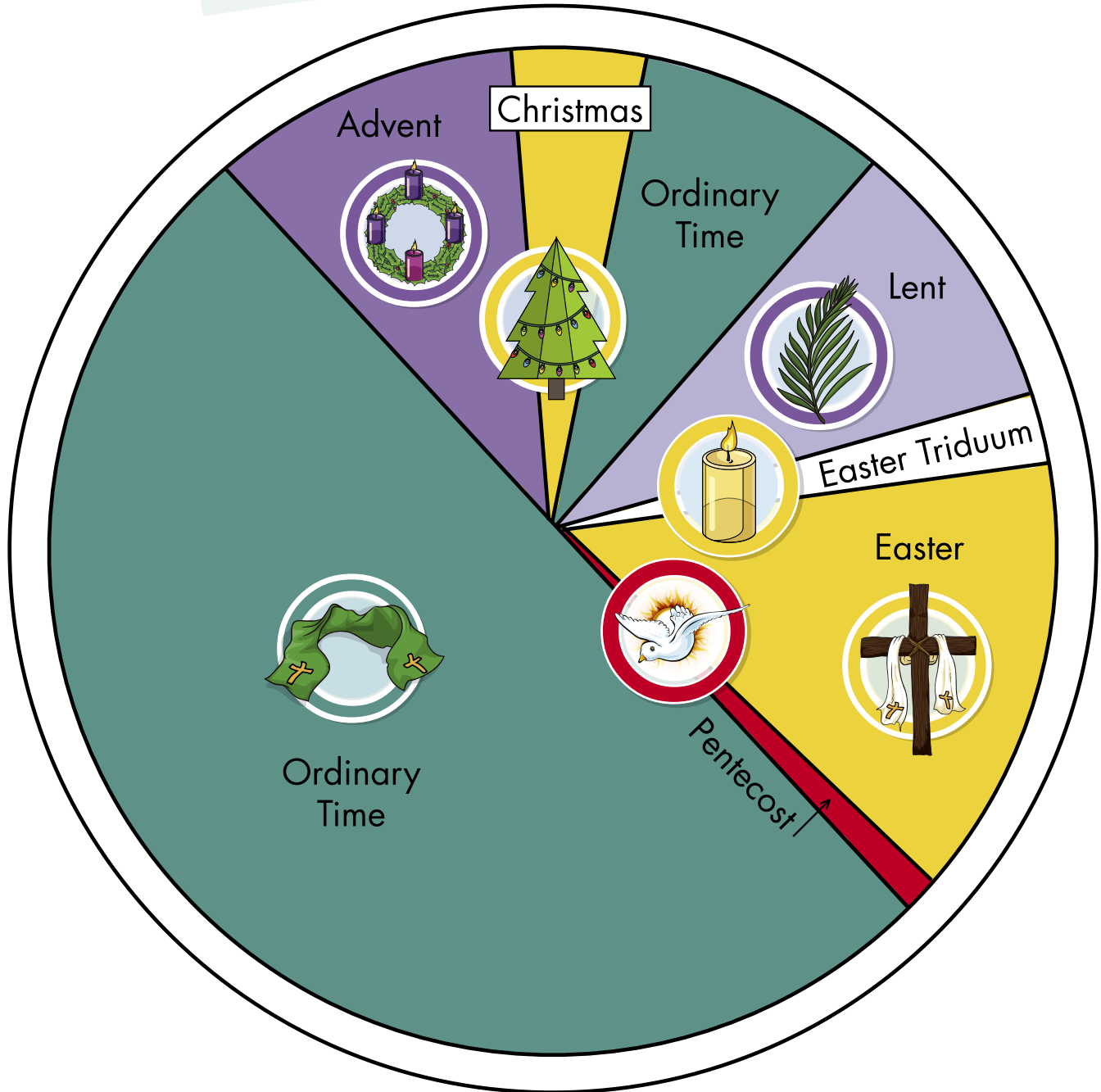
*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

*1. We prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.  
2. We use the color purple for preparation. 3. Affirm all reasonable answers.*





# Church Year Calendar





## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

Scripture Focus: Luke 2:1–7

## Lesson Goals

- to identify that Christmas is the season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus
- to explain that Jesus was born in poor circumstances
- to compare the poverty of Jesus with the poverty of people in need today

## Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1576 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 2:1–7).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Christmas activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Christmas activity booklet.

**Ask** your child what a Nativity set shows us and why we put it up to celebrate Christmas.

**Tell** your child that this lesson focuses on what the Christmas story can tell us about Jesus' life and life for many people in his time.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Scripture on page 1576 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 2:1–7).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem? (*Everyone in the Roman Empire had to go to their hometowns for the census.*)
- What happened while they were traveling? (*Mary gave birth to Jesus.*)
- What did Mary do when Jesus was born, and why? (*See verse 7.*)

**Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the Christmas activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in her or his own words.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the Christmas activity booklet.  
 Answers: 1. Judea, 2. Augustus, 3. Everyone, 4. marriage, 5. laid; The king whom Joseph and Jesus were related to was David.

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Away in a Manger" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the Christmas activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the Christmas activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Lead the prayer service in front of your family's Nativity set, and show your child how to bow his or her head for each response. Explain that it is a custom in the Church to bow our heads whenever we say or hear the name of Jesus.







# Away in a Manger

If you have traveled to visit family or go on vacation, you were probably grateful for a soft, warm bed at the end of your journey. Now imagine that you walked or rode a donkey 90 dusty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. How would you feel when you arrived?

When Jesus was born, everyone in the Roman Empire was traveling for the census—including Mary and Joseph. All the inns were full, plus Mary and Joseph didn't have much money. So the little family could only stay in a stable with a **manger**, where animals slept and ate. Even so, small babies have simple needs: food, clothing, shelter, warmth, and a safe place to sleep. Mary and Joseph used what they had to take care of Jesus when he was born.

## Key Words

**manger** A raised box filled with grain and hay for animals to eat.

**poverty** Not having enough to meet the everyday needs of life.

## We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Who Is Jesus?" page 13

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

Many people today also must make do with very little—especially those who have had to flee their homes due to violence or natural disasters. People who live in **poverty** don't have enough to meet the everyday needs of life, like food, clothing, and shelter.

If we have more than we need, we have a responsibility to help those who do not have enough. Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, is a good time to share the many good things we have. Jesus was born into poverty. We should also look for ways to help people who are poor and vulnerable throughout the year. When we help those most in need, we help Jesus.

## Review

1. Why did Mary and Joseph stay in a stable?
2. What can we do for those who do not have what they need to live today?
3. Why is Christmastime a good time to help those in need?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. There was no room for them in any of the inns, and they didn't have much money. 2. We can share the things we have, especially if we have more than enough. 3. We can honor the birth of Jesus by helping those who live in poverty, as he did on Earth.





**Discover!**  
Finding Faith in Life

# Preparing for Easter

Scripture Focus: Genesis 7:1–5

## Lesson Goals

- to state that Lent is a season of preparation for Easter
- to explain that during Lent we remember that we went through the waters of Baptism and were saved by God
- to state that in Lent we recall that Jesus saves us through his death and Resurrection

## Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 34 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 7:1–5).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Lent activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Lent activity booklet.

**Ask** your child to share a time he or she chose to do the right thing even if it took courage.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores one man who was not afraid to be different, and explain that his courage saved people and animals from a natural disaster.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 34 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 7:1–5).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What did God ask Noah to do? (*He asked him to go into the boat with his whole family, plus pairs of animals.*)
- Why did God ask Noah to do this? (*God wanted enough of each animal after the Flood to reproduce on the Earth.*)
- What was God planning to do? (*God was going to send a flood that would wipe out all living beings, except those Noah had rescued.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 35 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the puzzle on page 2 of the Lent activity booklet.

Answers: See solution on the third page of this home guide chapter.

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Rising to New Life" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the Lent activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the Lent activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Show your child how to do the ritual action for each response.





# Rising to New Life

The idea that a man and his family would take pairs of every animal on a large boat—doesn't it capture your imagination? Perhaps that's why so many books and movies have tried to tell Noah's story. We keep trying to understand the true meaning of this amazing scriptural account.

During Lent, we remember that we went through the waters of Baptism and were saved by God, just as Noah went through the waters of the Flood and was saved. We prepare for Easter by remembering our baptismal promises to follow Christ. Just like Noah followed God and was saved, Baptism gives us the courage to make the choices that God shows us are right.

Lent is a time for the whole Church to recall the **Passion** and death of Jesus and to prepare to

celebrate his **Resurrection** at Easter. His Passion refers to his suffering to save us, and his Resurrection refers to his rising from the dead to new life on Easter. Jesus' Resurrection saved us from sin. During Lent, the Church uses the color purple once again, to remind us that it is a time of preparation. It is also a time of sorrow about sin and Jesus' suffering.

Because we love Jesus, we want to become better Christians. During Lent, we can work on following Jesus with special practices. For example, we give to the Church and to people in need. We practice acts of **penance** to show we are sorry for sin. And we say "no" to some things we want (or give them up), so we can say "yes" to what is really important. What really important thing do you need to say "yes" to?

## Key Words

**Passion** Jesus' suffering to save us.

**penance** Prayers or good actions that show we are sorry for sin.

**Resurrection** Jesus' rising from the dead to new life on Easter.

## We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "God the Father Sent His Son to Us," page 12

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

## Review

1. What is the season of Lent?
2. What are Jesus' Passion and Resurrection?
3. How is Baptism like the story of Noah?
4. What is an act of penance?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. Lent is a time when the whole Church recalls the Passion and death of Jesus and prepares to celebrate his Resurrection at Easter. 2. Jesus' Passion refers to his suffering for us. His Resurrection refers to his act of rising from the dead. 3. Both involve passing through water to be saved by God. 4. An act of penance is a good action that shows we are sorry for sin.







# Answer Key

C	O	M	M	A	N	D	E	D	Q
L	F	O	R	T	Y	H	D	B	S
E	L	L	P	A	I	R	S	O	T
A	O	K	U	N	C	L	E	A	N
N	O	E	B	I	R	D	S	T	Q
B	D	F	A	M	I	L	Y	F	F
D	V	D	C	A	G	Z	U	S	M
K	D	Z	X	L	H	S	A	E	F
F	G	M	T	S	T	B	T	I	L
R	E	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	Y



## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# Jesus Is Risen!

John 20:11–14, 16

### Lesson Goals

- to state that during the Easter season we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead
- to explain that Jesus' friend Mary Magdalene was filled with joy when she recognized that Jesus was resurrected
- to identify that we too are friends of Jesus who celebrate his Resurrection

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1702 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 20:11–14, 16).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Easter activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Easter activity booklet.

**Ask** your child to think about different situations that require people to say someone's name.

**Tell** your child that together you will read the story about the morning of Jesus' Resurrection, when one of his closest followers didn't recognize him until he said her name.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1702 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 20:11–14, 16).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Why was Mary Magdalene crying at Jesus' tomb? (*She believed Jesus' body was missing, and she didn't know where he had been moved.*)
- Whom did Mary see after the angels spoke to her? (*She saw Jesus, but she did not know at first that it was Jesus.*)
- How did Jesus help her recognize him? (*He said her name.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1703 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the Easter activity booklet.  
*Answers: 1. tomb, 2. angels, 3. Lord, 4. Jesus, 5. Mary*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "He Is Risen!" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the Easter activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the Easter activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Tell your child that "Alleluia!" is a way we express joy, especially about the Resurrection. Explain that we do not sing the Alleluia during Lent, but we return to singing it with enthusiasm at Easter. You might also share that standing in Church during the Gospel and during prayers is a sign of respect for God.





# He Is Risen!

How do your parents say your name when they kiss you goodnight? How do they say your name when they scold you? Does anyone call you a special, loving nickname? How do you feel when someone says your name with love?

Names have power. When someone says your name, it shows that he or she knows and cares about you. In today's reading, Mary Magdalene was the first person to meet the Risen Christ. She had felt very sad when she found his tomb empty. But she didn't recognize Jesus—until that powerful moment when he called her name. Then she was filled with joy!

Easter Sunday is the first day of the Easter season on the Church calendar. During the fifty days of the Easter season, we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. We see many symbols of new life: eggs, Easter lilies, bunnies and chicks, and the cross draped in a white cloth. We celebrate because we are Jesus' friends—we love and care about him. And because we are part of his Body, the Church, we know that we also will rise to new life one day.

Jesus called Mary Magdalene's name, and she knew him. He knows each of our names too. And we know his! Today, use Jesus' holy name in prayer to celebrate his Resurrection.

## We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "We Share in the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ" and "The Sunday Eucharist," page 29

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

## Review

1. Why is it important that Jesus said Mary Magdalene's name?
2. What do we celebrate during Easter?
3. How do we know we will one day share in Jesus' Resurrection?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. Jesus showed that he knew and cared about her.  
2. We celebrate Jesus' Resurrection from the dead.  
3. We are part of Jesus' Body, the Church, so we know that we will also rise to new life.







## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# Come, Holy Spirit

Scripture Focus: Acts of the Apostles 2:1–6

## Lesson Goals

- to state that the Feast of Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the disciples
- to identify that the Holy Spirit helps the Church to spread the Good News of Jesus
- to explain that the Holy Spirit was given to us at our Baptism and will strengthen us in Confirmation

## Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1714 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 2:1–6).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Pentecost activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Pentecost activity booklet.

**Ask** your child how fire makes us feel. Focus on how fire brings us together, warms us, and gives us light.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson focuses on how the Holy Spirit brings us God's light, power, and courage.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1714 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 2:1–6).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What did the believers hear and see? What did it mean? (*They heard a noise like a strong wind and saw tongues of fire, signs of the Holy Spirit.*)
- What did the Holy Spirit do? (*The Holy Spirit filled the disciples' hearts and minds.*)
- What did the disciples do as a result? (*They began to talk in other languages.*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1715 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the Pentecost activity booklet.

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Tongues of Fire" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the Pentecost activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the Pentecost activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Light a candle to represent the presence of the Holy Spirit. Perform the ritual action with red, orange, or yellow scarves, or make your own fire streamers by taping colored crêpe paper to sticks.





# Tongues of Fire

Imagine you are one of Jesus' followers, gathered in a room right after Jesus returned to Heaven. Jesus has asked you to go out into the world to tell everyone about him. But Jesus was killed for preaching the Good News! But then he rose again and went back to Heaven! What are you going to do now?

Using your imagination, you can understand how frightened and worried Jesus' followers must have been. Then the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the **Trinity**, arrived. At first, the wind and flames were frightening too! But suddenly the disciples felt great power rushing through them. That power helped them speak in many languages, and it gave them the courage to go out and preach the Good News about Jesus.

**Pentecost** is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the disciples, who then went out to begin the Church. Pentecost was originally the name of a Jewish holiday, fifty days after Passover (Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning "fiftieth"). Our Christian Pentecost falls fifty days after Easter.

The Holy Spirit is the connection of love between the Father and the Son. And the Holy Spirit connects each of us in love with the Trinity and with one another in the Church. We receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the Church at Baptism. The Holy Spirit strengthens us again in the Sacrament of Confirmation. But we can pray for the Holy Spirit to help us any time: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

## Key Words

**Pentecost** The feast that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the disciples.

**Trinity** Three Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activities in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Three Persons in One God" + activity, pages 10–11
- "We Belong to the Church" + activity, pages 18–19

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activities.

## Review

1. What do we celebrate at Pentecost?
2. Who is the Holy Spirit?
3. When do we receive the Holy Spirit?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and Mary. 2. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. 3. We receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism, and the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the Holy Spirit in us.





# Learning about Jesus

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:21–22

## Lesson Goals

- to identify Ordinary Time as the time of year when we learn more about the life of Jesus and his teachings
- to identify that forgiveness is one of the most important teachings of Jesus
- to state that Jesus expects us to forgive an endless amount of times

## Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1492 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 18:21–22).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Ordinary Time activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Ordinary Time activity booklet.

**Invite** your child to brainstorm some of Jesus' teachings, especially anything he taught us to do or to be (loving others, forgiving, making peace).

**Tell** your child that together you will learn about one of Jesus' most important teachings: forgiving others.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1492 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 18:21–22).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What question does Peter ask Jesus?  
(He asks how many times he must forgive someone who sins against him.)
- What answer does Jesus give Peter?  
(Jesus says that we must forgive "seventy times seven" [verse 22] times.)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1493 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the Ordinary Time activity booklet.  
Answer: *Forgive one another.*

## Discover! (20 minutes)

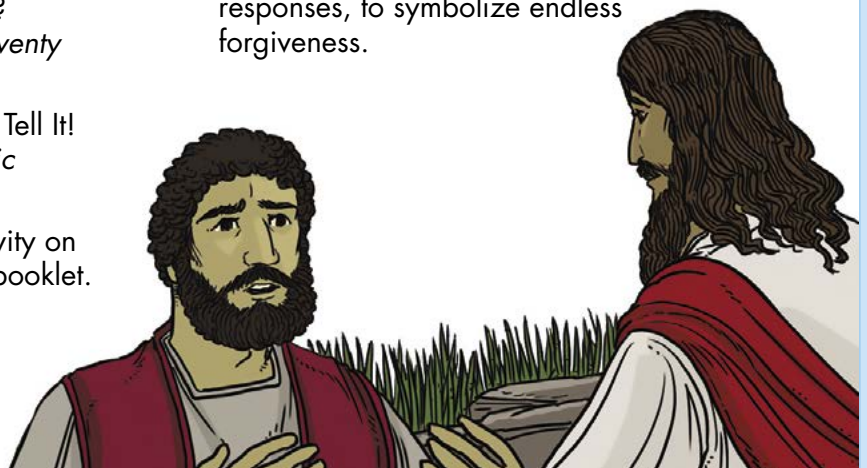
**Read** with your child the article "Seventy Times Seven" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the Ordinary Time activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the Ordinary Time activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Invite your child to hold open hands over her or his heart during the Leader's prayers, and show your child how to extend her or his arms wider and wider during the responses, to symbolize endless forgiveness.







# Seventy Times Seven

What does it mean to be ordinary? Sometimes ordinary means “average.” Sometimes it means “unremarkable.” Sometimes it even means “boring.”

So you might be confused by the season of **Ordinary Time** in the Church’s calendar. Ordinary Time is not boring! It is a season when we learn more about Jesus’ life and teachings. It has two sections: a short period between the Christmas season and Lent (early spring), and a longer period between Pentecost and Advent (summer). We can think of Ordinary Time as “growing time”—just as spring and summer are times of growth in nature. *(You may want to refer to the handout “Church Year Calendar,” found on the third page of this home guide chapter.)*

Today’s Scripture reading is one teaching that we encounter in Ordinary Time. In fact, it is one of Jesus’

most important teachings, about the need to **forgive**. When we forgive, we are letting go of our angry feelings and showing others that we can start again with them. We are remembering that we all make mistakes—and sometimes we need forgiveness too. Of course, if someone is hurting us, we should always reach out to a trusted adult for help.

When Jesus tells us to forgive others “seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:22) times, he’s not telling us to forgive four hundred ninety times. He’s making a point: that we should forgive the way God forgives us, over and over without end. In the Our Father, we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others. We receive God’s forgiveness whenever we ask for it, no matter how many times we ask for it. Jesus is calling us to forgive the same way—endlessly!

## Key Words

**forgive** To let go of our angry feelings, admit we all make mistakes, and show others that we can start again.

**Ordinary Time** The Church season during which we learn about Jesus’ life and teachings.

## We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- “God the Father Sent His Son to Us,” page 12
- “Jesus Became Human to Make Us More Like God,” page 14
- “We Pray the Our Father in Church,” page 48

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child’s understanding.

## Review

1. What is Ordinary Time?
2. What do we do when we forgive someone?
3. How many times is Jesus saying we must forgive?

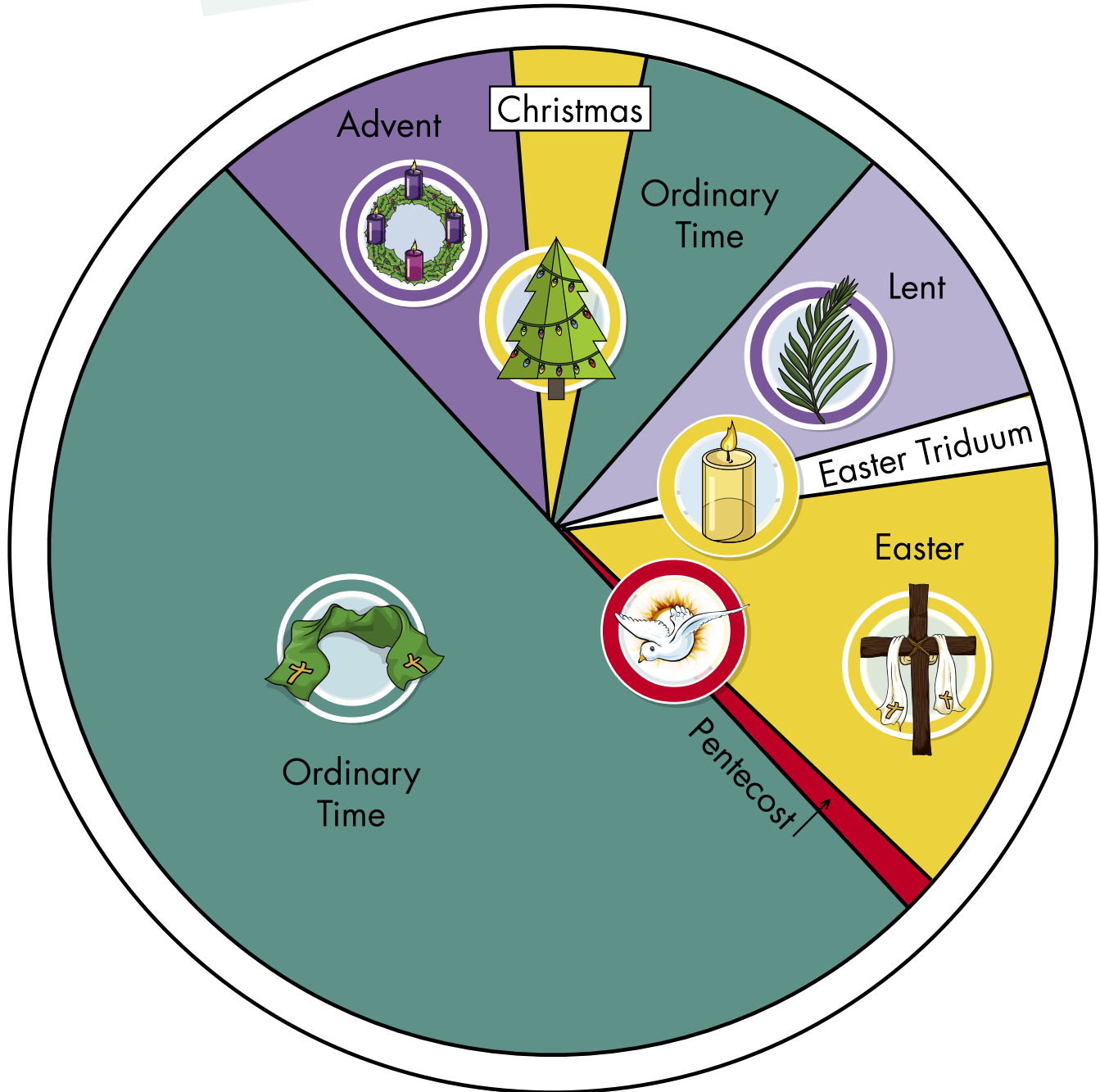
*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*

*1. The Church season when we learn about Jesus’ life and teachings; it lasts from the Christmas season to Lent, and from Pentecost to Advent. 2. We let go of our angry feelings about that person’s wrong action. 3. He is telling us to forgive as God forgives—endlessly.*





# Church Year Calendar





## Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

# Mary Is Our Mother

Scripture Focus: John 2:1–11

## Lesson Goals

- to name the role of Mary as our helper and intercessor
- to state that Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into wine at the request of his mother, Mary
- to identify that we honor Mary with various titles

## Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1650–1651 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 2:1–11).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Mary activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Mary activity booklet.

**Ask** your child to share what she or he knows about Mary.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson explores Mary's role as our helper and intercessor, someone who prays to God for us.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Scripture on pages 1650–1651 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 2:1–11).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What did Mary do when the wine ran out at the wedding where she and Jesus were guests? (See verse 3.)
- How did Jesus respond at first? (See verse 4.)
- What did Mary do then? (See verse 5.)
- What instructions did Jesus give to the servants, and what did he do next? (He told them to fill six jars with water. Then he turned the water into wine.)

**Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the Mary activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the Mary activity booklet.  
 Answers: 1. wedding, Cana; 2. mother, wine; 3. servants, water; 4. water, wine; 5. best

## Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Pray for Us" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

## Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the Mary activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the Mary activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Create a prayer space with an image of Mary, a rose, and a rosary, and lead your child in prayer.







# Pray for Us

Imagine you are a guest at a friend's birthday party—and the cake has run out! How do you think your friend feels? What about his or her family? How would you feel if you received a piece of cake, but another guest didn't? How would you feel if you didn't get to enjoy any cake?

In today's reading, Jesus and Mary attend a wedding where the wine has run out. This is embarrassing for the married couple and their families! So Mary brings the problem to Jesus, because she cares about the wedding couple and their families. And Jesus does as she asks, because he loves her and wants to make her happy.

Turning the water into wine at the wedding in Cana was Jesus' very first miracle. And this miracle was a sign of the miracle of the Eucharist, when ordinary wine changes into the Blood of Christ. This miracle takes place at every Mass.

Just as she asked Jesus to help the family in Cana, Mary brings our needs to Jesus in Heaven and asks him to help us. She **intercedes** for us by praying for us and our needs. We have special **devotions** to Mary because she is Jesus' mother. As part of these devotions, we honor Mary with many different titles. Some titles refer to places associated with a vision of Mary, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Other titles refer to things Mary has done or roles that she serves, such as Queen of Heaven, Seat of Wisdom, and Mother of the Church.

What help do you or someone you know need today? Talk to Mary about it, and ask her to join you in praying to God about that need. Holy Mary, pray for us!

## Key Words

**devotions** Expressions of religious love.

**intercedes** Prays for someone in need.

## We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Mary Is the Mother of God" + activity, pages 16–17

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

## Review

1. Why did Mary ask Jesus to help the family at Cana? Why did Jesus decide to help?
2. What happens when we ask for Mary's prayers? What is this called?
3. What are some of Mary's titles?

*Turns this page upside down to check your answers!*

1. Mary cared how the family felt, and Jesus wanted to make Mary happy. 2. She brings our needs to Jesus. This is called interceding. 3. Accept all reasonable answers, including Mother of the Church, Mother of God, Seat of Wisdom, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Queen of Heaven.



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