

A toucan with a large, colorful beak (yellow, green, and red) is perched on a tree branch. The tree is laden with green leaves and clusters of yellow and red fruits.

Discover!

Finding  Faith in Life

Home Guide

5



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Understanding the Home Guide

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

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

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

Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 120–121 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Exodus 14:1–31).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet. Answers: 1. the Egyptian army, 2. They had been slaves. 3. Don't be afraid. 4. The Lord drove the sea back with an east wind. 5. They stood in awe of the Lord; they had faith in the Lord and in Moses.

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 1 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared. Explain that each week your child will pick a new mission challenge to complete. Tell your child that this is an opportunity to put faith into action and also to reflect on that experience.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet (in the folder) the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

We Come to Jesus

Scripture Focus: John 3:1–20

Lesson Goals

- to explain that Christians follow Jesus, who is the light of the world
- to state that we are born again of water and the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation
- to identify the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1651 and 1656 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 3:1–20).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.
- Cut out the mission strips from the handout "Living the Mission: Faith in Action" found on the third page of this home guide chapter. Mix them randomly in a hat or bowl.

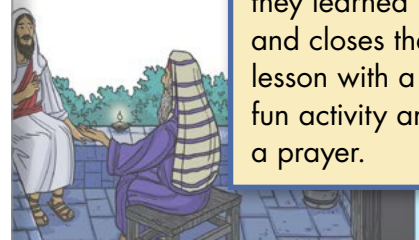
Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Discuss** with your child the kinds of actions we prefer to hide from others, versus actions we are happy for all to see.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson focuses on how Christians follow Jesus, the light of the world, who guides us to do what is true or right.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 120–121 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Exodus 14:1–31).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet. Answers: 1. the Egyptian army, 2. They had been slaves. 3. Don't be afraid. 4. The Lord drove the sea back with an east wind. 5. They stood in awe of the Lord; they had faith in the Lord and in Moses.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 2 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.

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



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

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



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

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

The Jewish leader Nicodemus is confused when Jesus says we must be born again. How can someone be reborn? Jesus explains: We are born physically from human parents. But we must be born again spiritually to enter his Kingdom.

Jesus is describing an **initiation** process that truly makes us his followers. *Initiation* refers to the steps needed to join and commit to a group and its beliefs. The Church has three **Sacraments of Christian Initiation** that make us full members of the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

Baptism is the first sacrament that brings us into the Church. We are reborn of baptismal water and the Spirit—just as Jesus describes in today's reading. Choosing to be a Christian means starting a new life.

Confirmation deepens our relationship with the Church and with Jesus. We renew the promises we made in Baptism, when we were born again of water and the Spirit. Confirmation strengthens the Holy Spirit within us and helps us to live the mission of Christ and the Church.

The Eucharist is the third Sacrament of Christian Initiation. We thank and praise God for all that he gives us. The Eucharist is a memorial of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. When we receive the Body and Blood, under the appearances of bread and wine, we receive Jesus Christ, who

All the sacraments celebrate the **grace** of God, the gift of God through physical signs. We will learn more about the sacraments in future lessons.

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

Key Words

grace God's free and undeserved gift of his life to us.

initiation Process by which someone joins a group and shows commitment to the beliefs and goals of the group.

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, which together make us full members of the Catholic Church.

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:

- "Christ Works in the Liturgy" (first paragraph), page 22
- "The Sacraments," page 28

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

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

Review

1. What are the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation?
2. What do the Sacraments of Christian Initiation do?
3. What is grace?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.
2. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation make us full members of the Catholic Church.
3. God's free and undeserved gift of his life to us.

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

Chapter

1

Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

We Come to Jesus

Scripture Focus: John 3:1–20

Lesson Goals

- to explain that Christians follow Jesus, who is the light of the world
- to state that we are born again of water and the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation
- to identify the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1651 and 1656 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 3:1–20).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.
- Cut out the mission strips from the handout "Living the Mission: Faith in Action" found on the fourth and fifth pages of this home guide chapter. Mix them randomly in a hat or bowl.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Discuss** with your child the kinds of actions we prefer to hide from others, versus actions we are happy for all to see.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson focuses on how Christians follow Jesus, the light of the world, who guides us to do what is true or right.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 1651 and 1656 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 3:1–20).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. A person must be born of water and the Spirit. 2. God loves the world so much that he sent Jesus to save the world. 3. Their deeds are evil. 4. Those who do what is true come to the light.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter

1

**Discover! (20 minutes)**

Read with your child the article “Sacraments of Christian Initiation” on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
Answers: Answers should reflect information from the article the second page of this home guide chapter. See the paragraph for each sacrament.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

Discuss together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.

Read the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 2 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.

Go! (10 minutes)

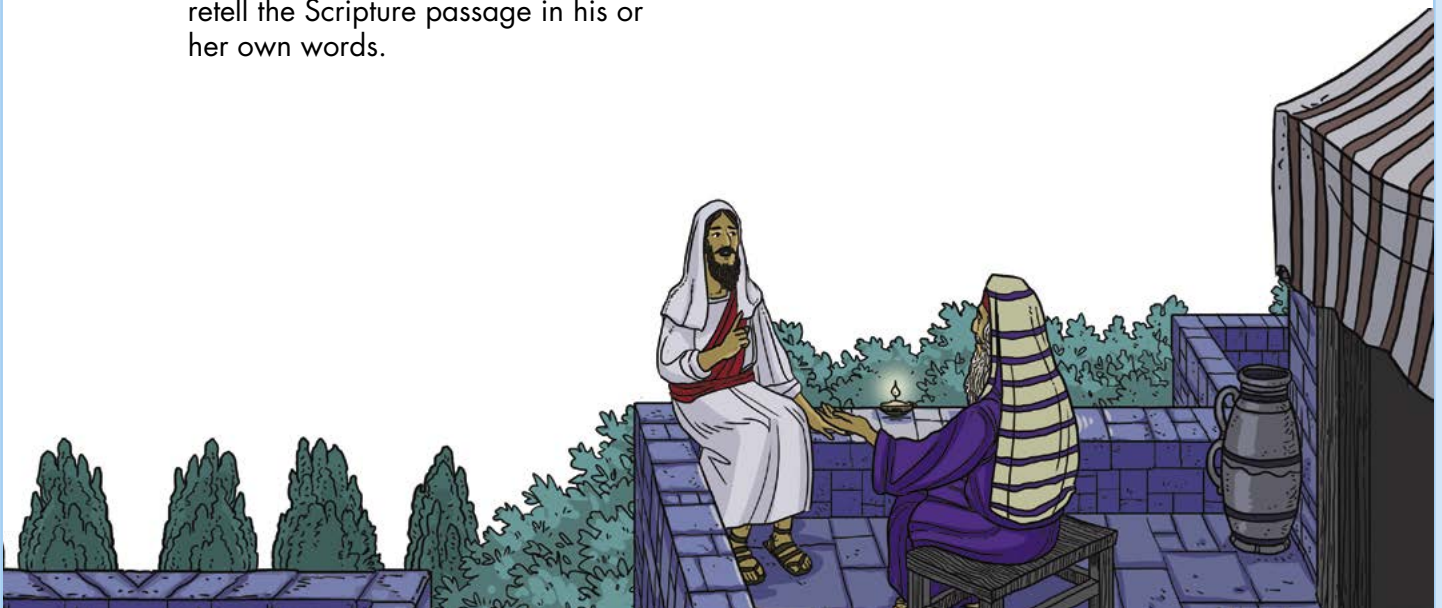
Invite your child to share one thing he or she learned from today’s lesson.

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

Invite your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared. Explain that each week your child will pick a new mission challenge to complete. Tell your child that this is an opportunity to put faith into action and also to reflect on that experience.

Ask your child to locate in the mission booklet (in the folder) the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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



Chapter

1

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

The Jewish leader Nicodemus is confused when Jesus says we must be born again. How can someone be reborn? Jesus explains: We are born physically from human parents. But we must be born again spiritually to enter his Kingdom.

Jesus is describing an **initiation** process that truly makes us his followers. *Initiation* refers to the steps needed to join and commit to a group and its beliefs. The Church has three **Sacraments of Christian Initiation** that make us full members of the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

Baptism is the first sacrament that brings us into the Church. We are reborn of baptismal water and the Spirit—just as Jesus describes in today's reading. Choosing to be a Christian means starting a new life.

Key Words

grace God's free and undeserved gift of his life to us.

initiation Process by which someone joins a group and shows commitment to the beliefs and goals of the group.

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, which together make us full members of the Catholic Church.

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:

- "Christ Works in the Liturgy" (first paragraph), page 22
- "The Sacraments," page 28

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

Confirmation deepens our relationship with the Church and with Jesus. We renew the promises we made in Baptism, when we were born again of water and the Spirit. Confirmation strengthens the Holy Spirit within us and helps us to live the mission of Christ and the Church.

The Eucharist is the third Sacrament of Christian Initiation. We thank and praise God for all that he gives us. The Eucharist is a memorial of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. When we receive the Body and Blood, under the appearances of bread and wine, we receive Jesus Christ, who is truly present.

All the sacraments celebrate and give us the **grace** of God, the gift of his life to us, through physical signs. We will look at all the sacraments in future lessons!

Review

1. What are the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation?
2. What do the Sacraments of Christian Initiation do?
3. What is grace?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.
2. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation make us full members of the Catholic Church.
3. God's free and undeserved gift of his life to us.



Handout

Living the Mission: Faith in Action



Mission 1: Each day this week, write in your mission booklet one thing you are grateful for. Say a silent prayer to God in thanksgiving.

Mission 2: Reflect on someone you might need to say you're sorry to. Write that person's name in your mission booklet, and make a plan to express your sorrow to this person in some way.

Mission 3: Think of one thing you can do to care for creation in a new way this week. Take that action and write a few notes in your mission booklet about what it was like.

Mission 4: Share some of your thoughts and feelings about what it means to you to be a follower of Jesus with one person this week. Write in your mission booklet how that conversation went.

Mission 5: Find a traditional prayer that you like (you can find some on pages 1990–1997 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*). Make a point to say this prayer each morning this week and note the date and time in your mission booklet.

Mission 6: Identify one change you can make in your behavior to minimize or end a conflict with someone. Write in your mission booklet about that change, and take that action.

Mission 7: Write in your mission booklet the names of five people who are important to you. Make a plan this week to tell each of these people how important they are to you.

Mission 8: Set aside 5 minutes for silent prayer time each day this week. Ask God for those things you need in your life. Write these times in your mission booklet, and make some notes about what you asked God for.

Mission 9: Invite someone outside of your group of friends to join you in a game or activity. Write some notes in your mission booklet about how it felt to extend this kindness to someone.

Mission 10: Encourage your family to create a donation box or piggy bank. Invite your family members to contribute to this each week. Write in your mission booklet the name of an organization you will donate this money to at the end of the month.



Chapter

1

Handout



Mission 11: Ask your teacher or parent to find next Sunday's Scripture readings for you. Read them before you go to Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday. Write in your mission booklet what you learned from reading these passages in advance.

Mission 12: Say a prayer each night for those who are suffering or struggling in life. Place a check mark in your mission booklet each time you have said a prayer.

Mission 13: Think of one new way you can be of service to your family this week. Write that in your mission booklet and place a check mark next to it when you have taken that action.

Mission 14: Create a list of five acts of kindness in your mission booklet. Choose one of these actions and do it this week.

Mission 15: Write in your mission booklet the names of several people who are closest to you. Share with them how you see God through them.

Mission 16: Interview an adult Christian this week, and ask this person what it means for him or her to be a follower of Jesus. Take a few notes in your mission booklet.

Mission 17: Think of three ways you can better take care of your body this week, and write them in your mission booklet. Choose one of these ideas, and see if you can take action for a whole week.

Mission 18: Ask your family to help you name some of your gifts. Write them in your mission booklet. Take some time to share the gifts you see in other family members with them.

Mission 19: Think of a challenge you might have in your life. Write in your mission booklet the name of a family member or other trusted adult you can ask for advice in dealing with your challenge. Talk to that person this week.

Mission 20: Do something this week that focuses your time and energy on helping other people. Write that action in your mission booklet.



Chapter 2

Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

We Celebrate Our Baptism

Scripture Focus: Exodus 14:1–31

Lesson Goals

- to review that in Baptism we promise to live as faithful Christians
- to identify some of the key ritual actions of the Sacrament of Baptism
- to describe the effects of the Sacrament of Baptism

Parent Preview

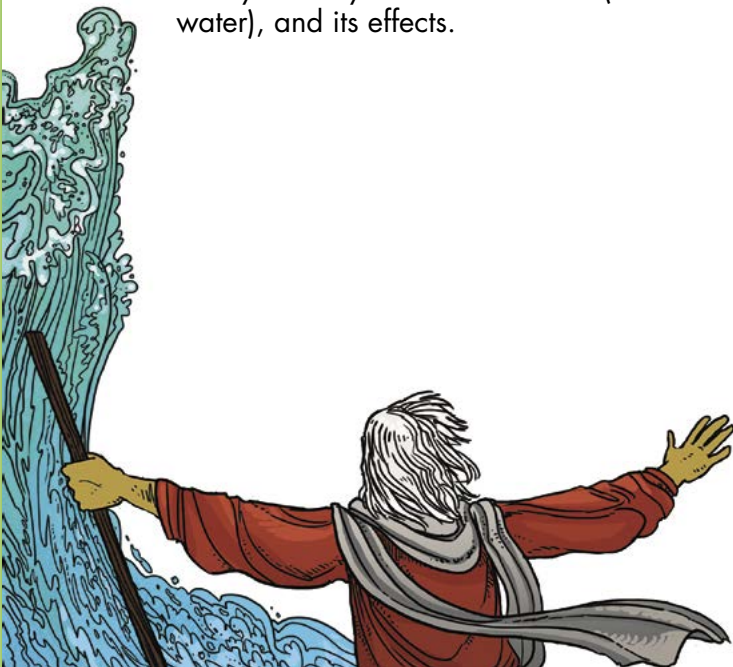
- Review the Scripture on pages 120–121 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Exodus 14:1–31).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to share all the ways he or she used water today. Conclude by discussing why water is so important for our lives.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that together you will learn about the Sacrament of Baptism, its key ritual symbols and actions (like water), and its effects.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 120–121 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Exodus 14:1–31).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet. *Answers:* 1. the Egyptian army, 2. They had been slaves. 3. Don't be afraid. 4. The Lord drove the sea back with an east wind. 5. They stood in awe of the Lord; they had faith in the Lord and in Moses.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 2 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 2

Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "Sacrament of Baptism" on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to look at the activity on the top part of page 3 of the chapter 2 activity booklet. Ask your child to read the six questions silently and to think about each question. Encourage your child to ask about any unfamiliar words or ideas in the baptismal promises.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.



Chapter 2

Sacrament of Baptism

Can you spot the similarities between today's reading and Baptism? The Red Sea reminds us of the water of Baptism. The Israelites walked through this water to find new life, and Baptism brings us into new life as God's child. And crossing the Red Sea freed the Israelites from slavery, just as Baptism frees us from sin.

The Sacrament of Baptism has many meaningful ritual actions. Here are a few:

- **Sign of the Cross:** Made on the forehead of the child by the priest and the godparents.
- **Baptismal promises:** Questions and answers about the faith, in which we (or our parents and godparents) promise to live as faithful Christians.
- **Holy oil:** Used by the priest to make the Sign of the Cross on the person, to show that he or she is sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Key Words

baptismal promises Questions and answers about the faith made by the person being baptized (if old enough) or by his or her parents and godparents (if the child is too young).

Original Sin The sin passed on to each of us from Adam and Eve because of their disobedience to God.

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 Sacrament of Baptism," page 28

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

- **Water:** Poured over the head of the person being baptized, while the priest proclaims: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (*Rite of Baptism for Children*).

In Baptism, we become children of God, members of the Church. Baptism connects us to all others who have been baptized with water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The waters of Baptism wash away all sin—both **Original Sin**, passed to each of us from Adam and Eve, and also personal sin. As a result, we are able to share in God's divine life and become temples of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism marks us all as belonging to Christ. No matter what we do, nothing can erase this mark!

Review

1. What are some ritual actions of the Sacrament of Baptism?
2. What do we promise in Baptism?
3. What are some effects of the Sacrament of Baptism?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. The Sign of the Cross, the baptismal promises, the anointing with holy oil, and the pouring of water. 2. We promise to live as faithful Christians. 3. Baptism washes away all our sin, including Original Sin. It makes us children of God and members of his Church. It connects us to all who have been baptized. We share in God's divine life, and we become temples of the Holy Spirit. Baptism marks us as belonging to Christ.



Chapter 3

Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

The Eucharist Helps Us Live

Scripture Focus: 1 Corinthians 10:16–17

Lesson Goals

- to define the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Christian life
- to indicate that in the Eucharist we share in the Body and Blood of Christ
- to state that the Eucharist gives us strength to live the Christian life

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1804 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Corinthians 10:16–17).
- 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.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to think of two different brands of soda or two different kinds of fruit. Invite your child to brainstorm what makes the two items similar and different.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson challenges us to see beyond surface differences to focus on what truly unites us, just as Saint Paul called the Corinthians to do.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1804 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Corinthians 10:16–17).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 3 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. the Blood of Christ, 2. the Body of Christ, 3. because we eat from the same loaf
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 3 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 3 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in her or his own words.



Chapter 3

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "Eucharist: Source and Summit" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 3 activity booklet.
Answers will vary.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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



Chapter 3

Eucharist: Source and Summit

Think about a recent conflict in your family—like what to have for dinner, or what movie to see. How did your family resolve the issue?

In today's reading, Saint Paul addresses the Christians in Corinth, who came from diverse cultures and viewpoints. He reminded them to focus on what united them: the Eucharist!

Everything in our Christian life comes from the Eucharist, and everything leads back to it. That is why we say the Eucharist is the source and **summit** of the Christian life. The word *Eucharist* comes from a Greek word meaning "thanksgiving." In the Eucharist, we give thanks and praise for all that God has given us.

Today's reading also reminds us of a mystery of the Church: the **Real Presence** of Jesus in the Eucharist. We might see and taste bread and wine. But through **transubstantiation** ("a change of substance"), the bread and wine become

the Body and Blood of Christ. This happens through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words of the priest, repeating Jesus' own words at the Last Supper: "This is my Body. . . . This is . . . my Blood" (*Roman Missal*).

When we receive the Eucharist, we are strengthened to live the Christian life. We forge a powerful connection with Christ. Our venial sins are forgiven, and we are granted new strength to resist temptation. And we unite with all of Jesus' followers in the Church: those in Heaven, on Earth, and in Purgatory. Truly, the Eucharist connects and unites us, no matter what our differences are.

With whom are you experiencing conflict or differences right now? How can the Eucharist help you recall what you have in common with this person?

Key Words

Real Presence The mystery that Jesus is truly present in the Body and Blood of the Eucharist.

summit High point, as of a mountain.

transubstantiation A change of substance or essence.

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 Sacrament of the Eucharist," page 33

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 *Eucharist* mean?
2. What happens to the bread and wine at Mass?
3. What are some of the effects of the Eucharist?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Thanksgiving. 2. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3. We are connected with Christ; our sins are forgiven; we connect with all Christians everywhere; we are strengthened to live as Christians.



We Protect the Environment

Scripture Focus: Genesis 1:1–2:4

Lesson Goals

- to indicate that God created all things out of love
- to explain that we are given free will to choose to love God and creation
- to identify that creation is a gift from God that we are called to care for and respect

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 21 and 24 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:1–2:4).
- 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.
- ☐ **Take** turns naming something God created. Continue for a few minutes or until you both run out of ideas.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that together you will learn that God created everything and that God loves all creation.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 21 and 24 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Genesis 1:1–2:4).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 4 activity booklet. Answers: 1. *The Earth was formless and desolate.* 2. *the Spirit of God,* 3. *They will be like us and resemble us.* 4. *the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small,* 5. *God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased.*
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.
- ☐ **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.



Chapter 4

Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "Created Out of Love" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 4 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 4 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 4 activity booklet.



 Chapter
4

Created Out of Love

Today's reading really grabs your imagination! If you close your eyes, you can almost see the Earth light up, and then watch the sky appear overhead. You can hear the roar of the oceans as they flood into place. You might be frightened as the sun and moon pop into being. You watch all the creatures of the land and sea, and you hear all the birds of the air. And then the first human beings appear, and God's voice tells them to care for all he has created.

The Creation account in Genesis is not meant to explain scientific facts. Rather, it teaches us that God created everything intentionally and out of love. He then gave all creation to human beings as a gift and called us to care for and respect his creation.

Today the Church's social teaching reminds us that it is important to care for the

environment: all creatures, the Earth, and one another. Human beings are connected to, and depend on, the entire natural world. So we must use our resources responsibly. How we treat the environment affects everyone today, as well as the quality of life of all future generations.

God also created each of us with **free will**—the ability to freely choose how to live our life and whether to love God and creation. Free will means that we can make choices each day, large and small, that can make a huge impact on the environment.

Each of us makes a difference! What does your family do to care for the environment? What can you start doing?

Key Word

free will The ability to freely choose how to live our life and whether to love God and his creation.

We Know and Live Our Faith

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

- "Who Created the Universe?" and "How Do We Know That God Exists?" page 6

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

Review

1. What does the Creation account teach us?
2. Why is it important to care for God's creation?
3. What are some choices we could make each day that would show our love for God's creation?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. God created everything out of love. 2. God called us to do so. Also, human beings are connected to, and dependent on, the environment. 3. Answers will vary.



Chapter 5

Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray

Scripture Focus: Romans 8:26–30

Lesson Goals

- to identify that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray
- to state that when we pray, the Holy Spirit strengthens us to do God's will
- to recall that the Holy Spirit first came upon us at Baptism

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1779 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Romans 8:26–30).
- 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.
- ☐ **Help** your child think about and brainstorm ways the Holy Spirit helps us (by inspiring good thoughts and actions, by helping us think through problems, etc.).
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores how the Holy Spirit helps us to pray.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1779 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Romans 8:26–30).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. The Spirit comes to help us. The Spirit pleads for us. 2. God works for good in all things. 3. God set them apart to be like his Son. 4. God shares his glory.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 5 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 5

Discover! (20 minutes)

Read with your child the article "Holy Spirit, Help Us Pray" on the third 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 at the top of page 3 of the chapter 5 activity booklet. *Answers: See solution below.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

Go! (10 minutes)

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

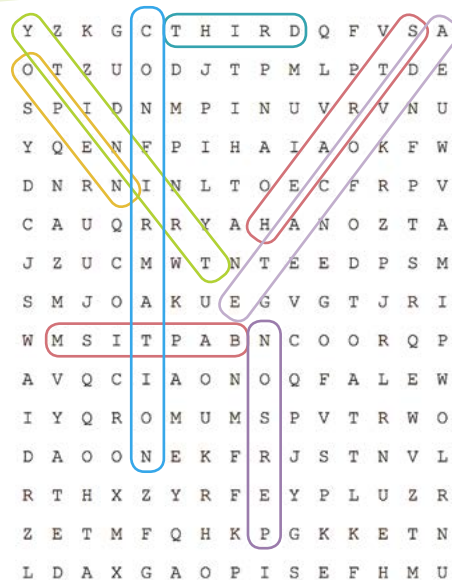
Choose one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 5 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

Invite your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

Ask your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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

Answer Key



Chapter 5

Holy Spirit, Help Us Pray

By now you know that the **Holy Spirit** comes upon us at Baptism, when we are baptized in water and the Spirit. The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens us in the Holy Spirit, who helps us do God's will and live the mission of Christ and the Church. And in the previous lesson, you learned that the Holy Spirit was present at the very moment of God's Creation, hovering over the Earth, as the Book of Genesis tells us.

So who, exactly, is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person in the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We sometimes describe the Holy Spirit as the love between the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the same love that God shares with us. The Holy Spirit gives us life in God when we are reborn in Baptism.

Key Words

Advocate Helper; one name Jesus gave to the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit The Third Divine Person in the holy Trinity; the Advocate, or Helper, who works in us and through us for good.

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:

- "What Is Prayer?" page 64

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

The Holy Spirit is always with us—working in us, and through us, for the good of all creation. The Holy Spirit helps us pray, gives us courage to follow Jesus, and shows us opportunities to help others. That is why Jesus called the Holy Spirit the **Advocate**, which means "helper."

That is why we must make sure our hearts and lives are welcoming places for the Holy Spirit. We were created with free will, so we can and must choose to be open to the Holy Spirit.

Today, ask the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and mind: "Come, Holy Spirit, come."

Review

1. When did we first receive the Holy Spirit?
2. When is the Holy Spirit with us?
3. In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!



The Spirit Fills Us

Scripture Focus: Acts of the Apostles 1:4–5, 8

Lesson Goals

- to explain that the Holy Spirit is a gift of God's love to us
- to identify that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in Confirmation
- to recall that Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation into the Church

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1709 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 1:4–5, 8).
- 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.
- ☐ **Discuss** with your child the last gift she or he received and how your child used it.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores an important gift from God: the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1709 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 1:4–5, 8).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. Do not leave Jerusalem and wait for the gift I told you about. 2. Jesus' Father (God the Father), 3. the Holy Spirit, 4. power, 5. Be witnesses for Jesus.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 6 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in her or his own words.



Chapter 6

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "The Holy Spirit, God's Gift to Us" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.
Answers will vary.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 6 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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



 Chapter
6

The Holy Spirit, God's Gift to Us

What is your favorite fruit? You might think of apples, oranges, grapes, or bananas. A fruit is any plant growth that carries the seeds of that plant. In other words, the fruit carries the life of the plant into the world and into the future.

The reading for today explains that the Holy Spirit is the gift of God's love to us. Jesus promised this gift so that we could be his witnesses. To help us, the Holy Spirit forms in us the **fruits of the Spirit**. In this case, a *fruit* is the effect we gain from a particular activity. The fruits of the Spirit are qualities that help us become better people who live like Jesus and carry his message into the world.

In his Letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul names these fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

humility, and self-control. The Church's Tradition adds three more fruits: generosity, modesty, and chastity.

Just as apples grow on trees, we can see the fruits of the Spirit in great people of the faith, such as **saints** and **martyrs**. But all of us gain the fruits of the Spirit by being close to the Holy Spirit and letting him work in us. The Holy Spirit strengthens us in Confirmation, one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Confirmation makes us full members of Christ's Body, the Church.

Look again at the list of fruits of the Spirit. Which one do you struggle with, and why? Pray to ask God to strengthen that fruit in you today.

Key Words

fruits of the Spirit Qualities that help us go forward to become better people and to live more like Jesus; the fruits include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self-control, generosity, modesty, and chastity.

martyrs Those who die for the faith.

saints Baptized people who live holy lives following Christ; some are officially recognized by the Church.

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 Sacrament of Confirmation," page 30

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

Review

1. Why did God give us the gift of the Holy Spirit?
2. What is a Fruit of the Spirit?
3. What happens during Confirmation?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Because he loves us; to empower us to be witnesses of Jesus. 2. A quality that the Holy Spirit gives us and forms in us to help us be better people. 3. The Holy Spirit is strengthened in us.



The Spirit Anoints Us

Scripture Focus: 1 Samuel 16:1–13

Lesson Goals

- to explain that anointing is a sign of being chosen and empowered by God
- to identify that followers of Christ are anointed in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders
- to state the key ritual actions of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Parent Preview

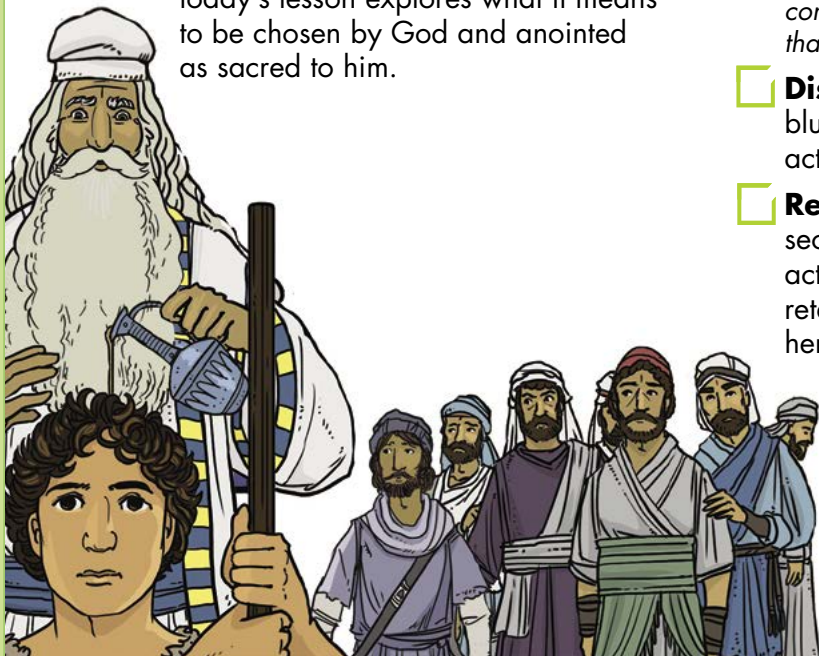
- Review the Scripture on pages 388–389 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Samuel 16:1–13).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to recall the use of oil in everyday life (lotion, antiseptic lotion, oil to help engines run smoothly).
- ☐ **Point** out that the Church uses oil to anoint people. Tell your child that today's lesson explores what it means to be chosen by God and anointed as sacred to him.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 388–389 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Samuel 16:1–13).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. a judge and prophet, 2. Saul and David, 3. took olive oil and anointed David, 4. The Spirit of the Lord took control of David and was with him from that day on.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 7 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 7

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "Sacrament of Confirmation" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 7 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. Presentation of Candidates, 2. Renewal of Baptismal Promises, 3. Laying on of Hands, 4. Anointing with Oil, 5. the words "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit," 6. Sign of Peace

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 7 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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

Chapter 7

Sacrament of Confirmation

You have probably participated in choosing sides for a game in gym class. What does it feel like to be chosen first? last?

God considered all of Jesse's sons before choosing David to be king of Israel. Samuel **anointed** David right away. The Church still anoints with oil as a sign that someone has been chosen and empowered by God for a specific purpose.

In Baptism and Confirmation, we are anointed with **sacred chrism**: balsam-infused olive oil that has been blessed by the bishop. Sacred chrism is also used during the Sacrament of Holy Orders to anoint newly ordained deacons, priests, or bishops—men called to serve the Church in special ways.

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the anointing is one of six ritual actions that signifies the importance of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the mission for which God has chosen us:

1. Presentation of candidates to the bishop
2. Renewal of baptismal promises by the candidates (recall the baptismal promises from chapter 2)
3. Laying on of hands by the bishop, who asks the Holy Spirit to come upon the candidates
4. Anointing with oil, in which the bishop makes the Sign of the Cross with sacred chrism on the forehead of each candidate
5. "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" (*Order of Confirmation*), words said by the bishop as he anoints each candidate
6. Sign of Peace, shared between the bishop and each candidate

You were anointed with sacred chrism at your Baptism. What does it feel like to know you have been chosen and anointed by God?

Key Words

anointed Marked something or someone as sacred, or chosen.

sacred chrism Olive oil, mixed with balsam, that has been blessed by the bishop.

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 Rite of Confirmation," page 31

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

Review

1. Why does the Church anoint people?
2. In which sacraments are we anointed as chosen by God?
3. What are the ritual actions of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. As a sign that those people are chosen by God and have a specific purpose. 2. Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. 3. Presentation of candidates, renewal of baptismal promises, laying on of hands, anointing with oil, the words "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit," and the Sign of Peace.



The Spirit Changes Us

Scripture Focus: Acts of the Apostles 9:1–19

Lesson Goals

- to identify Saul as a persecutor of Christians who became a great Christian missionary
- to explain that change is always possible with the help of the Holy Spirit
- to state that the Holy Spirit strengthens us to share in Jesus' mission

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1728 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 9:1–19).
- 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 recall what he or she was like in first grade. Ask how your child has changed, and how life has changed around him or her.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores how spiritual changes within us can inspire us to make changes in our life and actions.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1728 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 9:1–19).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 8 activity booklet. *Answers:*
 1. He was going to find followers of Jesus, arrest them, and bring them back to Jerusalem. 2. A light flashed, Saul fell to the ground, and he heard a voice. 3. Saul could not see. 4. Saul was able to see again. 5. Saul was baptized.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 8 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 8 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 8

Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "Holy Spirit, Change Us" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 8 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. blind, 2. fish scales, 3. Saul, 4. light, 5. change, 6. baptized, 7. persecute, 8. Conversion

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 8 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 8 activity booklet.



Chapter 8



Holy Spirit, Change Us

Many of us experience events that make us realize we need to change something in our lives. For example, someone who survives a heart attack might begin to eat differently. Someone who loses a job might discover that he always felt called to teach English overseas. The popular kid might change schools and realize that she needs to try new activities to meet new friends.

The Pharisee Saul made his reputation as a persecutor of Christians. He was on his way to Damascus to round up Jesus' followers. Suddenly, a light blinded him, and a voice asked, "Why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). This big event put Saul on the path to **conversion**, or change, to become the man we know today as Saint Paul, the great Christian missionary.

As human beings, we are called to a constant process of conversion—a spiritual

change in attitude, actions, or viewpoints.

Spiritual changes happen whenever we evaluate our attitudes and actions to make sure we follow Christian teachings.

Jesus' mission was to share God's saving love. He called us to conversion by reminding us to repent and be forgiven, and he showed us how to love God and one another. The Holy Spirit helps us by strengthening us to share in this mission.

Each day, we must challenge ourselves to be better and more loving. Even when change is difficult, the Holy Spirit is with us. The Spirit helps us change our lives, in big and small ways, to be more like Jesus. Call on the Holy Spirit to help you examine your conscience today. What can you change to become more like Christ?

Key Word

conversion A change in attitude, actions, or viewpoints, especially a spiritual change.

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:

- "Grace" and "Grace and Freedom," page 42
- "Grace and Merit," page 43

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

Review

1. What does conversion mean?
2. How does the Holy Spirit help us?
3. What was Jesus' mission, to which he called us?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Changing an attitude, action, or viewpoint, especially spiritually. 2. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to be more like Jesus and to continue his mission. 3. To share God's saving love, to repent sins and be forgiven, and to love God and one another.



The Spirit Makes Us Children of God

Scripture Focus: Romans 8:14–17

Lesson Goals

- to explain that the Holy Spirit makes us children of God
- to state that the Spirit helps us to live without fear and recognize God as our Father
- to identify that all people are created in the image of God with inherent dignity

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1778 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Romans 8:14–17).
- 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 take a moment to close her or his eyes and imagine God's love as a color or light, pouring over the whole world.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that together you will recall that God's love includes everyone, and that we are called to love everyone too.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1778 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Romans 8:14–17).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 9 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. Those who are led by the Spirit, 2. God's children, 3. Father, 4. our spirits
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 9 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 9 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 9

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "Life and Dignity" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 9 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 9 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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



Chapter 9

Life and Dignity

We often hear that we are made “in the image of God.” Does that mean God has your skin color, your friend’s hair, and your aunt’s teeth? No, of course not. What we are saying is that God created us with dignity and love. He made each person worthy of respect—whether we like someone personally or not.

The Holy Spirit made us children of God. The Holy Spirit teaches us to live without fear because we recognize God as our Father. And because we are children of God, we have a responsibility to recognize that everyone is made in the image of God.

This is the core teaching underlying all of **Catholic social teaching**, which is the teaching of the Church regarding our responsibilities to society. This teaching is

summarized in seven principles, the first of which is “Life and Dignity of the Human Person.” This principle reminds us that everyone is valuable. Everyone has a purpose. All the other principles in Catholic social teaching build on this single principle to help us respect other people and the Earth more fully.

Because each person is created by God, in his image, everyone shares a **right to life**. That means everyone has a right to live from the beginning of life—at conception, before birth—to natural death.

Whose human dignity are you having trouble recognizing—perhaps at home or at school? Ask Jesus today to help you recognize that person as your brother or sister in Christ, another child of God.

Key Words

Catholic social teaching The teaching of the Church regarding our responsibility to society, summarized in a list of seven principles that help us to respect other people and the Earth more fully.

right to life The right to live from the beginning of life (conception) to natural death.

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 Good of the Human Person,” page 60
- “The Equal Dignity of the Human Person,” page 61

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

Review

1. What is the Catholic social teaching principle that calls us to treat everyone with respect?
2. What does this principle call us to recognize in each person?
3. What does the Holy Spirit make us?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person. 2. Everyone is made in the image of God and everyone deserves respect. 3. Children of God.



Chapter 10

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

The Spirit Gives Us Gifts

Scripture Focus: 1 Corinthians 12:1–11

Lesson Goals

- to explain that the Spirit gives different gifts to each person
- to identify that each gift given is valuable and needed by the Church
- to state that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened in us in Confirmation

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1806–1807 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Corinthians 12:1–11).
- 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.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to mention three things she or he does well.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores the gifts—the things we have a special ability to do well—that the Holy Spirit gives us.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 1806–1807 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Corinthians 12:1–11).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 10 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. the Spirit, 2. the Spirit's presence, 3. a different gift
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 10 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 10 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



 Chapter
10

Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" on the third 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 10 activity booklet. *Answers: Use the information on the third page of this home guide chapter to check answers. Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your fifth grader to complete the mission during the coming week.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 10 activity booklet.



 Chapter
10

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Today's reading from Saint Paul shows just how much he learned since his days of persecuting Christians. The Church teaches about the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** using explanation from today's Scripture.

The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are spiritual gifts that help us figure out what is good and right—and then do it! When the bishop lays hands on us in the Sacrament of Confirmation, he prays to ask the Holy Spirit to seal and strengthen these gifts in us:

- Wisdom helps us see how God works in our lives.
- Understanding helps us know how to follow Jesus and helps us comprehend important truths of our faith.
- Counsel (Right Judgment) helps us know right from wrong.

- Fortitude (Courage) helps us be strong and stand up for our faith.
- Knowledge helps us explore Scripture and Church teachings. It helps us accept the mysteries of our faith that we cannot yet understand.
- Piety (Reverence) helps us love and respect God and the Church.
- Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe) helps us know the greatness and power of God and stay close to him. (*Fear of the Lord* does not mean to be afraid of God.)

Recall that in chapter 7, the story of David's anointing as king of Israel, you learned that God calls each of us for a specific purpose. God gives us the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as well as our unique gifts to help us fulfill our purpose. That means you are the only one who can contribute your unique gifts and purpose to the Church!

Key Word

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Spiritual gifts, identified by Saint Paul, that help us recognize and do what is good and right.

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:

- "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit" + activity, pages 31–32

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

Review

1. What are the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit?
2. What do the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us do?
3. Why is it important to learn about and develop our gifts?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord. 2. They help us know and do what is good and right. They help us to share God's love. 3. Because our gifts are valuable, and we are the only person who can share our unique gifts with the Church.



We Pray for Healing

Scripture Focus: James 5:13–16

Lesson Goals

- to state that prayer is important in times when healing is needed
- to identify that healing can be both spiritual and physical
- to define the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick as Sacraments of Healing

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1917 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (James 5:13–16).
- 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.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to brainstorm ways a fifth grader can help others.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores how prayer helps when someone is hurting.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1917 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (James 5:13–16).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 11 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. pray, 2. sing praises, 3. The elders will pray for the person and rub olive oil on her or him in the name of the Lord. 4. a powerful one
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 11 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 11 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 11



Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "Sacraments of Healing" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 11 activity booklet.
Answers will vary.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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



Chapter 11



Sacraments of Healing

Think of the Gospel stories about Jesus healing someone. Usually he lays hands on the person, forgives sins, and prays for healing—and the person is healed! Jesus' healing miracles show that all things are possible with God.

In today's reading, James reminds us of God's healing power. He tells us to pray for anyone who is hurting, sick, or in trouble. We should confess sins and pray for one another, and the Lord will hear our prayers. James even says Church elders can anoint us with oil and pray for healing in the Lord's name.

The Church has two Sacraments of Healing. The first is the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, when we confess our sins to the priest or bishop, who represents Jesus and the Church. Sin separates us from God and from one another, but this Sacrament heals us

spiritually by forgiving our sins and **reconciling** us with God and the Church.

The second Sacrament of Healing is the Anointing of the Sick. Just as James describes, the priest or bishop anoints a sick person with oil and hears his or her confession. The ordained minister forgives sins and prays for the person's spiritual healing. The sick person can even be physically healed through the Anointing of the Sick, if God wills it.

The Sacraments of Healing assure us that we are not forgotten in our illness or our need for reconciliation. Others gather to pray for us—and we can pray for one another! Praying for one another is an act of love. Who needs your prayers for healing today?

Key Word

reconciling Making things right between two or more people.

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 Sacraments," page 28

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

Review

1. What are the two Sacraments of Healing?
2. When do we need the Sacraments of Healing?
3. What kinds of healing can we experience through the Sacraments of Healing?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
2. When we are hurting either spiritually or
physically. 3. We experience spiritual healing.
We can also experience physical healing,
if God wills it.



Chapter 12

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

We Celebrate Healing

Scripture Focus: Mark 2:1–12

Lesson Goals

- to recall that Jesus forgave sins and healed physical illnesses
- to identify that the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament of strengthening and, if God wills it, physical healing
- to discuss the effects of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1525 and 1528 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Mark 2:1–12).
- 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.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to share a time when she or he may have been in a large crowd.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores how some people made their way to Jesus, to heal and forgive their friend, even through a crowd.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 1525 and 1528 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Mark 2:1–12).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 12 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. They made a hole in the roof and let the man down through it. 2. faith, 3. He forgave the paralyzed man's sins. 4. The Son of Man has authority to forgive sins.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 12 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 12 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 12

Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick" on the third 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 12 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 12 activity booklet.



Chapter 12

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Think of the last time you had a bad cold or flu. Who took care of you, and how? How did it feel to be taken care of?

The people in today's reading went to extreme lengths to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus, so that Jesus could forgive his sins and heal his paralysis. Climbing on the roof and opening a hole to lower their friend can't have been easy—but they knew it was worth it to obtain Jesus' gift of grace and healing.

Today, the Church offers the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to anyone who is seriously ill, facing surgery, or elderly. Only priests and bishops may **administer** this sacrament. But they represent the entire Church community as they pray for strength, spiritual healing, and physical healing. They offer the sick person the great comfort of knowing she or he is not alone.

The priest anoints the sick person with the Oil of the Sick—different from the sacred chrism used in Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. This anointing offers the sick person the gift of grace, with the following effects:

- peace and courage to deal with the illness or physical condition
- union with Christ's suffering on the cross
- spiritual healing and the forgiveness of sins
- physical healing, if it is God's will
- preparation for passing to eternal life, if the person is dying

This sacrament reminds us that we value and care for life at any age and any stage. Give thanks to God for his gift of life and healing!

Key Word

administer Offer or celebrate.

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 Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick," pages 36–37

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

Review

1. Who can receive Anointing of the Sick?
2. What kind of healing can someone receive in the Anointing of the Sick?
3. What are some effects of Anointing of the Sick?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Anyone who is seriously ill, facing surgery, or elderly. 2. Strength, spiritual healing—and, if God wills it, physical healing. 3. Peace and courage to get through the difficulties of the condition, union with the suffering of Christ, spiritual healing and the forgiveness of sins, physical healing if it is God's will, and preparation for eternal life.



Chapter 13

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

We Are Forgiven

Scripture Focus: Luke 7:36–50

Lesson Goals

- to identify forgiveness as an essential part of Christian life
- to describe sin as an offense against God, hurtful to our neighbor, and a weakening of the Body of Christ
- to explain the key elements and effects of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1595 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 7:36–50).
- 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.
- ☐ **Ask** your child what makes for a bad reputation and for a good reputation.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores the story of someone who had a bad reputation but changed and was granted forgiveness. Explain that this is what happens when we receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1595 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 7:36–50).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 13 activity booklet. *Answers:* 1. a Pharisee, 2. She brought a jar of perfume, wet Jesus' feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and poured the perfume on them. 3. He thought that if Jesus were a prophet, he would know this woman was sinful. 4. Jesus said that the woman showed great love and her many sins were forgiven.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 13 activity booklet.
- ☐ **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 her or his own words.



Chapter 13

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 13 activity booklet.
Answers will vary.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 13 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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



Chapter 13

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Think of a time when you broke something that your parents really valued—and they forgave you. How did you feel when you broke it? How did you make amends? How did it feel to be forgiven?

The woman in today's reading is burdened with **sin**—offenses against God. When we sin, we hurt ourselves and the person we sin against. But we also weaken the entire Body of Christ. That is why giving and receiving forgiveness is so important for being Christian. Forgiveness means that we care and pray for someone who hurts us, and we work not to hold a grudge.

We ask forgiveness of God and the Church in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Throughout the Gospels, we read how Jesus forgives sins. In this sacrament, the priest represents Jesus and the Church. The sacrament is made of up four elements:

- **Repentance:** We are sorry for our sins.
- **Confession:** We tell our sins to the priest.
- **Penance:** We do what the priest tells us to make amends.
- **Absolution:** We are completely forgiven.

The Church requires us to confess serious sins once a year. But we can experience the helpful effects of the sacrament as often as we wish. Reconciliation mends our broken relationship with the Church. It keeps us from being judged for the sin after we die. It helps us not to sin in the future, and it gives us peace.

Check out the times for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation at your parish, and ask your family to go together. You will be amazed at how light you feel afterward!

Key Words

absolution Complete forgiveness of our sin.

penance Actions or prayers the priest gives us to do or say, to make amends for sin.

sin An offense against God that hurts the entire Catholic community, in addition to ourselves and the person we have sinned against.

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 Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation," page 35

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

Review

1. Who is affected when we sin?
2. What are the four elements of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation?
3. What are four effects of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Ourselves, others, God, and the whole Church.
2. Repentance, confession, penance, and absolution.
3. Being at peace, mending our relationship with the Church, not being judged for the sin when we die, helping us not to sin in the future.



Chapter 14

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

We Love One Another

Scripture Focus: 1 John 3:11–18

Lesson Goals

- to recall that love is the Great Commandment in the Christian life
- to identify the death and Resurrection of Jesus as his great act of love for us
- to explain that love is shown not only in words but in actions

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1934 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 John 3:11–18).
- 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.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to name some of the people who have touched his or her life.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson recognizes that we are all God's children, we are all united, and we are called to love and help everyone.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1934 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 John 3:11–18).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 14 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. We must love one another. 2. give our lives for others, 3. in action
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 14 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 14 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 14

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "Healing Love in Words and Actions" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 14 activity booklet.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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



Chapter 14

Healing Love in Words and Actions

Love is the **Great Commandment** in Christian life. Do you remember the two parts of the Great Commandment? Jesus said we must love God with all our heart, soul, and strength—and we must love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus' death and Resurrection was his great act of love for us. We spread his love by serving others, even when we must also sacrifice to do so.

It is not enough to say we love one another. We must show our love in our actions—giving our lives for one another, just as Jesus did. We “give our lives” when we offer time and energy, talents and skills, or money and possessions to help others.

We must always remember that true love is always healing, never harmful. The Sacraments of Healing share the love of God and of the

Church with individuals. We do our part by forgiving someone who has hurt us, and by apologizing to anyone we hurt.

Solidarity is an important part of showing healing love in our words and actions. Solidarity is one of the Catholic social teaching principles. It means that we recognize that we are all united, we are all connected, and we are called to care for one another. Solidarity helps us understand that each person is important to the entire community. It also calls us to recognize that we are responsible for loving and serving others.

When we recognize that people are more important than possessions and status, we begin to love one another in solidarity. When we love one another, we love God!

Key Words

Great Commandment To love God with all our heart, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

solidarity Recognition that we are all united, we are all connected, and we are all called to care for one another.

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:

- “Spreading the Good News of Salvation,” page 14
- “Grace,” page 42
- “God’s World Is for Everyone,” page 62

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

Review

1. What did Jesus say was the Great Commandment?
2. How do we show our love to others?
3. What is solidarity?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Love (of God and of one another). 2. Through teaching principle that reminds us that everyone is connected to one another and everyone is important.



Chapter 15

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

We Ask Jesus for Healing

Scripture Focus: Luke 7:1–10

Lesson Goals

- to state that the root of asking for something in prayer is humility
- to identify that faith and trust are part of prayers for healing
- to name some ways we can ask Jesus for healing in faith and trust

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1591 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 7:1–10).
- 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.
- ☐ **Discuss** with your child characteristics of someone who is humble.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores faith, trust, and humility as important elements in asking for something in prayer.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1591 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 7:1–10).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 15 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. The servant was sick and about to die. 2. The officer did not deserve to have Jesus come to his house, but if Jesus just gave the order, his servant would get well. 3. Jesus had never found faith like this, not even in Israel.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 15 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 15 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 15

Discover! (20 minutes)

Read with your child the article "Faith, Trust, and Humility in Prayer" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 15 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 15 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

Invite your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

Ask your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

Conclude by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 15 activity booklet.



Chapter 15

Faith, Trust, and Humility in Prayer

Does *humble* mean being weak or shy? Not at all! To be humble—to have **humility**—means to see ourselves as we truly are, with a realistic sense of our strengths and weaknesses. When someone is humble, we often describe him or her as “down to Earth.”

Everyone has difficulties. We get hurt. We fail. We feel unloved. A humble person realizes that everything comes from God. At difficult times, we can always humbly ask God for help and healing. We know that God sees all things and knows what we truly need—sometimes better than we know it ourselves. Every time we pray, we come to Jesus with faith, and we trust that he will hear and answer our prayers.

Think about all the ways we already ask for healing during our life as Catholic Christians!

We ask for healing at Mass, just before receiving Communion, echoing the Roman soldier from today’s reading: “Lord, I am not worthy / that you should enter under my roof, / but only say the word / and my soul shall be healed” (*Roman Missal*). Throughout the Mass, we ask God for forgiveness, mercy, and healing for ourselves and others: “Lord, have mercy. . . . Lord, hear our prayer” (*Roman Missal*). In many of our Catholic prayers—including the Our Father, the Act of Contrition, and the Act of Hope—we ask for healing and state our trust in God.

Above all, we can ask for healing any time we pray to Jesus from our hearts. Take a moment now to pray for help and healing for you or someone you know.

Key Word

humility The ability to see ourselves as we truly are, with a realistic sense of our strengths and weaknesses alike.

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:

- “What Is Prayer?” page 64
- “Sources of Prayer” and “Distraction and Dryness in Prayer,” page 66

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

Review

1. What does it mean to be humble?
2. What three qualities are part of asking God for something in prayer?
3. What are some ways we ask Jesus for healing?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Seeing ourselves as we truly are. 2. Humility, faith, and trust in God. 3. In prayers at Mass, with traditional Catholic prayers for healing, and by praying from our hearts.



Chapter 16

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

We Are Called by God

Scripture Focus: 1 Samuel 3:1–10

Lesson Goals

- to state that each of us is called by God to help build up the Kingdom
- to recall that we are each called in a unique way through a vocation
- to identify the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the Sacrament of Matrimony as the Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 371 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Samuel 3:1–10).
- 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 think about what he or she wants to be someday.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that together you will learn how God has personally called each of us to follow his will, to love others in a unique way, and to use our gifts to help fulfill his plan.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 371 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (1 Samuel 3:1–10).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 16 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. See verses 4–5. 2. See verses 6–7. 3. To say, "Speak, LORD, your servant is listening" [verse 9] when he was called again. 4. See verse 10.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 16 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 16 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in her or his own words.



Chapter 16

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "Sacraments at the Service of Communion" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 16 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

Go! (10 minutes)

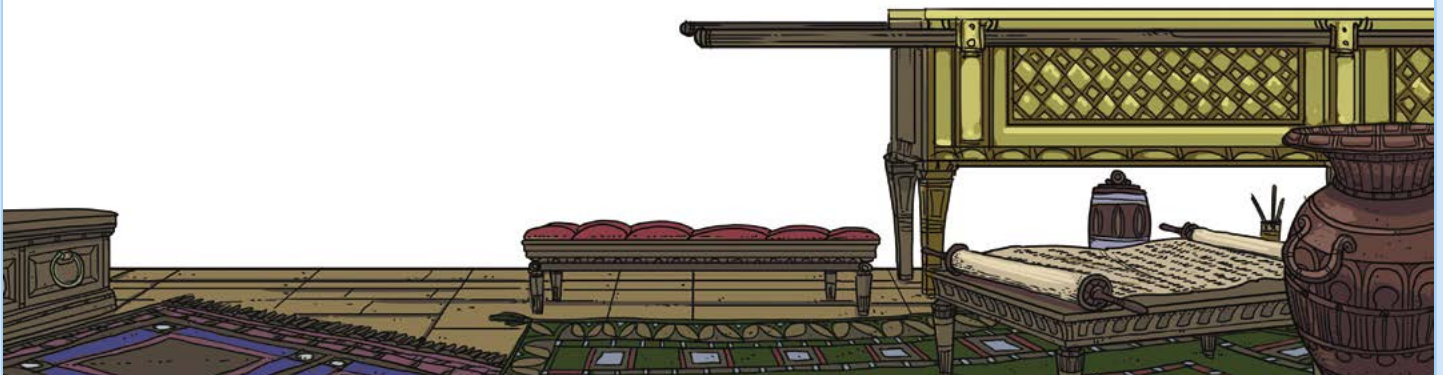
☐ **Invite** your child to share one thing she or he learned from today's lesson.

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

☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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





Chapter 16

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Imagine you are asleep. Suddenly someone calls your name. It must be your parents, so you run to them. But they didn't call you! They tell you to go back to bed. After this happens a couple times, your parents realize that God is calling you. Are you scared? excited?

It would be nice if we could hear God telling us what to do, in words we understand, just as he called Samuel. But although he can be hard to hear, God does call each of us personally to a **vocation**. A vocation is a way we love and serve God and others.

The purpose of every vocation is to build up the local community and the Kingdom of God. We build up the Kingdom by doing God's will and teaching others about God. We create a world that fulfills our Christian values: love, forgiveness, and help for others in need.

Vocations can call us to be married, consecrated in religious life, committed to single life, or ordained as a deacon, priest, or bishop. We are called to live out our vocation in a unique way, according to our gifts. For example, all married couples do not live their call in the same way, nor do all priests. We always bring our unique gifts to whatever vocation God calls us to.

The Sacrament of Matrimony and the Sacrament of Holy Orders are called the **Sacraments at the Service of Communion**. This is because Marriage and Holy Orders are permanent vocations that call people to serve and build up the Church—the communion of believers.

Ask a married couple you know how they understood that God was calling them to the vocation of marriage. Then pray to ask God to help you hear his call for you.

Key Words

Sacraments at the Service of Communion The Sacrament of Matrimony and the Sacrament of Holy Orders, two vocations that serve the Church.

vocation God's plan for each of us to love and serve him and others—through marriage, religious life, or ordained ministry.

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's World Is for Everyone" (second paragraph), page 62

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

Review

1. God has a plan for each of us. What is that plan called?
2. What is the purpose of every vocation?
3. What are the Sacraments at the Service of Communion?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Vocation. 2. Each vocation builds the local community and the Kingdom of God, and serves others. 3. The Sacrament of Matrimony and the Sacrament of Holy Orders.



Chapter 17

Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

Called Together as One

Scripture Focus: John 2:1–11

Lesson Goals

- to identify that marriage is a covenant between two people
- to name the key elements of the marriage rite
- to describe the effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony

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 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 recall a wedding your family has attended and discuss any specific memories.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson examines how Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding that he and his mother attended in Cana.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 1650–1651 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 2:1–11).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 17 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. See verse 5. 2. Fill the jars with water, draw some water, and take it to the man in charge. 3. It turned into wine. 4. He performed it at a wedding in Cana in Galilee. 5. Jesus revealed his glory. His disciples believed in Jesus.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 17 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 17 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 17

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "Sacrament of Matrimony" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 17 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet, or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 17 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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



 Chapter
17

Sacrament of Matrimony

In today's reading, Jesus performs his very first miracle at the wedding in Cana. When the wine runs out, the married couple and their families risk being embarrassed in front of their guests. But at his mother's request, Jesus turned water into wine to help the couple. By recognizing the importance of marriage in this way, Jesus **instituted** the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Marriage is a **covenant** between two people—a promise that cannot be broken. Married couples are called to work together and to reflect God's love. Couples raising children especially reflect God's life-giving love, as well as his love for us, his children. This is why we call Matrimony one of the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

If you have ever been to a Catholic wedding Mass, you know some of these key elements of the marriage rite:

- Vows: The couple makes promises to each other.
- Blessing and exchange of rings: The rings are circles with no beginning and no end. They symbolize the vow of marriage.
- Nuptial blessing: The priest or deacon asks the Holy Spirit to be with the couple.

The Sacrament of Matrimony has two important effects. First, God establishes the marriage bond: a covenant that can never be dissolved. Second, the grace of the sacrament helps the couple to grow in their love for one another. Through this grace, they are able to reflect God's love to all people.

Think of the married couples you know. How do they reflect God's love to all who witness their union? What do you learn about marriage by watching them?

Key Words

covenant An unbreakable promise between two people.

instituted Began, started, or initiated.

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 Sacrament of Matrimony," pages 40–41

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

Review

1. What is a marriage covenant?
2. What are the key elements of the marriage rite?
3. What are two effects of marriage?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!



Chapter 18

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

Called to Serve God's People

Scripture Focus: John 20:19–23

Lesson Goals

- to state that in the Sacrament of Holy Orders certain men are ordained to serve God's people
- to identify which sacraments bishops, priests, and deacons are empowered by the Holy Spirit to celebrate
- to state that the Sacrament of Holy Orders involves a lifetime commitment to service

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1704 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 20:19–23).
- 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 brainstorm the duties your parish priest performs.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores Holy Orders, which is the call to serve God's people in a unique way as Christ's representative.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1704 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 20:19–23).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 18 activity booklet. *Answers:*
1. They were afraid of the Jewish authorities. 2. Peace be with you. 3. They were filled with joy. 4. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 18 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 18 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 18

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "Sacrament of Holy Orders" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 18 activity booklet.
Answers will vary.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet, or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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



 Chapter
18

Sacrament of Holy Orders

All of us are called to build up the Kingdom and carry out Jesus' mission, because of our Baptism. But certain men are called to serve God's people in a special way through a vocation to Holy Orders. A bishop **ordains** these men to serve the Church for their entire lives as fellow bishops, priests, or deacons (the three degrees of Holy Orders). The Sacrament of Holy Orders is therefore another Sacrament at the Service of Communion.

The Holy Spirit especially empowers men who are called to Holy Orders. The grace of Holy Orders gives them the authority to celebrate the sacraments and to act in the person of Christ.

Bishops oversee all parishes in a certain area, called a diocese. Just as Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the bishop is called to be a shepherd of God's people—to lead, teach, and protect the Church as Jesus did. As successors to the Apostles, bishops can celebrate all Seven Sacraments.

Key Words

bishops Shepherds who serve the Church by overseeing parishes in a certain area and by leading, teaching, and protecting the Church.

deacons Men who help the priests and bishops by serving the parish, helping at Mass, and leading ministries to serve those in need.

ordains Confers the Sacrament of Holy Orders on a man called by God to serve his people in this special way.

priests Coworkers of the bishops who serve the people of a particular parish and celebrate the sacraments with them.

Priests are coworkers of their bishop and promise obedience to him. Priests serve the people of a particular parish. The main job of a priest is to celebrate the sacraments with his parishioners (except Holy Orders, which only a bishop can celebrate).

Deacons help priests and bishops. The word *deacon* comes from a Greek word meaning "servant." Deacons serve by helping in the parish, assisting at Mass (including proclaiming the Gospel and giving homilies), and leading ministries to serve those in need. Deacons can also celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony.

Say a prayer for your bishop, your parish priest or priests, and for any deacons you know. These men always need our prayers to support them as they serve God's people!

Review

1. What are the three degrees of Holy Orders?
2. Who can celebrate which sacraments?
3. Who empowers men who are called to Holy Orders?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Bishops, priests, and deacons. 2. Bishops can celebrate all sacraments; priests can celebrate all sacraments except Holy Orders; deacons can celebrate Baptism and Marriage. 3. The Holy Spirit.

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 Holy Orders," page 37
- "The Ordination of Priests," page 38

- "The Ordination of Bishops" and "The Ordination of Deacons," page 39
- "The Laying on of Hands," page 40

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



Chapter 19

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

We Are Called to Serve the Poor

Scripture Focus: James 2:14–24

Lesson Goals

- to explain that true faith means action for good and not just words
- to identify service to the poor as the vocation of all Christians
- to name different ways we can serve the poor, both directly and indirectly

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1912–1913 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (James 2:14–24).
- 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.
- ☐ **Discuss** ways your family might be involved in caring for the poor and vulnerable.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson reviews some other principles of Catholic social teaching.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 1912–1913 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (James 2:14–24).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 19 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. dead, useless, 2. by offering his son Isaac on the altar, 3. by our actions, not by our faith alone
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 19 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 19 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



Chapter 19

Discover! (20 minutes)

☐ **Read** with your child the article "Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable" on the third 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 19 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet, or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 19 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

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





Chapter 19

Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable

Think back on all the Gospel stories you have heard about Jesus' ministry. Jesus went out of his way to notice, to love, and to heal the most **vulnerable** people. When Jesus lived, religious people often avoided those who were poor or diseased, believing they were suffering because they had sinned against God. But Jesus taught us by his example that we must embrace and care for the poor and vulnerable. He called us to love and help others, as he did, whether or not they are considered "valuable" to society.

Serving the poor and vulnerable is part of everyone's vocation. In previous lessons, you have learned about Catholic social teaching, the principles that help us to respect other people and the Earth more fully. This lesson's principle, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, is closely connected to another principle: Dignity of the Human Person. (The word **dignity** means "deserving respect.") We

cannot understand or follow one of these principles without the other.

So we are called to show our faith by our actions. We are called to serve the poor and vulnerable, and to recognize their dignity through our service. This can include direct action, such as giving money, possessions, or time to help those in need. We can serve indirectly by praying for the poor, looking for opportunities to help, and asking God to create in us caring hearts.

Our actions don't just express our faith. Our actions make our faith perfect by reinforcing what we believe. Putting our faith into concrete action brings us closer to God and puts us in right relationship with him.

Today, pray for the poor, and ask God to help you spot new opportunities to help those who are vulnerable.

Key Words

dignity Deserving respect.

vulnerable In greater danger of being mistreated, threatened, or harassed due to one's circumstances.

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 Equal Dignity of the Human Person," page 61
- "God's World Is for Everyone," page 62

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

Review

1. What are some ways we can directly help the poor?
2. What is the vocation of all Christians?
3. What are some ways we can indirectly help the poor?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Giving money, possessions, and time. 2. Service to the poor and vulnerable. 3. Praying for the poor, praying to see opportunities to help, praying for generous and caring hearts.



Chapter 20

Discover! Finding Faith in Life

Jesus Calls Me

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 4:1–16

Lesson Goals

- to recall that we are each an important part of the Body of Christ, the Church
- to identify that Jesus calls us to build up the Body of Christ using our unique gifts
- to state that we can discover our own vocation through prayer and discernment

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1844–1845 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Ephesians 4:1–16).
- 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.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to describe his or her favorite meal. Discuss the ingredients, and ask your child what would happen if you left out an ingredient or two.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson recalls that each of us is important and needed in the Church.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 1844–1845 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Ephesians 4:1–16).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 20 activity booklet. *Answers:*
 1. the standard God set when he called us;
 2. humble, gentle, and patient; by being tolerant with one another;
 3. a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given;
 4. to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the Body of Christ;
 5. The whole body grows and builds itself up through love.
- ☐ **Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 20 activity booklet.
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 20 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in her or his own words.



Chapter 20

Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "Prayer and Discernment" 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 the top part of page 3 of the chapter 20 activity booklet. *Answers will vary.*

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet, or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

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 20 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to check the mission booklet for any challenges missed in the previous months. Use paper clips or sticky notes to mark those pages. Make plans with your child to complete a mission challenge weekly until the booklet has been finished. Continue the momentum by thinking up and doing your own mission challenges together!
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 20 activity booklet.





Chapter 20

Prayer and Discernment

What would happen if your hand tried to be an ear? if your toes tried to be your nose? Today's reading reminds us that when each part of our body works together, and fulfills its purpose, the whole body is built through love.

Each baptized person is part of the Body of Christ. All of our gifts, used together, build up Christ's Body. God gives each of us special and unique gifts, and he asks us to use those gifts to serve and love him and one another.

The sacraments all help us grow as a community of faith. In Baptism, we become part of the Body of Christ. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens and anoints us to do God's will. In the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ nurture us. We heal spiritually (and sometimes even physically) in Penance and

Reconciliation and in Anointing of the Sick. Finally, in Holy Orders and Matrimony, we recognize that each of us is called, in a unique way, to a vocation. All vocations are essential and valuable to God and build the Body of Christ.

We must work to discover our vocations through prayer and **discernment**. Discernment means prayerfully listening to God and paying attention to where he might be leading us. To listen prayerfully, we must also pay attention to the people and events around us.

Everyone discovers her or his vocation in different ways and at different times. Make prayer and discernment a regular part of your prayer life. If you listen carefully, God will show you your gifts and your vocation!

Key Word

discernment Prayerfully listening to God and paying attention to where he might be leading us.

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:

- "What Is Prayer?" page 64
- "Sources of Prayer," page 66
- "Distraction and Dryness in Prayer" + activity, pages 66–67

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

Review

1. How do we participate in building up the Body of Christ?
2. How do we discover our own vocation?
3. What is discernment?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!





Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

From Death to New Life

Scripture Focus: Romans 6:3–9

Lesson Goals

- to recognize that All Souls' Day is the day we pray for those who have died
- to explain that All Souls' Day follows All Saints' Day in the liturgical calendar so that we can spend these two days remembering those who have gone before us in faith
- to define death as not an end to life, but a change or transfer to life forever

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1776 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Romans 6:3–9).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the All Souls' Day activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the All Souls' Day activity booklet.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to recall any Catholic funerals he or she has attended, or share your own experiences with attending Catholic funerals.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores All Souls' Day and examines how we honor and pray for those who have died.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1776 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Romans 6:3–9).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the All Souls' Day activity booklet.
Answers: 1. death, 2. live, 3. one, one, 4. Christ, 5. die
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the All Souls' Day activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.





Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "The Holy Souls" on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet.

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 Souls' Day activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the All Souls' Day activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Prepare the prayer space with a lit candle—ideally your child's baptismal candle, but another candle (or a battery-powered candle) can be used.





The Holy Souls

On Halloween, kids dress up as superheroes, cartoon characters, and spooky creatures. But did you know that people used to dress up as saints? Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve, is the night before the Church celebrates All Saints' Day. On All Saints' Day, we celebrate those who have found eternal life with God in Heaven—whether we know their names or not.

The next day is All Souls' Day. We pray for the **Holy Souls**: those who have died but are still waiting to enter Heaven because they are not completely without sin. The Church teaches that they are in **Purgatory**. Purgatory—meaning “purification”—is not really a place, but a state of being. In Purgatory we are purified of sin so that we can enter Heaven.

Remember that death is not the end of life. Rather, death is the separation of the soul from the body. Our souls go to God, and our bodies go to the Earth. We transfer to life forever with God, a life we began in Baptism.

That doesn't mean death is easy for us to accept. When we confront death, we can look to Jesus, who died and conquered death for us. He can give us the strength to face death when it comes to our loved ones, and when it comes to us one day.

For a moment, think about how you are spending your own time on Earth. Recommit to following Jesus and living a life of love and service, so that you can one day join God forever in Heaven.

Key Words

Holy Souls Those who have died and are still waiting in Purgatory before they can enter Heaven.

Purgatory A state of being, in which we are purified of all sin so we can enter Heaven.

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:

- “Salvation and Death” and “Try This!” page 15
- “Indulgences,” page 41

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

Review

1. What does All Souls' Day help us to do?
2. What is Purgatory?
3. What is death?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. It helps us to pray for those who have died, to think about what we are doing in our time on Earth, and to resolve to follow Jesus in a life of love and service. 2. The state of being in which we are purified of all sin so that we can enter Heaven. 3. It is the separation of our souls from our bodies. It is not the end of life but a change or transfer to life with God, a life we began in Baptism.





Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

Preparing for the Coming of Jesus

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:39–56

Lesson Goals

- to recognize that Advent is the season when we prepare to celebrate that Jesus made God's promise come true
- to state that Mary's special role in salvation was to be the Mother of God
- to identify Mary as someone who spoke for those who are poor

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1572–1573 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 1:39–56).
- 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.
- ☐ **Tell** your child the story of how you prepared for his or her arrival. What was it like to wait?
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores the season of Advent and how we can prepare with Mary to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 1572–1573 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 1:39–56).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to complete the puzzle on page 2 of the Advent activity booklet. *Answers: See solution on the second page of this home guide chapter.*
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the Advent activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.





Discover! (20 minutes)

- Read** with your child the article "Preparing with Mary" on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet.

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, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Prepare your worship space with your family's Advent wreath (or a picture of an Advent wreath). Invite your child to take turns reading the Reader parts with you.

Answer Key

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





Preparing with Mary

When a couple is expecting a baby, family and friends are often eager to share their preparation and excitement. If you have younger siblings, you may have experienced this yourself!

In the four weeks before Christmas, the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world and into our hearts. This season is called **Advent**, meaning “coming.”

In today’s reading, Mary is happy because she realizes that she is preparing to play a special role in salvation as the Mother of God. We call Mary the Mother of God because Jesus is fully man and fully God. God chose Mary to be the very best mother Jesus could have.

Key Words

Advent “Coming”; the season of preparation for Christmas.

Magnificat Mary’s song of praise in Luke 1:46–55.

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:

- “How Do We Know That God Exists?” pages 6–7
- “The Bride of Christ,” page 20
- “The Bridegroom Comes” + activity, pages 20–21
- “The Equal Dignity of the Human Person,” page 61

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

When she greets Elizabeth, Mary sings a song of praise that today we call the **Magnificat**, from the first words in Latin: “*Magnificat anima meam*,” meaning “my soul praises.” Reread Luke 1:48–55 to learn all the reasons Mary praises God. She is happy that God has favored her and done great things for her. She knows God lifts up the lowly and cares for the poor—and Mary has always been a voice for the poor and needy. Mary praises God for keeping his promise to send a Savior—Jesus, the child she is preparing to welcome.

We know that at Christmas, Jesus came to save the world. In Advent, we, like Mary, prepare to welcome our Savior. We remember that all of God’s promises have come true in Jesus!

Review

1. What do we prepare for in the season of Advent?
2. What was Mary’s special role in God’s plan of salvation?
3. Why was Mary praising God in the Magnificat?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. The coming of Jesus into our world and into our hearts. 2. To be the Mother of God. 3. Because God had done great things for her, because God lifts up the lowly and cares for the poor, and because God is keeping his promise and sending Jesus into the world.





Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

Mother of Us All

Scripture Focus: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10

Lesson Goals

- to recognize that the Church honors Mary throughout the year with various feasts
- to state that honoring Mary is not worship, which we owe only to God
- to identify Our Lady of Guadalupe as Patroness of All the Americas

Parent Preview

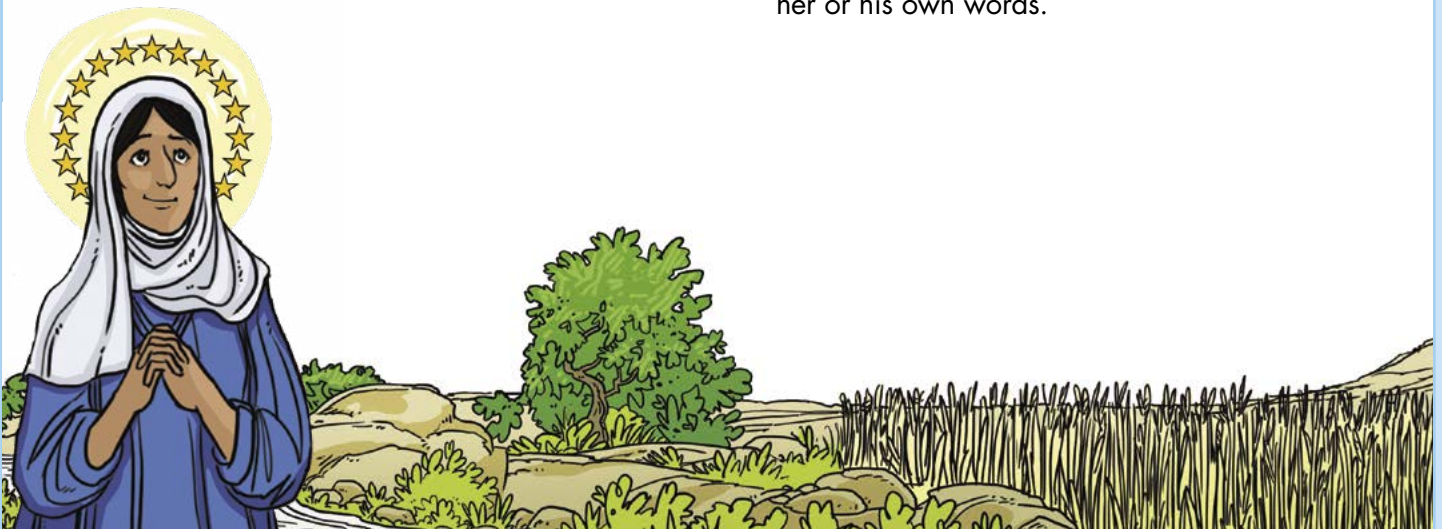
- Review the Scripture on pages 1954–1955 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Our Lady of Guadalupe activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Our Lady of Guadalupe activity booklet.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to share what he or she knows about Mary and how the Church honors her.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that together you will learn about Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is Patroness of All the Americas—North America, South America, and Central America—and especially of Mexico, where she appeared.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 1954–1955 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the Our Lady of Guadalupe activity booklet. *Answers: 1. 12, 2. 7, 3. 10, 4. 10, 5. 1, 6. 1,260*
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the Our Lady of Guadalupe activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in her or his own words.





Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article Honoring Mary, Mother of God on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the 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 Our Lady of Guadalupe activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the Our Lady of Guadalupe activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Arrange your worship space with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (see activity booklet, page 4) and a vase of flowers. Invite your child to join you in kneeling across the room and approaching the worship space on your knees with each response. Consider having your child take turns reading the Reader portions.





Honoring Mary, Mother of God

Mary's appearance at Guadalupe was the only time she appeared as an expectant mother. Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, wearing the traditional belt of a pregnant Aztec woman high on her waist. This image empowers native peoples of the Americas because Our Lady appeared as a *mestiza*—a woman of both Spanish and native descent.

Our Lady's appearance to a poor man at Guadalupe also reminds us that she cares very much for the poor. Mary herself was poor, with Joseph and Jesus. People often carry the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe when protesting in support of social justice issues, like fair wages and fair housing. As Mother of God, Our Lady is concerned with the well-being of all God's children. We make

her happy when we care for one another. (You can read more of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego, to whom she appeared, on page 4 of the Our Lady of Guadalupe activity booklet.)

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is just one of many times we honor Mary throughout the Church year. Others include the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, and the Feast of the Assumption.

But it is important to realize that honoring Mary is not the same as **worship**. Worship is what we owe to God, our Creator, who sustains our lives. Mary was a human being, like ourselves. But she deserves special honor because she was chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God. So we ask her: Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Key Word

worship Religious reverence and love that we offer only to God, our Creator, who sustains our lives.

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 Equal Dignity of the Human Person," page 61

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

Review

1. How does the Church honor Mary?
2. Does the Church worship Mary?
3. Why is the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe carried in support of social justice issues?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. By celebrating various feasts throughout the year.
2. No, worship is due to God alone. The Church honors Mary because she was chosen by God to be the Mother of his Son. 3. Because she is Mother of God and was a poor woman, she is concerned with the well-being of all of God's children.





The Word Became Human

Scripture Focus: John 1:1–14

Lesson Goals

- to identify the season of Christmas as the celebration of the Word, Jesus, coming into the world
- to name Christmas as a celebration of the coming of Christ in three ways: into the world, into our hearts, and at the end of time
- to state that the Christmas season lasts from December 25 to the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1649 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 1:1–14).
- 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.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to brainstorm a list of religious Christmas carols about the birth of Jesus.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores the true meaning of Christmas as the celebration of the Word, Jesus Christ, coming into the world.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1649 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 1:1–14).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to complete the puzzle on page 2 of the Christmas activity booklet. *Answers: See solution on the second page of this home guide chapter.*
- ☐ **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 his or her own words.





Discover! (20 minutes)

Read with your child the article "Jesus, the Word of God" on the third page of this home guide chapter. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet.

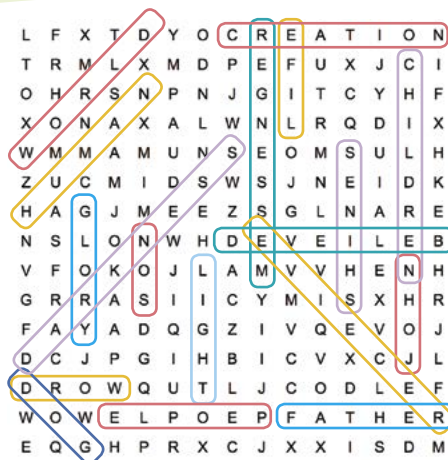
Go! (10 minutes)

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 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. Center your prayer space on your Christmas tree, and remove two bulbs from a string of lights. Hold one bulb and give the other to your child. Replace the bulbs when invited near the end of the prayer service. Have your *Catholic Children's Bible* open and ask your child to read the passage from John 1:1–5 when indicated in the prayer service.

Answer Key





Jesus, the Word of God

Before Jesus came to Earth, people had stopped listening to God. God sent his only Son to straighten us out! We call Jesus the Word of God because, through him, God has spoken to us in an extraordinary way. As God's Word, Jesus has been with God from the beginning, and through him God made all creation.

Jesus, the Word of God, is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. But he laid that aside to be born as a human being—like us in all things except sin. Jesus did this to come close to us, teach us, and save us from sin and death. He died and rose so that we can live forever with him in Heaven.

Christmas is when we celebrate the Word, Jesus, coming into the world. In fact, we celebrate three “comings” of Jesus:

- Jesus’ coming in history, through his birth in Bethlehem
- Jesus’ coming into our hearts, especially in the Eucharist
- Jesus’ coming as King at the end of time

Christmas is not one day—it is an entire season. It includes the Feast of the Epiphany, the visit of the Three Kings, on the Sunday nearest January 6. The season lasts until the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord, around mid-January. Many Christians keep their Nativity scenes up until after we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

When you look at your Christmas presents today, take a moment to thank God for the biggest present we have ever received: his Son, the Word of God, who came into the world for us.

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:

- “Who Created the Universe?” page 6
- “How Do We Know That God Exists?” pages 6–7
- “The God of Friendship and Love,” page 7
- “The Bridegroom Comes” + activity, pages 20–21

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

Review

1. Who is the Word of God, whose coming we celebrate at Christmas?
2. What are the three “comings” of Jesus we celebrate?
3. How long does the Christmas season last?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!





Three Holy Days

Scripture Focus: John 19:16b–18, 28–30

Lesson Goals

- to state that *Triduum* means “three days”
- to identify the Easter Triduum as the primary celebration of the entire Church year
- to recall Good Friday as the day we remember and participate in Jesus’ Passion and death in a special way

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1699–1700 of *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (John 19:16b–18, 28–30).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Easter Triduum activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Easter Triduum activity booklet.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to share what he or she recalls about Good Friday.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today’s lesson examines the Easter Triduum—from Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday—as the primary celebration of the entire Church year.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on pages 1699–1700 of *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (John 19:16b–18, 28–30).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the Easter Triduum activity booklet.
Answers: 1. cross, 2. skull, 3. two, 4. completed, 5. Scripture, 6. thirsty, 7. soaked, 8. wine, 9. finished, 10. spirit
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the Easter Triduum activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.





Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "Preparing for Easter" on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet.

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 Triduum activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- ☐ **Conclude** by praying the Family Prayer on page 4 of the Easter Triduum activity booklet, or use the prayer service on page 3 of the activity booklet. Place four crucifixes (of any kind, including those attached to rosaries) around the room to serve as "stations" for the readings. Explain that the Stations of the Cross is a traditional devotion that helps us meet Jesus in his suffering and death, so we might experience the victory of his Resurrection. Invite your child to take turns with you to read at each station.





Preparing for Easter

Think about a difficult time in your life that led to better things. For example, perhaps you struggled through a grade level in school—but found the next year was easier. Or perhaps a family illness taught you what was really important in life. The three holy days that follow the season of Lent are just like this. We remember the suffering and death of Jesus—but we also prepare to celebrate his glorious Resurrection at Easter.

The **Easter Triduum** is the primary celebration of the entire Church year. The word *Triduum* means “three days.” Following the Jewish custom of beginning a day on the evening before, we count the three days of the Triduum in this way:

- Day 1: Holy Thursday evening through Good Friday
- Day 2: Good Friday evening through Holy Saturday
- Day 3: Holy Saturday evening through Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday

Key Words

Easter Triduum The three-day period that runs from Holy Thursday evening through Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday; the primary celebration of the entire Church year.

Passion Jesus’ suffering before his death on the cross.

venerating Showing reverence to.

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 Sacrament of Baptism,” page 28
- “The Sacrament of Confirmation,” page 30
- “The Sacrament of the Eucharist,” page 33
- “Christ Works in the Liturgy,” pages 22–23

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

We celebrate each day with a special liturgy. On Holy Thursday evening, we remember the Last Supper with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. On Good Friday, we remember Christ’s **Passion** and death in a special way, by hearing Gospel accounts of his suffering and **venerating** the cross.

Holy Saturday is a day of expectation until we celebrate the Easter Vigil liturgy in the evening. Finally, on Easter Sunday we celebrate the glorious Mass of the Resurrection.

During the Triduum, we celebrate Jesus’ example of service (Holy Thursday, his washing of feet), suffering (Good Friday, his death on the cross), and Resurrection (the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday). These three holy days also put our own lives into focus. We strive to serve. Sometimes we go through pain and suffering, but the death and Resurrection of Jesus promise us that, as his followers, we too will join him in resurrection!

Review

1. What are the three days of the Triduum?
2. What do we remember especially on Good Friday?
3. What do we celebrate during the Triduum?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Day 1 is Holy Thursday evening and Good Friday.
 Day 2 is Good Friday evening and Holy Saturday.
 Day 3 is Holy Saturday evening to Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. 2. Jesus’ Passion and death.
 3. The service, suffering and death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.





Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

Alleluia! I Do Believe!

Scripture Focus: John 20:24–29

Lesson Goals

- to identify that on Easter Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ
- to state that Easter Sunday begins the Easter season, which lasts until Pentecost Sunday
- to recall that the Easter season is a season of rejoicing

Parent Preview

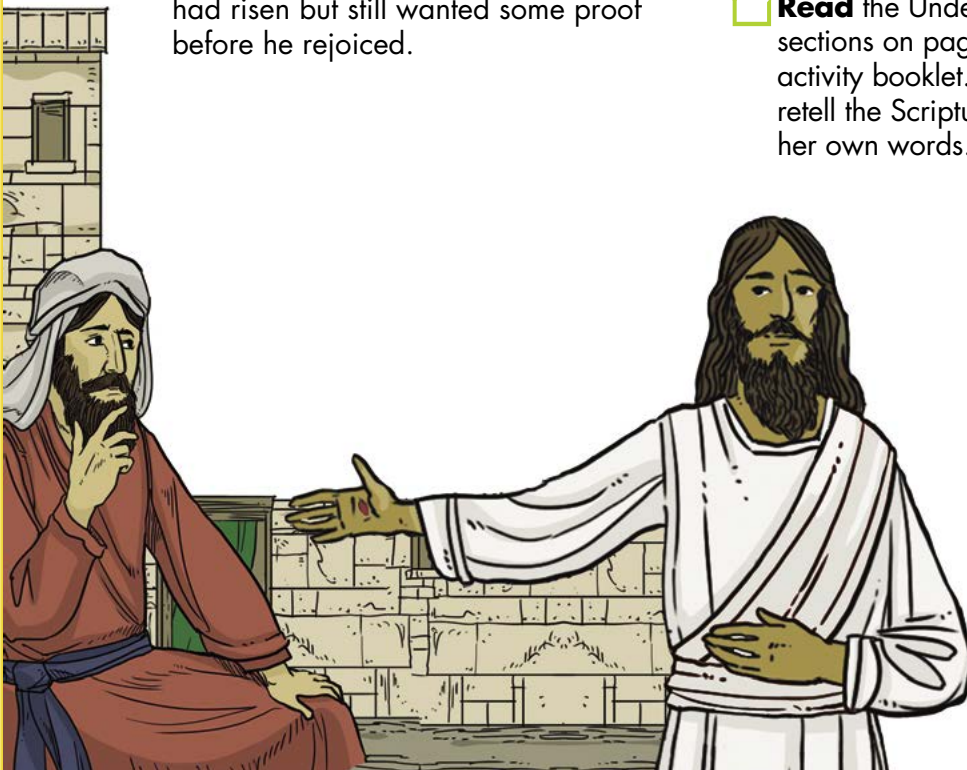
- Review the Scripture on page 1704 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 20:24–29).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Easter activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Easter activity booklet.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to share why Easter is a time of great joy.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that together you will learn about one of Jesus' followers who wanted to believe that Jesus had risen but still wanted some proof before he rejoiced.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1704 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 20:24–29).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to complete the puzzle on page 2 of the Easter activity booklet. *Answer: How happy are those who believe without seeing me!*
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the Easter activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.





Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "Easter, the Season of Rejoicing" on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key word. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the 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 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. Prepare the worship space with a clear bowl of water (preferably holy water, which you can obtain from the parish); a lit, white taper candle in a holder; and a small leafy branch for sprinkling. Explain that the candle you are using is like the large Paschal candle in your church in that it represents the Risen Christ. Share that the bowl contains (or represents) the waters of Baptism. Tell your child that when the candle is dipped in the water, it shows that the Risen Christ gives life and power to the waters of Baptism.





Easter, the Season of Rejoicing

Think about all the symbols we associate with Easter: eggs, green grass, Easter lilies, baby chicks, and bunnies—and of course Easter candy! Many of these symbols remind us of the new life and joy we experience every spring.

At Easter, we welcome new life in a special way, as we celebrate the triumph of life over death. We rejoice that Jesus rose from the dead. All who follow Jesus share in his Resurrection, because his rising made it possible for us to rise again after we die. For this reason, Easter is the “feast of feasts” and “solemnity of solemnities.” Easter is the season that lasts fifty days—from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday—when we rejoice that Jesus is risen and is with us now!

The Easter season is a special time to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, First

Communion, and Confirmation. These sacraments are celebrated in a special way by new Catholics who are received into the Church at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening. At Masses during the Easter season, the Penitential Rite is replaced with the sprinkling of holy water to remind us of our Baptism and our new life in Christ. We also renew our baptismal promises instead of saying the creed.

During Lent, you may have noticed that we did not sing the “**Alleluia**” (which means “Praise God”), because it was a season of sorrow and preparation. But in the Easter season, the “Alleluia” once again returns to our prayers and songs, because Easter is a season of rejoicing. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus.

Key Word

Alleluia “Praise God”; usually sung during Mass, except for Masses in Lent.

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:

- “Christ Works in the Liturgy,” page 22
- “The Precepts of the Church,” page 52

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

Review

1. How long is the season of Easter, and when does it begin and end?
2. What are we really celebrating at Easter and during the Easter season?
3. What special word do we sing during the Easter season that we do not sing during Lent? What does this word mean?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. It lasts fifty days, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. 2. We are celebrating the triumph of life over death, not only for Jesus but for all who follow him. 3. Alleluia, which means “Praise God.”





Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

Come, Holy Spirit

Scripture Focus: John 20:19–23

Lesson Goals

- to state that the word *Pentecost* comes from Greek and means “fiftieth”
- to recall that Pentecost is the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit
- to identify the Holy Spirit as the helper that Jesus promised to send

Parent Preview

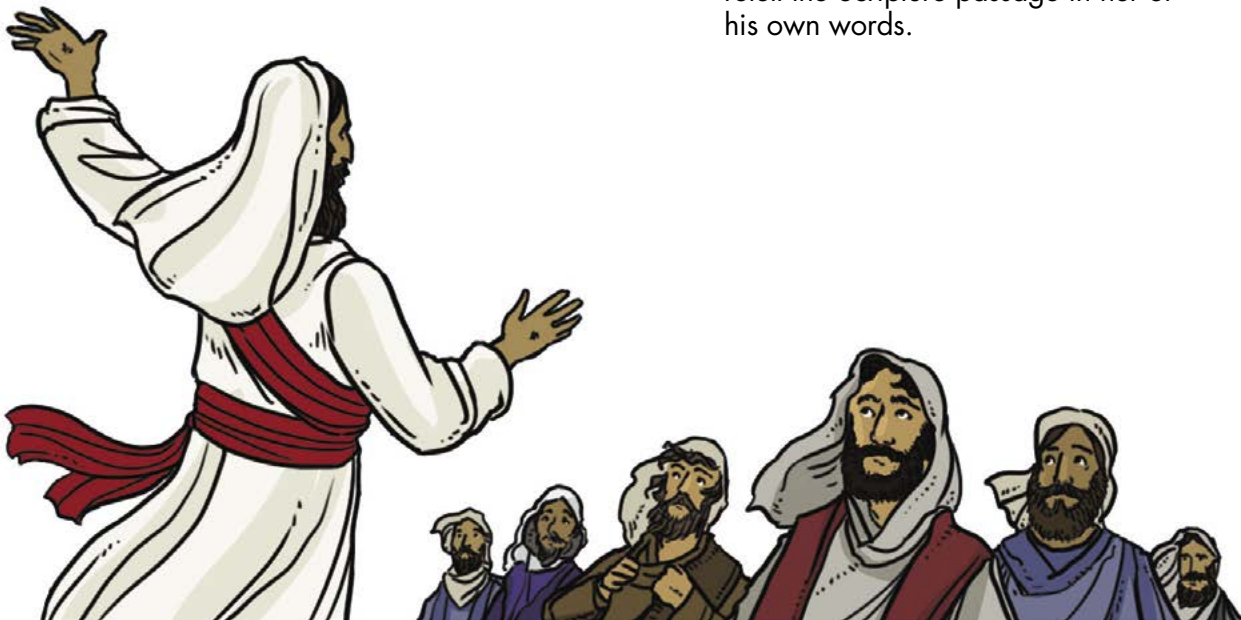
- Review the Scripture on page 1704 of *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (John 20:19–23).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Pentecost activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Pentecost activity booklet.
- ☐ **Invite** your child to share what she or he can recall about the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today’s lesson explores the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1704 of *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (John 20:19–23).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the Pentecost activity booklet.
Answers: peace, Jesus, disciples, afraid, joy, breathed, Holy Spirit, forgive
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the Pentecost activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in her or his own words.





Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "Receive the Holy Spirit" on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the 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 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. Prepare your worship space with *The Catholic Children's Bible*, marking 1 Kings 19:11–13 and John 20:21–22. Invite your child to read one or both readings.





Receive the Holy Spirit

When you think about **Pentecost**, by now you are probably familiar with the account from the Acts of the Apostles. Luke describes how Jesus' followers were gathered to celebrate the Jewish harvest feast called Pentecost, which falls fifty days after Passover. (*Pentecost* comes from a Greek word for "fiftieth"; today we celebrate Pentecost fifty days after Easter.) The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples with a rush of wind and flames of fire. In Luke's account, the Holy Spirit's arrival during the harvest festival symbolizes the fruitfulness of the Church.

But today's Gospel passage comes from John, who wrote many years later than the Evangelist Luke. In today's passage, the Holy Spirit comes directly through the breath of Jesus when he visits his followers on Easter night. John

wrote his account at a time when the Holy Spirit continued to move through the Church in quieter, gentler, yet still powerful ways—just as the Holy Spirit comes to us today.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus promises to send us a helper. In John 15:26, Jesus says, "The Helper will come—the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God." He says that he himself will send the Helper, who will come from God. The word *Helper* is sometimes translated as **Advocate**, or "someone who advises or speaks for another."

This is how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. The Spirit helps and advises us, and the Spirit speaks for us before God and others. Come, Holy Spirit! Fill our hearts!

Key Words

Advocate Another name for the Holy Spirit; helper, or someone who advises or speaks for another.

Pentecost Feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, fifty days after Easter; the word itself comes from the Greek for "fiftieth."

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 Coming of the Holy Spirit," page 19
- "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit" + activity, pages 31–32

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

Review

1. What does the word *Pentecost* mean?
2. Why do we call the Holy Spirit the Advocate?
3. How does the Holy Spirit come to us today?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Fiftieth; we celebrate Pentecost fifty days after Easter. 2. The word advocate means "helper or advisor"; Jesus promised to send us this helper. The Holy Spirit helps us and advises us. 3. In quiet and gentle, yet powerful, ways.





Learning and Living Our Faith

Scripture Focus: Luke 10:25–37

Lesson Goals

- to state that there are two seasons of Ordinary Time in the Church calendar
- to identify Ordinary Time as the season in which we learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ
- to recognize the parable form of storytelling as Jesus' preferred method of teaching

Parent Preview

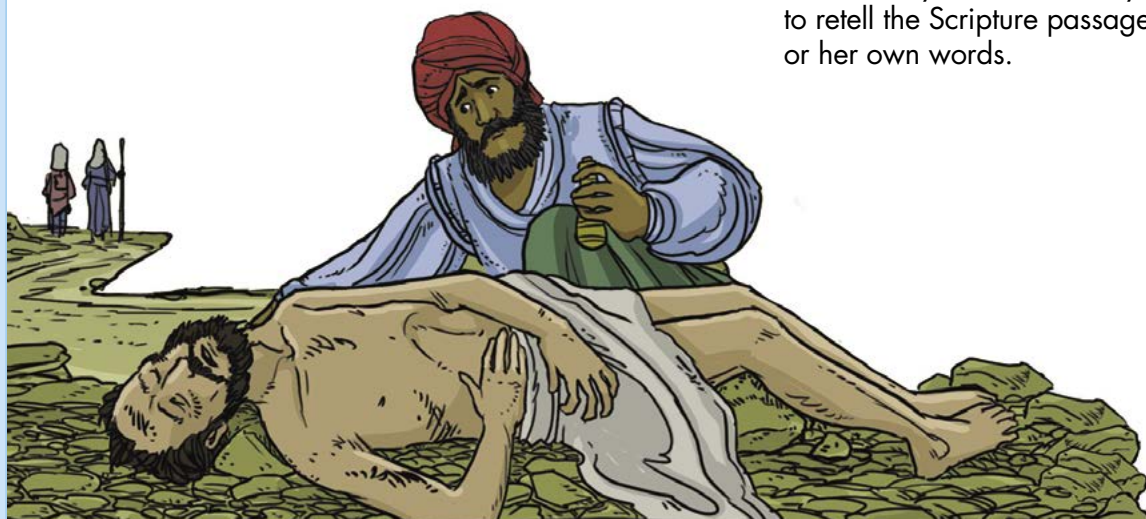
- Review the Scripture on page 1606 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 10:25–37).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the Ordinary Time activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.
- Prepare by locating the color copy of the liturgical calendar on the fourth page of this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- ☐ **Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the Ordinary Time activity booklet.
- ☐ **Ask** your child to recall and identify a "hero" from a recent event or news story.
- ☐ **Tell** your child that today's lesson explores the story of one "everyday hero" in today's Scripture passage and examines how Jesus taught us in stories.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** the Scripture on page 1606 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 10:25–37).
- ☐ **Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the Ordinary Time activity booklet.
Answers: 1. neighbor, 2. Jericho, 3. dead, 4. Samaritan, 5. kind
- ☐ **Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the Ordinary Time activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.





Discover! (20 minutes)

- ☐ **Read** with your child the article "Ordinary Stories, Extraordinary Lessons" on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet.

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. Prepare a focal point (an open Bible or a crucifix). Ask your child to join you in writing notes to Jesus, asking him to help your family live Ordinary Time in faith, hope, and love. Roll your notes into scrolls and tie them with green ribbon. When indicated, set them on or near the Bible or crucifix.





Ordinary Stories, Extraordinary Lessons

Today's reading about the Good Samaritan is one of the most beloved examples of Jesus' favorite way to teach: stories, called **parables**. Parables are stories about ordinary people and situations. But they communicate a message. In his parables, Jesus gave us examples of how we should live as children of God and as brothers and sisters of Jesus.

We read many of Jesus' parables during **Ordinary Time**, the season of the Church year when we learn more about Jesus' life, ministry, and teachings and how Jesus wants us to live our ordinary lives in extraordinary ways.

If you look at a copy of the Church calendar (available at the end of this chapter), you can see that the Church actually celebrates Ordinary Time in two seasons:

- The shorter season of Ordinary Time runs between Epiphany (the end of the Christmas season) and Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent).
- The second, longer season of Ordinary Time runs from Pentecost (the end of the Easter season) through the last Sunday before Advent—the end of the Church year.

Ordinary Time is "ordinary" not because it is regular or normal, but rather because we number the Sundays: first, second, third, and so on. These are called *ordinal* numbers, because they put things in order—and for the same reason, this season is called Ordinary Time. But when you realize how much we learn about Jesus' life and teachings during this important Church season, you will agree: it is far from ordinary!

Key Words

Ordinary Time The season on the Church calendar when we learn more about Jesus' life, ministry, and teachings.

parables Stories that teach us how to live as children of God and as brothers and sisters of Jesus.

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:

- "Grace" and "Grace and Freedom," page 42

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

Review

1. Why is this season of the Church year called Ordinary Time?
2. What do we learn during Ordinary Time?
3. What was Jesus' favorite teaching method?

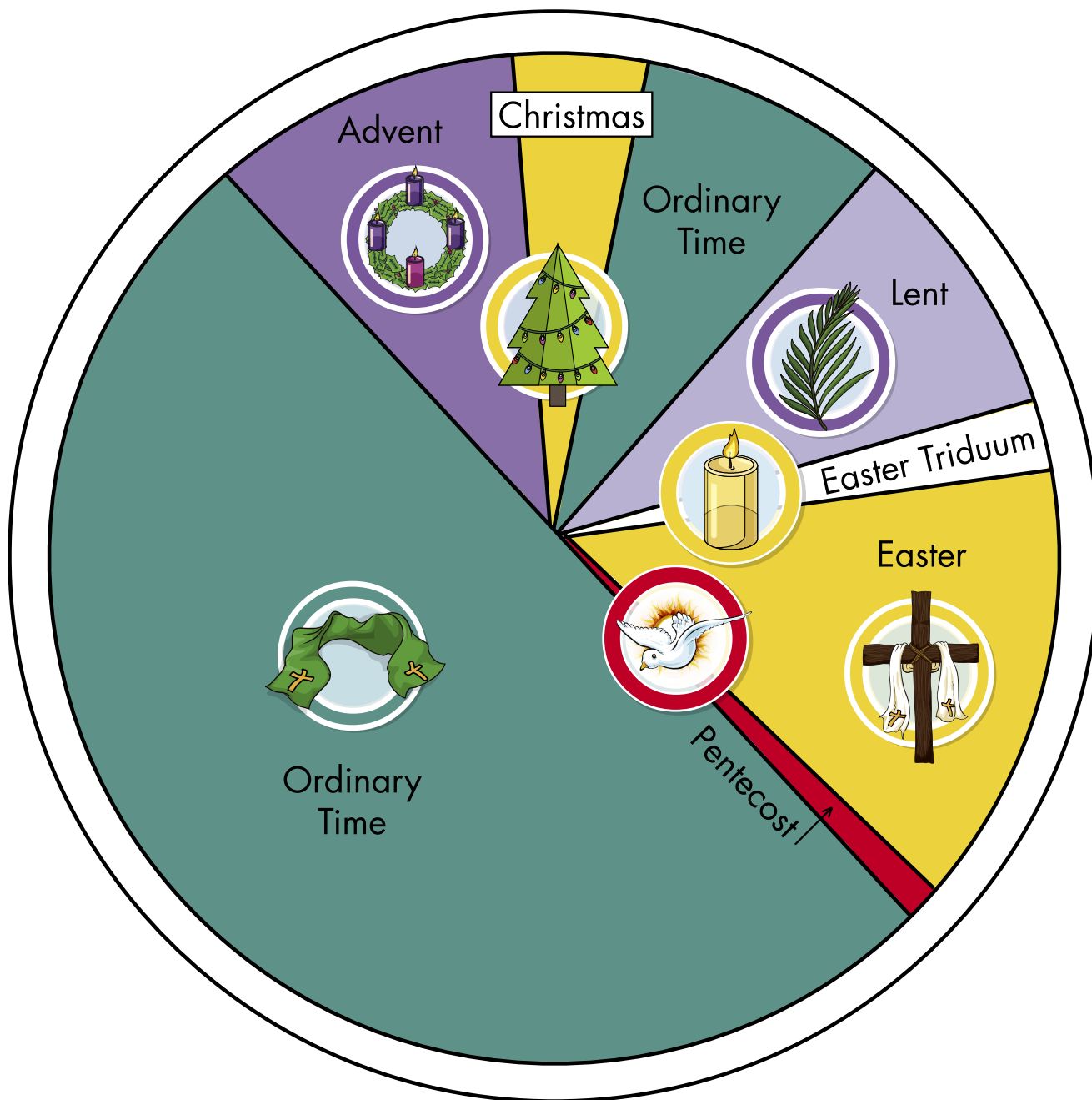
Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Because the Sundays are marked by ordinal numbers like first, second, third. These are the numbers that put things in order. 2. We learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus. 3. Jesus' favorite method was teaching in parables.





Church Year Calendar



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