God Is Our Good Father

Before beginning Unit 1, read A Letter Home, found on page 2 of your child’s book. Then begin the next paragraph with your child.

Say: The title of our book is God Is Good. Have your child repeat the title. Then look through the book together. Say: In Unit 1 we will learn about what God is like and how we can talk and listen to God.

CHAPTER 1 Jesus Is Our Friend

Centering  PAGE 1

Read aloud the title and the Bible verse on page 1. Then point out the picture. Ask: How can you tell that these children are friends? How do you know that someone is your friend? (Friends like to be with us; they show their love by doing kind things for us.)

Sharing  PAGE 3

Use the family Bible to read the story of Jesus and the little children (Mark 10:13–16). Give your child the Jesus punchout button from the back of the book as a reminder of Jesus’ love.

Say: Jesus is a friend to children. Ask: How do we know that Jesus wanted the children to be his friends? (He wanted them to be with him; he hugged and blessed the children.) Does Jesus want to be your friend?

Read aloud page 3 and have your child answer the question.

Ask your child to describe the stained-glass window. Say: Jesus is smiling kindly on the children and blessing them. The children are hugging Jesus, which shows that they love him.

Sharing  PAGE 4

Read aloud page 4 and have your child point out the words Jesus and Christ. Say: Christ is a title that was given to Jesus after his Resurrection. It means “anointed with oil.”

Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Ask: What did Jesus say to let us know he is our friend? (“Let the children come to me.”)
Sharing  PAGE 5

- Read aloud the sentences at the top of page 5. Say: If we are Jesus’ friend, we want to be like him and love others. Have your child complete the activity. Encourage him or her to also draw something loving that they are going to do with the people they drew.

- Ask: Who are some people who love you? How do you know that these people love you? Say: When we truly love someone, our love makes us willing to do things for that person, even things that are hard.

- Say: Jesus was willing to do something for us that was very hard.

- Display a crucifix or show a picture of one. Say: This is a crucifix. It is a cross with the image of Jesus on it. Jesus died on the Cross for us because he loves us so much. [Pause.] Whenever we look at a cross or a crucifix, we can remember that Jesus died for us, rose from the dead, and is with us now.

- Help your child remove the cross punchout from the back of the book. Say: This cross will remind you that Jesus died, rose and is still with us. Put it in a special place where you will see it often and remember that Jesus loves you and is your friend.

Sharing  PAGES 6–7

- Read aloud the text on page 6. Then read aloud the sentences at the top of page 7. Say: When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we are drawing a cross on ourselves. Have your child raise his or her right hand and refer to the pictures to make the five gestures. Repeat the gestures, adding the words.

- Say: When we pray the Sign of the Cross on ourselves, we bless ourselves by asking God to bless us. Ask: When can you bless yourself? (the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night; at meal prayers; anytime)


Acting  PAGE 8

- Help your child complete the Chapter 1 Review on page 8.

- Say: Look at the We Respond section. It always has a prayer. Pray this one after me: “I love you, Jesus.” Have your child repeat the prayer.

- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
Gather and Go Forth  PAGES 9–10

INSPIRE
♦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 9. Say: **God speaks to us through the Gospels and in the sacraments. First, we receive God’s message. Then we go out and share it with the world.***

PROCLAIM
♦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **You share Jesus with others whenever you do something loving.***
♦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **God is always inviting us to know him better.***
♦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 10. Ask: **Whom do you look up to as a role model? Why?** Say: **The saints are role models who show us how to do our best in following Jesus.***
♦ Point out the Gospel of Mark in the Bible. Say: **The Holy Spirit inspired Saint Mark to love Jesus and tell the story of his life.***
♦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
♦ Read aloud the directions in Share Your Faith and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM
♦ Discuss your child’s drawing in Share Your Faith. Ask: **How would you feel if your good actions spread all around the world? Why?***
♦ Say: **Jesus is your friend.** Have your child add Jesus to his or her drawing.
CHAPTER 2    God Is Good

Centering

✦ Pray the Sign of the Cross with your child. Then say: In the first chapter, we learned that God loves us. Today, we’ll learn about things God did to show his goodness and love.

✦ Together find pictures of your favorite animals online or in magazines. Encourage your child to describe each animal, naming special qualities that help the animal survive.

✦ Ask: Who made all these creatures? (God) Say: God has put many beautiful and wonderful things in our world for us to enjoy.

Sharing     PAGE 11

✦ Say: Look at the pictures on page 11. Ask: What are some things the children in the picture might see, hear, and touch as they explore the woods?

✦ Discuss outdoor places you and your child have been to. Encourage your child to use his or her senses to describe what he or she saw, felt, smelled, heard, and tasted.

✦ Say: We say that God created the world. That means God made it out of nothing. All the creatures that God made are called creation. God made all the wonderful things in our world for us. Ask: What does that tell us about God? (God is good; God loves us.)

Sharing     PAGE 12

✦ Display the family Bible. Say: In our holy book, the Bible, there is a story that tells about God making the world. Bible stories are different from other stories because God speaks to us in the Bible.

✦ Read aloud the story of Creation (Genesis 1:1–31) from a children’s Bible or retell it in your own words. Encourage your child to say with you the recurring phrase “God saw that it was good.”

✦ Say: The world is made new each day. Ask: What things can you think of that are new each day? (blossoming flowers, waves, leaves on a tree, babies) Say: God is always creating.

✦ Read aloud page 12. Point out the verses from the Bible. Then let your child complete the activity.
Sharing  PAGE 13
✦ Say: God created our beautiful world and wants us to take care of it.
✦ Ask: What parts of God’s creation are in danger of being lost because we are not caring for them? (fresh air, clean water, trees, grass, birds) If that part of creation is lost, how would it hurt the rest of the world?
✦ Read aloud the top of page 13. Discuss the question. Say: God is very proud of us when we help care for his creation.

Sharing  PAGES 14–17
✦ Read aloud A Seed on pages 14–16. Have your child follow along and look at the illustrations. Ask: How did the seed change? (It grew into a plant.) Why did it change? (It had soil, water, and sunlight.) Why was the little boy happy at the end of the story? Who made the seed grow? (God)
✦ If possible, have your child plant and care for a lima bean seed. Discuss how to care for the plant and keep a record of its growth.
✦ Read aloud the directions on page 17 and have your child complete the activity.

Acting  PAGE 18
✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus on page 13.
✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 2 Review on page 18. Say: God wants us to cooperate in caring for all living beings. God is very proud of us when we help care for his creation.
✦ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
Gather and Go Forth  PAGES 19–20

INSPIRE
* Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 19. Ask: What happens when people forget that God made everything? (They do not care for creation. They pollute and destroy. They do not share what they have.) Say: As Catholics, we care for creation and we also remind others that God made everything.

PROCLAIM
* Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: God made the world beautiful for us to enjoy. Thank you, God!
* Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: How can we keep the world beautiful?
* Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: Every person has his or her own way of sharing Jesus’ message. Some people teach. Others play music, draw, or write stories. Ask: How would you like to share Jesus’ message?
* Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
* Read aloud the directions in Share Your Faith and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM
* Discuss your child’s drawing in Share Your Faith. Ask: How can we care for our home? (pick up clothes, vacuum, straighten a bookshelf) Take time to carry through with your suggestions.
* Pray together. Say: God, help us be your hands in the world. Amen.
CHAPTER 3  God Is Our Father

Centering
✦ Ask: Who made all things? (God) What are some wonderful things that God made?
✦ Say: This chapter will help us learn about the beauty of all creation. We will also learn about how humans are created in a very special way.

Sharing  PAGE 21
✦ Say: The Bible tells us that God created people in his likeness (Genesis 1:26–27). This means that we can think, make choices, and love because we are able to do some of the things that God does.
✦ Read aloud the top of page 21. Then read aloud the poem, having your child supply the words for the pictures.
✦ Say: God is our Father. Children are like their fathers in some ways. Ask: What things in the poem can human beings do that make us like God? (think, choose, and love) Give your child the “God is my Father” punchout button as you say: [Name], God is your loving Father.

Sharing  PAGE 22
✦ Ask: What makes you special? Say: God made each one of us different, and each one of us is special. God could have made us any way he wanted. He likes us to be ourselves.
✦ Read aloud the text on page 22, then have your child complete the activity.
✦ Display pictures of people of different races and nationalities, found online or in magazines and newspapers. Ask: There are people who live nearby and people who live far away. Is God their father? (Yes.) Why? (God made them.) What are children called who have the same father? (brothers and sisters) If God is the father of everyone, then how should we feel toward people everywhere? (loving and kind; the way we feel about family members)

Sharing  PAGES 23–24
✦ Ask: What does it mean to care? (to look after, to love, to protect) Do you need care?
✦ Read aloud God Cares for Us on page 23. Ask: What does God do so that all people have enough food to eat? (God puts food in the world and tells us to share.)
✦ Read aloud We Care for Others. Ask: What can we share so that other people don’t have to worry? (clothes, money, talents)
✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

✦ Say: Let’s think of someone who needs our care. What can we do to help? Brainstorm ideas and then pick one to carry out together.

✦ Read aloud page 24 and have your child look at the image. Ask: What are some ways that these parents might show their care for their children? (They feed and clothe them, take care of them when they are sick, and play with them.) Say: God our Father watches over us and gives us all the things we need to be happy.

**Acting**  PAGES 25–26

✦ Ask: What is a VIP? (A VIP is a “very important person.”) Say: Wherever very important people go, they are given special treatment to honor them. Talk about VIPs who are in the news.

✦ Read aloud the directions on page 25 and have your child complete the activity. Then help your child remove the “VIP” badge punchouts from the back of the book. Tell your child to give a badge to people who bring them God’s love, care, or forgiveness. Say: When you give your badge to a VIP, tell him or her why he or she is a VIP to you.

✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 3 Review on page 26. Say: God wants all children to know the love of a good father. God is everyone’s father, and God is a good father. He wants us all to feel like VIPs.

✦ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or read aloud the section together to review.
Gather and Go Forth  PAGES 27–28

INSPIRE
✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 27. Say:
  God also made each one of us. He made us one-of-a-kind, unique, and
  special. We are all precious to God.

PROCLAIM
✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: When have
  you done something kind, even though you didn’t feel like it? Say:
  That’s being like God. God is loving all the time.
✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge.
  Have your child answer the question and say: We are more like God when
  we are loving and giving.
✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Ask: Have you ever had to change
  your plans? What did you do? Say: God has plans for us. It’s important
  to trust God and follow his will, even if it’s not something we
  completely understand. Saint Anthony knew God was with him.
✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each
  faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to
  reflect on each one.
✦ Read aloud the directions in Share Your Faith and have your child
  complete the activity.

TRANSFORM
✦ Discuss your child’s drawing in Share Your Faith. Say: Whenever we help
  someone, we show that we care.
✦ Have your child trace his or her hand on a separate sheet of paper. Invite
  him or her to write I Can Help inside the hand. After your child decorates
  the hand and cuts it out, suggest that he or she give the “helping hand” to a
  loved one as a promise to help.
✦ Pray together. Say: Loving God, thank you for all the gifts you’ve given
  us that allow us to help and care for others. May we always lend a
  helping hand to those who need it. Amen.
CHAPTER 4  God Our Father Is Holy

Centering
✦ Say: You have learned that we are like God our Father, but God is ever so much greater than we are. Today you will learn how we show that we know this.
✦ Display familiar holy objects such as a Bible, a crucifix, and a rosary. Say: Things that have to do with God and that help us think of him or pray to him are called holy.

Sharing  PAGE 29
✦ Say: In the Bible there are many stories about a man named Moses. Read aloud page 29. Ask: What is Moses doing in the picture? Why do you think he knelt and took off his shoes?

Sharing  PAGES 30–31
✦ Read aloud Moses Knew God Is Holy on page 30. Say: Moses took off his shoes. He was in the presence of God, the all-holy One. Ask: What did his action say? (“O God, you are great and holy.”)
✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.
✦ Say: Moses prayed to God so that he might know God and see his holiness. Pray aloud A Prayer of Moses. Then say: Talk to Jesus in the quiet of your heart. Ask Jesus to help us know the Father.
✦ Say: Moses went to a certain place to talk to God. Ask: Where can we go? (church) What can we do when we come before God that is like Moses bowing down? (genuflect) Demonstrate this action and have your child practice. Ask: What do we say by our genuflection? (God, you are great and holy.)
✦ Ask: What are other actions or postures that praise God’s holiness? (folded hands; bowed heads; kneeling; standing; sitting and listening; uplifted arms; praying the Sign of the Cross)
✦ Read aloud page 31. Have your child identify the action in each picture. Say: These actions say, “God, you loved me enough to die for me.”
Sharing  PAGE 32
- Read aloud the first three sentences on page 32. Say: Imagine you are in church. Ask: How does it feel to be in such a holy place?
- Read aloud the rest of the section. Introduce the shown features and furnishings of a church.

Say: The altar table is the holy place where we come together to celebrate Jesus’ dying and rising.
The sanctuary is the space in the church where the altar is.
The Blessed Sacrament is kept in the tabernacle. We genuflect as a sign of respect for the Blessed Sacrament.
The burning sanctuary lamp tells us that Jesus is present.
Stained-glass windows are colorful glass windows that tell us about what we believe.
Holy water is water that has been blessed by a priest. When we enter and leave a Catholic church, we pray the Sign of the Cross with holy water. Demonstrate how to bless yourself with holy water and have your child repeat your actions.
What other holy things are in the church? (book with God’s word, crucifix, candles, statues of saints)
- Name the objects again and have your child find them and put a check mark by the ones he or she has seen before.

Acting  PAGES 33–34
- If possible, take your child to tour your church, or view pictures of your church online. Talk about how to show respect for the church by walking slowly and speaking quietly. Look at pictures and point out some of the holy things in church. Express reverence and joy as you identify each holy object.
- Read aloud the directions on page 33 and have your child complete the activity. Say: Be sure to draw holy things you have seen in the spaces around the cross.
- Help your child complete the Chapter 4 Review on page 34.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or read aloud the section together to review.
Gather and Go Forth  PAGES 35–36

INSPIRE

♦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 35. Say: We come together in Mass to worship God. It’s important to pray in private too. Imagine yourself with Jesus in your favorite place. Thank Jesus for the gift of the Mass. Allow time for your child to pray. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.

PROCLAIM

♦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: Great means “very big and wonderful.” God made everything; all the great things in the world come from God.

♦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: When we come together to worship, Christ is alive in us in a special way.

♦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: Matthew did important work. He shared the Word of God with people. When you follow Jesus, you spread his Good News to many people too. Show the Gospel of Matthew in the Bible to your child.

♦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.

♦ Read aloud the directions in Share Your Faith and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

♦ Say: Think of someone you know who needs care. Imagine this person wrapped in God’s love, like a warm blanket. Ask: What act of kindness might you do to help? Help your child follow through with his or her idea.

♦ Pray aloud by saying: Holy Spirit, help us bring comfort to others by sharing God’s love with them. Amen.
CHAPTER 5  God Shares His Life with Us

Centering
♦ Say: In the last chapter, we learned about holy objects we see in church. Today, we’ll talk about something in creation that is used to make us a member of God’s family.

♦ Display a punch bowl filled with water, a ladle, and some spoons on a water-safe surface. Say: Water is one of God’s gifts to us. Water is important because it does so many things for us. Allow time for your child to play with and appreciate the water. Ask: What are some different ways we use water? (drinking, cleaning, watering plants, filling aquariums, swimming, skiing)

Sharing  PAGE 37
♦ Read aloud page 37 and have your child look at the pictures. Ask: Why might the girl in the picture be thankful for the beautiful water? How is water being used in the top picture? (The priest is baptizing the baby.)

♦ Say: A young shepherd boy, David, watched thirsty deer drink water from a cool stream. He thought about how he himself thirsted for God. David made up a prayer song to God that said, “My soul is thirsting for you, O my God” (adapted from Psalm 63:2). Ask: Do you think our souls may be thirsting for God the way our bodies sometimes thirst for water? Say: Because God made us to be with him, we will be completely happy when we are united with God.

♦ Discuss the care of water. Ask: How is some of our water being destroyed? (pollution) What can you do to stop water pollution? How can you save water?

Sharing  PAGES 38–39
♦ Review the story A Seed from pages 14–16 of your child’s book. Ask: What made the small, hard seed come alive? Say: Water brings forth new life from seeds. Seeds become plants with a new life. The seed got the new life through the water. Then show your child a plant so he or she can see the new life that can come from a seed.

♦ Read aloud the text at the top of page 38. Have your child point out the words Baptism, Church, and Christian.

♦ Say: Find the picture where the priest is pouring water over the baby’s head. The baby is being baptized.

♦ Say: The priest says some very important words. Read aloud the words in the orange box.
✦ Say: Find the candle in the bottom picture. The burning candle helps us remember that the baby has a new life now.

✦ Ask: Why did the priest pour water on your head at your Baptism? (to show that I had a new life)

✦ Say: At Baptism we are given the name Christian because we believe in God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

✦ Help your child remove the fish punchout from the back of the book. Say: We Christians are like little fish. We became children of God through the waters of Baptism.

✦ Read aloud page 39 and have your child complete the activities. Say: Because we have been baptized, we belong to God’s special family, the Church.

Sharing PAGES 40–41

✦ Read aloud We Live as God’s Children on page 40. Ask: Who is the light of the world? (Jesus) Say: We must share Jesus’ light with others.

✦ Read aloud Saint Julie Shares Jesus’ Light. Say: Julie shared her happiness and her smile with other people. We can smile and talk about God’s love.

✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

✦ Read aloud the directions on page 41 and have your child complete the activities.

Acting PAGE 42

✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 5 Review on page 42.

✦ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or read aloud the section together to review.
**Gather and Go Forth**  PAGES 43–44

**INSPIRE**
- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 43. Ask: What does God give us in Baptism? (new life) Thank you, God, for the Sacrament of Baptism.

**PROCLAIM**
- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: As Catholics, we have special objects that help us celebrate and receive God’s grace and love.
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: In Baptism, we join a family that helps us grow closer to God—the Christian family.
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: Life wasn’t easy for Saint Julie. She was ill for a long time and had to stay in bed. But Saint Julie was filled with God’s light. She couldn’t help but shine!
- Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith. Allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- Read aloud the directions in Share Your Faith and have your child complete the activity.

**TRANSFORM**
- Discuss the Share Your Faith activity. Say: Catholics share God’s light. Imagine your whole body, heart, and mind flooded with God’s light.
- Say: In Baptism we are all called to be missionaries. We can be missionaries in our homes, our schools, and our neighborhoods. Ask: How are you a light for others?
CHAPTER 6  God Speaks to Us

Centering
✦ Say: Before we begin today’s lesson on ways that God speaks to us, let’s take a few moments to talk with God.
✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus on page 45. Say: Thank God for making you his child.

Sharing  PAGES 45–47
✦ Have your child read aloud the title on page 45. Say: There are many ways to communicate with others besides using words. Use gestures such as waving or raising your hand and ask: What does this mean? Make a happy face and ask: What does this mean?
✦ Read aloud the rest of the page and have your child complete the activity.
✦ Say: Some things happen in silence. Together name things that God makes happen in silence such as a sunrise, a bird flying, or a spider making a web.
✦ Read aloud page 46. Have your child draw and color pictures as you read page 47. Say: We grow in silence too. The new life we received in Baptism grows through silence.
✦ Say: In silence God speaks. Ask: What might God tell you about himself? Why do you think we need to be silent sometimes?

Sharing  PAGES 48–49
✦ Say: Sometimes when it is very quiet, we can hear sounds that we usually don’t hear. Let’s sit quietly and listen. Pause and then point out background noise that you don’t normally hear, such as a ticking clock, cars, or your own breathing. Say: God speaks to our hearts when we are silent.
✦ Help your child read aloud the story of Elijah on pages 48 and 49. Pantomime actions and add sound effects as you read the story.
✦ Ask: Why is it hard to hear God when we are making noise? (It is too noisy to hear God speaking softly deep within our hearts.) When can we hear God? (We hear God when we are quiet and remember that God is present.)
✦ Ask: Can you think of a time when you can pray at home each day? Where would be a good place in our home for quiet prayer?
✦ Have your child illustrate his or her favorite part of the story of Elijah and display it in your home. Encourage your child to tell others about the story.
Sharing  PAGES 50–51

✦ Read aloud God Speaks to Us in the Bible on page 50. Display the family Bible. Ask: Why do you think people like to read the Bible? (They like to read about God, his people, and Jesus.) What is your favorite Bible story? Say: The Bible is God’s Word. It is one way that God speaks to us.

✦ Say: We show respect for the Bible at Mass. We stand when the Gospel is read. This shows our readiness to do all that the Lord tells us.

✦ Read aloud God Speaks Through Those Who Love and Care for Us. Ask: Who are some people who love and care for you? How do they help you do what God wants?

✦ Role-play the following situations in which others care for children and act as God’s helper: grandmother teaching children how to pray; police officer helping a lost child; crossing guard helping a child cross the street; babysitter telling a child to put away toys.

✦ Read aloud the directions on page 51 and have your child complete the activities. Ask your child to retell the Bible story that he or she drew.

Acting  PAGE 52

✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 6 Review on page 52.

✦ Present the Scripture prayer booklet to your child from the back of the book. Say: This booklet will help you pray to God using the Bible. When we read the Bible, we come closer to God.

✦ Direct your child’s attention to page 2 of the booklet. Say: Whenever you use this booklet, color one of the beads.

✦ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or read aloud the section together to review.
Gather and Go Forth  PAGES 53–54

INSPIRE

✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 53. Say: God wants us to share his Word with others. Ask: If we love God and feel his joy, is it hard or easy to share his message? Why?

PROCLAIM

✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Demonstrate the sign, making a small cross on the forehead, lips, and heart. Say: We always want to keep God’s Word on our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: God speaks to us through the Bible. This is why we call the Bible the Word of God.

✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: Andrew was filled with joy when he met Jesus. When we connect with Jesus, we can experience this too.

✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith. Allow time for your child to reflect on each one.

✦ Read aloud the directions in Share Your Faith and have your child complete the activity. Say: The more we practice sharing God’s Word with others, the more of a habit it becomes.

TRANSFORM

✦ Say: People can be hungry and thirsty in different ways. A classmate might be hungry for someone to play with at recess. Another classmate might be thirsty for a kind word. Ask: What can you do to “feed” a classmate? Encourage your child to carry out his or her ideas as soon as possible.
CHAPTER 7 We Pray to God
Our Father

Centering
✦ With your child in another room, call out his or her name. Ask: What did you think about when I called your name? What would you do if God called your name?
✦ Say: There is a story in the Bible that tells how a young boy named Samuel listened when God called his name.

Sharing PAGES 55–56
✦ Read aloud or tell the story of Samuel’s encounter with God (Samuel 3:1–18). Then read aloud page 55. Have your child point to the word prayer. Ask: What does prayer mean? (listening and speaking to God)
✦ Read aloud page 56 and have your child study the picture. Ask: What is the child doing? What might God say to him?
✦ Say: When we pray, we should listen to God as Samuel did. God puts thoughts in our mind and heart. We hear God deep within us.
✦ Discuss what God might say when you feel like no one cares, when you don’t feel safe, when you need help, and when you have done something good for others. Say: When we speak to God, we are also praying. God likes it when we pray.

Sharing PAGES 57–59
✦ Have your child read aloud A Visit with God on page 57. Discuss the question.
✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.
✦ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 58. Say: Talking to people and talking to God are a lot alike.
✦ Discuss the top picture and prayer. Ask: How has someone praised you? How did you feel? What might you say to praise God? Have your child write the word praise.
✦ Discuss the bottom picture and prayer. Ask: What do you think the child is asking? What might you say if you wanted God to help you? Have your child write the word asking.
✦ Discuss the top picture and prayer on page 59. Ask: Whom can this boy thank for the gift of sunshine? How could you thank God? Have your child write the word thanks.
Discuss the bottom picture and prayer. Ask: How do you think this boy feels? When might you wish to tell God you are sorry? Have your child write the word sorry.

Together make up gestures for the psalm prayers on pages 58 and 59 and pray each prayer together.

Sharing  PAGES 60–61

Ask: What are things we do every day? Why do we eat every day? Why do we play every day? Why do we sleep every day? Say: There are many things that we do every day.

Read aloud page 60. Ask: What can you do every day to show God you love him?

Have your child repeat the three prayers on the page and discuss the appropriate time of day to pray each prayer.

Make flash cards for the words morning, mealtime, and night. Have your child select a card and tell something they might say to God at that time of the day. They may read aloud the prayers on page 60.

Read aloud the directions on page 61 and have your child complete the activity.

Acting  PAGE 62

Help your child complete the Chapter 7 Review on page 62.

Have your child remove the two prayer cards from the punchout section of his or her book (labeled Chapter 7 on the back) and decorate them. Encourage your child to place the cards where others will see them and be reminded to pray.

Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or read aloud the section together to review.
Gather and Go Forth  PAGES 63–64

INSPIRE
✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 63. Say: We might not always get what we pray for. Sometimes God wants something else for us. God knows us and loves us.

PROCLAIM
✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: Sometimes when we pray, we use words. Other times we are quiet and listen to God.
✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: You can pray anywhere and anytime.
✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith. Allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
✦ Read aloud the directions in Share Your Faith and have your child complete the activity. Ask: What are other places where you can pray?

TRANSFORM
✦ Help your child make a prayer tree. Anchor a small tree branch in a large can. Invite your child to write on a slip of paper the name of someone he or she wishes to pray for and hang the slip on the tree. Encourage family members to add names to the tree.
CHAPTER 8 Jesus Teaches Us to Pray to Our Father

Centering
✦ Help your child recall what he or she has learned about prayer.
✦ Ask: Have you ever tried to teach someone how to do something? What was it? Say: One day Jesus’ friends asked him to teach them something. Ask: What do you think it was?

Sharing  PAGES 65–67
✦ Read aloud page 65 and have your child study the picture. Ask: What is Jesus doing? (praying) Help your child read aloud the text in the left column of page 66. Say: Jesus’ friends asked him to teach them how to pray. So Jesus taught them a prayer called the Our Father.
✦ Read aloud the Our Father from page 66 and have your child follow along with you.
✦ Write each line of the Our Father on individual note cards. As you display each card, say or ask:

“Our Father”  Why do we say “Our Father” instead of “My Father”? (God is the father of us all.)

“who art in heaven”  God our Father has a special place in his heavenly home for each one of us. We will be there with God someday if we live as his children here on earth.

“hallowed be thy name”  The word hallowed means “holy.” We say God’s name with love because it is holy.

“thy kingdom come”  Where is God’s kingdom? (in heaven and on earth) When we say “thy kingdom come,” we pray that we might all live with God forever.

“thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”  Jesus told us to follow God’s will. We will be happy on earth when we love God.

“Give us this day our daily bread”  This helps us remember those who have no food to eat.

“and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us”  Trespass is a word for something wrong that we do. We are asking forgiveness for the wrong things we have done.

“and lead us not into temptation”  A temptation is something that leads us to do what is wrong. We ask God to keep us from all that can lead us to do wrong.
“but deliver us from evil”  We trust that God will protect us from doing wrong.

“Amen”  We are saying yes to everything we have just prayed.

- Have your child read aloud the two sentences on page 67. Then lead the child through A Moment with Jesus and suggest coloring the cross next to the Our Father prayer on the inside front cover of his or her book as soon as he or she learns the prayer by heart.

**Reviewing  PAGES 68–70**

- Help your child complete the Chapter 8 Review on page 68.
- Say: **Now we’re going to play “Yes and No.”** I will ask questions, and you tell me if the answer is yes or no. Ask questions such as: Can we hear God speaking to us if we are always noisy? (No.) Did Jesus give us the Our Father prayer? (Yes.) Do we speak to God when we pray? (Yes.)
- Read aloud the directions on page 69 and have your child complete the activity.
- Read aloud each scenario on page 70. Discuss each answer with your child.

**Celebrating  PAGES 71–72**

- Hold the celebration We Love Our Good Father beginning on page 71. Sing the opening song to the melody of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”
- After reading aloud Reading and Response 1, sing the next song to the melody of “Happy Birthday.”
- After reading aloud the Reading and Response 2, sing the last song to the melody of “Happy Birthday.”
- Say: **Now we will pray using the words that you have learned.** Pray aloud the Our Father, having your child repeat after you if necessary.

**Acting**

- Say: **Take time each day to talk to our Father in heaven.** Point out that the Our Father is on the inside front cover of your child’s book.
- When you’ve completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 74a–74d and encourage him or her to share it with other family members, or read and complete the section together.
Gather and Go Forth  PAGES 73–74

INSPIRE

✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 73. Discuss with your child a time when the Our Father was especially meaningful to you. Say: The Our Father feeds you in many different ways throughout your life.

PROCLAIM

✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: What are needs? (things we must have to live) What are wants? (things we would like to have but aren’t necessary) Say: We thank God for everything he gives us.

✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: Catholics pray the Our Father because it contains prayers that praise, give thanks, say sorry, and ask for help.

✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: After learning about Jesus, Ignatius became a “soldier for the Lord” and told others about God.

✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith. Allow time for your child to reflect on each one.

✦ Read aloud the directions in Share Your Faith and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

✦ Together reflect silently on each word in the Share Your Faith activity. Say: God wants us to make sure others have what they need.

✦ Have your child follow through with the directions in Share Your Faith by donating to those in need or by doing another helping action today.