

God Sent His Son as Our Savior

- ✦ Before beginning Unit 2, read A Letter Home, found on page 76 of your child's book. Then begin the next paragraph with your child.
- ✦ Say: **In Unit 2 we will learn more about how God sent his Son, Jesus, as our Savior. This act is God's great gift to us.**

CHAPTER 9 God Promised a Savior

Centering PAGE 75

- ✦ Read aloud the title and the Bible verse on page 75. Ask: **What are some ways that God has shown us how much he loves us?** (He gave us a beautiful world, a loving family, and the Church.)
- ✦ Display a doll. Ask: **What is something you can do that this doll cannot do?** Say: **God loved people so much that he made us like himself. We are going to hear a story from the Bible that tells how God made people who could be happy with him forever in heaven.**

Sharing PAGES 77–78

- ✦ Read aloud page 77. Fill in more information about the Creation story by summarizing Genesis 2. Say: **We too have God's life. God is with us, and we are God's children. Let us thank God quietly in our hearts.** [Pause]
- ✦ Read aloud page 78. Have your child point to the words *grace* and *heaven*. Ask: **What could Adam and Eve do?** (think, choose, and love) Say: **Like Adam and Eve, we are made in God's image, which means we are made like God. God also gave them a share in his own life. We call this grace.**
- ✦ Have your child complete the illustration.

Sharing PAGE 79

- ✦ Read aloud page 79. Ask: **What does a savior do?** (A savior saves you.) Say: **Sometimes a savior dies trying to save someone. Let's learn about why Adam and Eve needed a Savior.**
- ✦ Tell or read aloud from the Bible the story of the temptation in the garden (Genesis 3:1–20).

- ✦ Say: **Adam and Eve were sorry they sinned. Their sin brought evil into God's world. Their sin affected all people.**
- ✦ Say: **God promised to send a Savior to make up for sin. God would send his Son, Jesus.** Ask: **Why do you think God made the promise?** (because God loved Adam and Eve)
- ✦ Ask your child to draw a face that shows how Adam and Eve felt when they chose to obey God. Say: **The choices that we make determine whether we are happy or sad.**
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer. Say: **God, help us always choose to love you.**

Sharing PAGE 80

- ✦ Ask: **What is so special about a promise?** Talk about promises. Ask: **What promise did God make to people?** (to send a Savior)
- ✦ Read aloud page 80. Say: **God did not tell when the Savior would come.** Ask: **Why did we need a Savior?** (We have disobeyed God.)
- ✦ Say: **God chose our Savior to come from the Jewish people. God chose a young Jewish woman to be the mother of his Son, Jesus.** Ask: **Do you know her name?** (Mary) Say: **Because Jesus saved us by dying on the Cross, we are able to be friends with God again through Baptism.**
- ✦ Say: **Jesus will help us choose what is good.** Ask: **Has Jesus ever helped you choose what God wanted?**

Sharing PAGE 81

- ✦ Have your child complete the activity on top of page 81.
- ✦ Find the story of the Pawnee legend "The Mud Pony" online or at the library. Say: **Sometimes we feel very happy and very sad, just like Adam and Eve. I am going to tell you a story about a Native American boy who was sad until something happened.** Read aloud or tell "The Mud Pony."
- ✦ Say: **Even though the boy was sad, the pony helped him have courage and be strong. This story shows us that our decisions affect others.**
- ✦ Say: **God wants us to make decisions that bring happiness to others.**
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

Acting PAGE 82

- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 9 Review on page 82.
- ✦ Say: **Because the Savior has already come, we can call on him to help us say yes to God.**
- ✦ 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 83–84**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 83. Say: **Jesus is our best help when we struggle. He shows us how to love God. He shows us how to follow God's wishes.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What is God's grace?** (the gift of God's life) Say: **When we are filled with God's grace, his light shines in us.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Knowing our Catholic faith helps us open our hearts to God.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Give an example of something you need patience for. Say: **Whenever you feel impatient, you can talk to Saint John Bosco.**
- ◆ 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: **When we choose to follow Jesus, our Savior, we are choosing God and we may reach heaven.** Have your child help you decorate a box with a slit cut into the top. Together write ways to follow Jesus on slips of paper and place them in the box. Encourage your child to share your ideas with others.
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer. Say: **Dear Jesus, help me be patient like Saint John Bosco. Amen.**

CHAPTER 10 God Chose Mary and Joseph

Centering

- ✦ Help your child remove the punchouts of Mary, the angel, and the two white strips above them from the back of his or her book. Show your child how to join the strips to make bases and then insert the figures. Say: **Look at these figures as I tell you a beautiful story.**
- ✦ Say: **Mary was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Mary loved God. God did not let Adam and Eve's sin keep grace from Mary.**
- ✦ Tell or read aloud the story of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38).

Sharing PAGE 85

- ✦ Have your child read the story of Mary and the angel on page 85.
- ✦ Ask: **What did the angel ask Mary?** (to be the mother of Jesus) **How did Mary answer?** (“Yes, I will do whatever God wants.”)
- ✦ Say: **Mary, the mother of Jesus, is also our Mother, our heavenly mother. “Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you.”** Ask: **Where have you heard these words before?** (the Hail Mary)
- ✦ Have your child use the figures of Mary and the angel to act out the story of the Annunciation.

Sharing PAGES 86–87

- ✦ Discuss surprise visits you and your child have had by people you didn't expect. Ask: **How did that surprise feel?** Say: **Mary was surprised by the angel. After the angel left, Mary planned a surprise visit to Elizabeth.**
- ✦ Tell the story of the Visitation (Luke 1:39–56).
- ✦ Look at the picture and read aloud the text on page 86. Ask: **What beautiful words did Elizabeth say to Mary?** (“Blessed is the fruit of your womb.”)
- ✦ Read aloud the first two sentences on page 87. Say: **Mary likes us to ask her for help. We do this when we pray the last part of the Hail Mary.**
- ✦ Show your child the Hail Mary prayer that is printed on the inside back cover of his or her book. Say: **We will pray the Hail Mary together. You may color the cross next to the prayer when you know it by heart.**
- ✦ Pray the Hail Mary together.
- ✦ Ask: **How can you show kindness to others as Mary did?** Encourage your child to follow through on his or her ideas.

- ✦ If your parish church rings the Angelus bells, you could tell your child that the ringing of the bells reminds us to ask Mary for help.
- ✦ Help your child remove the blank button from the back of his or her book. Have your child draw and color a smiling face on the button. Put tape on the back of the button so that your child can wear it and be reminded to be like Mary by making someone happy today.

Sharing PAGES 88–89

- ✦ Say: **God chose Joseph to be Jesus' foster father. A foster father takes the job of being a father to someone.** Ask: **Who was Jesus' actual father?** (God the Father)
- ✦ Say: **Whenever God chooses someone for a special job, God knows who is best.**
- ✦ Help your child read aloud the top section of page 88. Say: **We can be like Joseph if we try to do what is right by loving God and others.**
- ✦ Read aloud the bottom of the page. Say: **We can say a prayer such as "Saint Joseph, help us do what is right" or "Saint Joseph, pray for us."**
- ✦ Talk about how animal parents care for their young. Ask: **Do you know how mother rabbits make a soft nest for their young? They pull out some of their own fur to line the nest. What would happen to the babies if no one cared for them?**
- ✦ Ask: **Who are the people that help take care of you? Even after you are grown up, there are people who help when you need it.**
- ✦ Help your child read aloud the top of page 89. Then have your child complete the activity.
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

Acting PAGE 90

- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 10 Review on page 90.
- ✦ Say: **Let's pray aloud the Hail Mary for the people who care for us.** Continue praying the complete Hail Mary. Have your child repeat each part of the prayer.
- ✦ 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 91–92**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 91. Ask: **To follow Mary's example, what should we say to God?** (Yes.)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **Who is someone you know who reminds you of Mary or Joseph? Why?** Help your child write a short note to this person, thanking him or her for saying yes to God.
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Catholics have a special relationship with Mary.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: **Saying yes to God is trusting God. We trust him to show us the way.**
- ◆ 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: **As Catholics, we are called to welcome people into our hearts, our communities, and our Church.** Talk about times you have welcomed others. Invite your child to welcome someone today.

CHAPTER 11 Jesus Our Savior Was Born in Bethlehem

Centering

- ♦ Ask: **What do you think of when you hear the word *Christmas*? Write *Christmas* and underline *Christ*. Say: Christmas is the story of Jesus coming into our world. I am going to tell you that story today.**
- ♦ Help your child remove the manger and the infant Jesus punchouts from the back of the book. Say: **I will tell you when to put Jesus in the manger.**

Sharing PAGE 93

- ♦ Tell or read aloud from the Bible the story of the Nativity (Luke 2:1–7).
- ♦ Ask: **What is the name of the town that Mary and Joseph traveled to? (Bethlehem) What special thing did Mary know about her newborn son, Jesus? (He was God’s Son, the Savior.) What day do we especially celebrate God’s gift to us? (Christmas)**
- ♦ Read aloud page 93. Say: **God’s Son was born without any riches. He was born like many people in the world who don’t have much money.**
- ♦ Lead your child in prayer. Say: **Thank God for giving us the best gift ever—his Son, Jesus. Thank God for Mary and Joseph.**

Sharing PAGES 94–95

- ♦ Ask: **Who gave us the first Christmas gift? (God gave us his Son, Jesus.)**
- ♦ Ask: **Have you ever gotten good news? Discuss good news you have both received and talk about how it made you feel.**
- ♦ Say: **Today I’m going to tell you a story about how some shepherds got a special visitor who shared wonderful news with them.**
- ♦ Tell about or read aloud from the Bible the Angel’s News to the Shepherds (Luke 2:8–20).
- ♦ Ask: **What news did the angels bring? (A Savior had been born.) Say: The shepherds were poor and did not have much to give but love. Love is the best gift people can give each other.**
- ♦ Together read aloud the top of page 94 and all of page 95. Have your child complete the activity on page 95.
- ♦ Have your child place the punchout of baby Jesus in the punchout of the manger. Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus on page 94. Then have your child complete the activity.

Sharing PAGE 96

- ◆ Say: **Today our story is about men who studied the stars during Jesus' time. These men knew many things, so some people called them the Wise Men. One night the stars had an important message for them.**
Ask: **What do you think it was?**
- ◆ Tell or read aloud from the Bible the story of the Wise Men (Matthew 2:1–12).
- ◆ Read aloud page 96. Have your child draw and color a star.
- ◆ Say: **The Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Giving gifts is a sign of love. The Wise Men brought their best gifts to Jesus to show how much they loved him.**
- ◆ Say: **The Wise Men helped spread the good news of Jesus' birth.** Ask: **Who spreads the good news or tells about Jesus today?**
- ◆ Guide your child in prayer. Say: **Thank God for people who help others know Jesus. Pray for people who still have not heard about Jesus.**

Sharing PAGE 97

- ◆ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete page 97.
- ◆ Ask: **How do you feel when you receive a Christmas gift? How do you feel when you give a Christmas gift?**
- ◆ Say: **Jesus was the first Christmas gift.** Read aloud from the Bible, John 3:16, substituting the words *be lost* for *perish*.
- ◆ Ask: **What did God promise those who believed in Jesus? (eternal life)**
Say: **Eternal life means life that will never end. This is the life we will have with God in heaven.**
- ◆ Ask: **What does a heart mean? (love)** Say: **Something wonderful happens when we give love away. We have more love than we had before.**
- ◆ Say: **When we love someone, we give them the gift of ourselves.** Ask: **How can we give the gift of love in these situations: Dad is tired and there are dishes to wash; Mom isn't feeling well; your little brother can't tie his shoes; the new girl at school is feeling lonely.**

Acting PAGE 98

- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 11 Review on page 98.
- ◆ Help your child remove the four "I will help" gift cards from the back of his or her book. Say: **Write on the gift cards the names of those you wish to help and give the cards to them. Tell these people that when they need help, they can call on you.**
- ◆ 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 99–100**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 99. Pray: **Father, thank you for the gift of Christmas. The birth of your Son helps us know you better.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Jesus is our star. He shines in all of us. We can tell others about Jesus through our kind and loving actions.**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **How did the Wise Men know where Jesus was?** (A star guided them.)
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: **Jesus wants everyone to be his friend. We do what we can to help, and then we pour our trust in Jesus.**
- ✦ 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

- ✦ Display children's books about the Nativity. Read aloud one story using animated gestures and dramatic tones. Say: **God wants us to share stories about Jesus in exciting ways too.**
- ✦ Invite your child to retell the story of the Nativity to a friend or family member. Allow time for him or her to practice the story with you first.

CHAPTER 12 Families Share Life and Love

Centering PAGE 101

- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 101 and discuss the photograph. Ask: **Why do the people in the photograph belong together?** (They are a family.) **How does this family's love for one another show?**
- ◆ Say: **We belong to a special family that is different from every other family.** Ask: **Who is our family?**
- ◆ Ask: **Who do you see in the stained-glass image on page 101?** (Mary, Joseph, and Jesus) Say: **Mary and Joseph raised Jesus with love and cared for him as he grew up.**

Sharing PAGE 102

- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 102. Say: **Who are the members of the Holy Family?** (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph) Have your child complete the activity at the bottom of the page. Ask: **How do you think the Holy Family brought happiness to each other?**
- ◆ Ask: **Why do we need family members?** (to listen to us when we have news to tell; to talk to when we are sad; to care about us; to do the things we can't do)
- ◆ Have your child fold a sheet of drawing paper in half. Say: **On one side of the page, draw the Holy Family doing something together. On the other side, draw our family doing something together.** Discuss the pictures when your child is finished.

Sharing PAGES 103–104

- ◆ Review the special families discussed earlier. (the Holy Family, your own family)
- ◆ If possible, display a picture of your church. Say: **Today you will learn about another larger family to which you belong, our parish family.**
- ◆ Say: **Our parish family is made up of the many families who come together to pray and sing in the parish church. There are many parishes besides our own. All parish families belong to the big family of the Catholic Church.**
- ◆ Read aloud page 103. Have your child point out the word *parish*.
- ◆ Say: **Parish families celebrate special times together. We celebrate that Jesus died and rose and is with us.**

- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 104 and point to the word *Mass*. Remind your child of the many things that the parish does together at Mass, such as making the Sign of the Cross, singing or praying “Glory to God,” praying Amen, singing “Holy, Holy, Holy,” and praying the Our Father.

Sharing PAGES 105–106

- ◆ Read aloud page 105. Ask: **What are some things that our parish does for others?** (brings Holy Communion to people; collects food; visits the sick)
- ◆ Ask: **How can we share in the celebration of the Mass?** (pray and sing; listen to the stories from the Bible)
- ◆ Lead your child through We Participate in Mass on page 106. Say: **The activities on this page remind us how we can participate in the Mass.**

Reviewing PAGES 107–108

- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 12 Review on page 107.
- ◆ Tell Who’s Who riddles. Ask: **Who’s the Savior sent by the Father to save us from sin?** (Jesus) **Who’s the one chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus?** (Mary) **Who’s the relative that Mary visited?** (Elizabeth) **Who’s the Holy Family?** (Jesus, Mary, Joseph) Encourage your child to add information that he or she knows about the answer to each riddle.
- ◆ Help your child complete the activity on page 108 by numbering the pictures in order as he or she tells you about the corresponding Bible stories. Revisit some of the stories if needed.

Celebrating PAGES 109–110

- ◆ Hold the celebration We Thank the Father for His Son Jesus beginning on page 109. Sing the opening song to the melody of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the first reading. Respond together using Response 1. Take turns naming each person in the litany.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the second reading. Respond together using Response 2.
- ◆ Sing the closing song to the melody of “Jesus Loves Me.”
- ◆ Pray aloud the Our Father together.

Acting

- ◆ Invite your child to ask God to bless your family. Say: **We will be silent for a moment so that you can quietly pray a prayer for our family.** [Pause]
- ◆ When you’ve completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 112a–112d and encourage him or her to share it with other family members, or read and complete the section together.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 111–112**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 111. Say: **Love held the Holy Family together. They worked and prayed together.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Family members help one another. Together they are strong. They share God’s love with the world.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **What are some things our parish family helps us do?**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: **By trusting what she heard, Joan of Arc did amazing things.**
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Ask: **What are some things family members do for one another?** Together make a list of ideas. Then say: **God wants us to do these things for all members of the human family.**
- ◆ Teach your child the song “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.” If possible, play a contemporary recording. Encourage your child to sing along and add gestures.