

We Come to Know God

- ✦ 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 Guides Us*. In Unit 1, we will learn about how God reaches out to us through his creation; his Son, Jesus; and the Church.**

CHAPTER 1 God Reveals Himself to Us Through His Son

Centering PAGE 1

- ✦ Give your child his or her book and read aloud the title. Have your child read aloud the unit title and the Bible verse at the bottom of page 1. Ask: **What do you think it means to be a child of God?**
- ✦ Say: **Today we will find out how God reveals himself to us.**

Sharing PAGE 3

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 3. Discuss the questions on the page.
- ✦ Ask your child to think of words that begin with *tri*. (*tricycle, triangle, triplet*) Ask: **What does *tri* mean?** (three)
- ✦ Say: ***Trinity* refers to the Three Persons in one God.** Ask: **Who are these Three Persons?** (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the last paragraph on the page. Say: **To believe means to accept something as true. At Baptism, God gave us faith. Faith gives us the power to believe in God's Son, Jesus, even though we have never seen him.**
- ✦ Ask: **What does *eternal life* mean?** (a life of happiness with God forever) **Who won eternal life for us?** (Jesus) **How?** (through his life, Death, and Resurrection) **Why does God give us the wonderful gift of eternal life?** (because God loves us)
- ✦ Have your child look at the picture. Ask: **What would you ask Jesus?**

Sharing PAGE 4

- ◆ Have your child read silently the first three paragraphs on page 4. Then take turns praying aloud each stanza of Psalm 104.
- ◆ Have your child complete the postcard activity. Ask: **What did your description of the outdoors God created tell you about God? How can we come to know God when we have not seen him?** (through what God has created)
- ◆ Have your child circle three words on the page that tell what God's creation reveals about him. (*great, good, and loving*)

Sharing PAGE 5

- ◆ Have your child read silently page 5. Ask: **What are some things Jesus reveals about God our Father?** (how good and great God is; God's kindness, forgiveness, and love for people who are poor)
- ◆ Ask: **What was one great thing Jesus did that tells us how much God loves us?** (Jesus died for us.) Ask: **What do we have because Jesus died and rose?** (eternal life)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the last paragraph on the page. Say: **We are all called to reveal the love of God the Father by showing care and concern for those who are poor.**

Sharing PAGES 6-7

- ◆ Have your child read Jesus Invites Us to Believe on page 6.
- ◆ Ask: **Why didn't Thomas believe that Jesus was risen?** (He didn't see Jesus himself.) **What did Thomas tell Jesus through his prayer?** (He believed Jesus is God.)
- ◆ Say: **Jesus wants us to believe in him without seeing him. He wants us to have faith in him because he loves us.**
- ◆ Say: **Faith is a special gift from God. It gives us the power to believe and trust that everything God tells us is true.** Ask: **How have you grown in faith since you were baptized?** Share with your child an experience when you felt you grew in faith.
- ◆ Read aloud the reflection A Moment with Jesus, inviting your child to sit quietly and spend time with Jesus.
- ◆ Have your child complete the activities on page 7.

Acting PAGE 8

- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 1 Review on page 8.
- ◆ 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: **The Holy Spirit fills us with love and excites a desire in us to share that love with others.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **We proclaim our faith with our words and our actions. We share God’s love when we serve those who are vulnerable or in need.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The power of the Holy Spirit also guides our words and actions.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 10. Say: **Joan of Arc was an unlikely soldier. By putting her faith in God and trusting in the Holy Spirit’s guidance, she acted as a witness for Christ.**
- ◆ 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 Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Ask: **Where do you find examples of how Jesus lived?** (in the Gospels)
- ◆ Explain that being a witness and sharing your faith can include both big and small acts. Say: **Talking with others about where you notice God in your life is a powerful way to share your faith.**

CHAPTER 2 God Speaks to Us in Scripture

Centering

- ✦ Say: **You have studied two main ways we come to know God. Ask: What are they?** (through creation and Jesus) Say: **Today you will study a third way God reveals himself.**
- ✦ Ask your child to talk about e-mails, cards, or letters he or she has received. Discuss how the contents of these writings affected his or her life.

Sharing PAGE 11

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 11.
- ✦ Say: **Long ago, people told stories of God's love. This went on for hundreds of years. After writing was invented, God called people to write down some of the stories so we could read and remember God's love.**
- ✦ Have your child read silently the rest of the page. Ask: **What is another name for the Bible?** (Sacred Scripture) **What does Sacred Scripture mean?** (holy writing)
- ✦ Ask: **What does the Old Testament tell us?** (what God did for his people before Jesus came) **What does the New Testament tell us?** (about Jesus and the beginning of his Church)
- ✦ Read aloud the Church teaching highlighted in the box.

Sharing PAGE 12

- ✦ Discuss the pictures on page 12. Ask: **Who do you think the writer in the picture is?** (a writer of the Old Testament) Say: **Long ago, books were written on long rolls of paper called scrolls. People used a feather, called a quill, for a pen.**
- ✦ Ask: **What stories in the Old Testament do the small pictures remind you of?** (Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark, Abraham, David, Moses and the Ten Commandments)
- ✦ Say: **The Old Testament tells us about the hardships of God's people and how they sometimes forgot God's love. It tells us how God gave them laws and made them his own people.**
- ✦ Take turns reading aloud the page. Point out the words *Hebrews* and *prophets*. Have your child find their meanings in the Glossary. Ask: **How do the books in the Old Testament help us?** (They tell how God wants his people to live.) **What are the psalms?** (song-prayers of love, praise, thanksgiving, petition, and sorrow) **When do we pray or sing the psalms?** (at Mass and in other celebrations and prayer services of the Church)

Sharing PAGE 13

- ◆ Discuss the pictures on page 13. Ask: **Who is the writer in the picture?** (a writer of the New Testament) **What do the things in the pictures tell you about the New Testament?** (Jesus called fishermen to be apostles; he is the Good Shepherd; he died and rose; the Last Supper.)
- ◆ Say: **The New Testament tells us how Jesus showed us God's love. It tells about his teachings and miracles. It tells how he died and rose, showing the greatness of his love.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of The New Testament. Point out the word *Evangelists*. Have your child find its meaning in the Glossary. Ask: **Where do we find the words and deeds of Jesus?** (in the Gospels) **Who are the writers of the four Gospels?** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) **What is the Gospel?** (the Good News of Jesus)
- ◆ Have your child read silently the rest of the page. Say: **The Bible is the Word of God. We know that God is with us, speaking to us through the Holy Bible.**
- ◆ Help your child complete The Message of the Bible. (God loves us.)

Sharing PAGE 14

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the directions on page 14. Then take turns reading aloud the Bible messages. Say: **The Church wants us to read Scripture with our families.** Ask: **Do you know why?** (to know God better; to learn what God wants us to do) Have your child complete the activity and then discuss.
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

Sharing PAGE 15

- ◆ Say: **Show me how the *Lectionary for Mass*, the book of Scripture readings for Mass, is carried in procession.**
- ◆ Discuss how we respect the Bible. Say: **We want to show reverence and respect for Scripture because it is the Word of God. Today we will enthrone the Bible in our home, which means to put it in a place of honor.**
- ◆ Decide where you wish to enthrone your family Bible. Then hold the enthronement ceremony following the guide on page 15. Take turns reading aloud the celebration.

Acting PAGE 16

- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 2 Review on page 16.
- ◆ Have your child assemble the Walking with Jesus Scripture booklet found at the back of his or her book. Have him or her work on page 2. Say: **This Scripture prayer booklet can help you come closer to God.**
- ◆ 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 17–18**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 17. Say: **God speaks to us through the Bible. Reading and studying Scripture helps us see God’s love for us. Then we can share this love with others.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **How does living the Beatitudes help us build God’s kingdom on earth?** (Possible answers: by teaching us how to be holy; by teaching us how to put God and others before ourselves)
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **In the same way you study and read books to learn a subject in school, you can study and learn more about God by reading the Bible.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 18. Say: **Saint John Bosco saw the good in people. His example reminds us that everyone deserves to know God’s love.**
- ✦ 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 Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ✦ Say: **Remember that being an example to others, especially younger children, is sharing your faith.**
- ✦ Say: **The Gospels are not just stories from the past. They guide us to live how God wants us to live.** Have your child pray silently the Prayer to the Holy Spirit on the inside front cover of his or her book. Say: **Pray for guidance and strength to live the Gospel message each day.**

CHAPTER 3 God Speaks to Us Through the Church

Centering

- ◆ Say: **In our last lesson, we learned the Bible is one way that God reveals himself to us. Today we will see how God speaks to us in the Church.**
- ◆ Together look at the children in the picture on page 19. Ask: **What might these girls volunteer to do at their church?**

Sharing PAGE 19

- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 19. Ask: **What is the Church?** (the new People of God) **Who are Catholics?** (baptized members who believe in Jesus and follow the leadership of the pope and the bishops)
- ◆ Ask: **What does the Holy Spirit call Catholics to do?** (spread the Good News) **What is the Good News?** (God loved us so much he sent our Savior, Jesus.)
- ◆ Ask: **What do the Holy Father and the bishops do?** (teach and govern the Church, care for and lead God's people) **the priests?** (celebrate the sacraments, preach about Jesus) **the deacons?** (preach and baptize, share Jesus' work in other ways)

Sharing PAGE 20

- ◆ Together look at the pictures on page 20 and take turns explaining what's happening. Then have your child silently read the text.
- ◆ Ask: **What do the sacraments help God's people do?** (spread the Good News, help build a better world by serving God's kingdom)
- ◆ Ask: **How do children help the Church?** (by singing in the choir, serving as greeters, trying to love and help others as Jesus did) **Why should we be happy to belong to the Church?** (We can spread Jesus' message of peace and love.)
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity.
- ◆ Say: **When we listen to the Catholic Church, we listen to Jesus. When we listen to Jesus, we are listening to God our Father.** Ask: **What message does the Church spread?** (the Good News of Jesus)
- ◆ Together look at a copy of your parish bulletin. Discuss how your parish spreads the Good News and helps people in need.

Sharing PAGE 21

- ◆ Ask: **What does having keys for a chest or cupboard mean?** (The contents belong to the person who has the keys.) Say: **The one with the keys has authority over the contents. Authority is the right to make decisions and to command.**

- ✦ Say: Today you will hear about Jesus giving the keys to the Church to someone.
- ✦ Take turns reading aloud the parts on page 21. Say: **Peter called Jesus the Messiah, the Son of the living God. When Peter called Jesus the Messiah, he meant that Jesus was the Savior, the promised one who would bring salvation.**
- ✦ Ask: **Why did Jesus give Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven?** (to give Peter authority) Say: **Jesus gave Peter the power “to bind and to loose.” That meant Peter had the power to make decisions that those in the Church would obey.**
- ✦ Ask: **What promise did Jesus make about his Church?** (that nothing, not even the powers of hell, could overcome it)
- ✦ Reverently lead your child through A Moment with Jesus.

Sharing PAGE 22

- ✦ Have your child read aloud The Pope Speaks in Jesus’ Name on page 22. Ask: **Why does every pope have the same authority and power to rule God’s Church?** (Christ gave this power to every pope who would come after Peter.)
- ✦ Say: **Since Saint Peter, there have been more than two hundred popes. Each has received special power to teach in the name of Jesus. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the pope and the bishops help us understand how to live as Jesus taught.**
- ✦ Help your child fill in the names. Then read aloud Messages from the Popes. Ask: **Do these messages sound like something Jesus would say? Why should we love, honor, and obey our Holy Father?** (He stands in Christ’s place for us; he has authority from Christ.)
- ✦ Say: **Nearly two thousand years have passed since Jesus made Peter and the apostles the leaders of his Church. The teaching of Jesus has been handed on by the popes and bishops ever since.**

Sharing PAGE 23

- ✦ Guide your child in reading aloud and working Another Gospel Story About Peter on page 23. Ask: **Who has Christ’s power and authority in the Church today?** (the Holy Father and the bishops)
- ✦ Say: **The Holy Father travels all over the world meeting with bishops. He listens to their problems in teaching and ruling their dioceses. A diocese is the territory for which a bishop is responsible. Our diocese is the Diocese of _____. Our bishop is Bishop/Cardinal _____.**

Acting PAGE 24

- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 3 Review on page 24.
- ✦ 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 25–26**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 25. Say: **Jesus wants us to know him so that we can introduce others to his great gift of salvation.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Just as we celebrate important events in the history of our families, we celebrate important events in the history of the Church.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The pope and all the bishops together make up the living, teaching office of the Church.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 26. Say: **Andrew was filled with excitement when Jesus called him to be his disciple. Ask: What excites you about your faith?**
- ◆ 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 Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Say: **Remember that we can serve others in big and small ways. Sometimes a simple word or gesture brings great comfort to someone in need.**
- ◆ Find a parish ministry or group in need of assistance for an upcoming event. Arrange to have your child volunteer to help with setup, hospitality, or cleanup.

CHAPTER 4 God Offers Us Eternal Life**Centering**

- ◆ To review, have your child read aloud the completed sentences from the activity on page 24.
- ◆ Say: **God is with us in creation, the Bible, Jesus, and the Church in order to change us. Today we will talk about the wonderful change God is bringing about in us.**

Sharing PAGE 27

- ◆ Explain the changes that faith brings. Say: **When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it looks different and acts differently. When Paul began to believe in Jesus, he looked the same, but he didn't act as he had before. When faith changes us into God's children, we do not look different, but we are different. We are more than human beings. We are new creatures: children of God.**
- ◆ Ask: **If our lives are changed by faith, what should happen to our actions?** (They should change.) Say: **People should see by our actions that Jesus is within us. If our faith in Jesus is strong, our actions won't be selfish. They'll be good and loving actions that show the goodness and love of Jesus.**
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud page 27. Have your child write in the answer to the question. (all that he had)
- ◆ Ask: **When and only when can we be perfectly happy?** (when we're in heaven) **Why will we be happy in heaven?** (We will be with God forever. Heaven is beautiful and wonderful.) Say: **Saint Paul wrote that we can't even imagine how great heaven is.**
- ◆ Discuss parables about heaven. Ask: **Do you recall any other parables that Jesus told about heaven?** (the pearl of great price, the great feast) Review these parables with your child.

Reviewing PAGES 28–29

- ◆ Help your child complete the unit review.
- ◆ Have your child complete the activities on pages 28 and 29. Check his or her answers for both activities. Share other information that you know about the subjects in the Word Bank.

- ◆ Play Keys to Learning. Write the following words found in parentheses on a sheet of paper in random order. Draw a key next to the words. Then ask: **Can you understand a message if you don't know the meaning of the words used in it?** (No.) Say: **Understanding the words is like having the key to unlock the meaning of the message.** [Point to the key.] **I will read a definition. Use this list of words to help you name the word I am speaking about.** Say: **I am belief in God and God's Word.** (faith) **I make known something that is hidden.** (reveal) **I am the writings called the Bible.** (Sacred Scripture) **I mean "everlasting" or "without end."** (eternal) **I am the part of the Bible that tells of God's words and deeds among the Chosen People before Jesus came.** (Old Testament) **I am something that is hidden or a truth too great for us to understand completely.** (mystery) **I am the true author of the Bible.** (God) **I am all things that are made by God.** (creation) **I am the part of the Bible that tells about Jesus and his Church.** (New Testament) **I am the mystery of God's becoming man.** (Incarnation)

Celebrating PAGES 30–31

- ◆ Ask your child to help you select three songs for the celebration. Then decide which parts you and your child will read aloud on pages 30 and 31. Allow time for your child to practice his or her part.
- ◆ Perform the celebration together, pausing before and after each reading and prayer.

Acting PAGE 32

- ◆ Lead your child in prayer. Ask him or her to open the Scripture booklet to page 3. Have your child choose a verse and pray it slowly and silently three times, thinking about its meaning. Then ask your child to thank God for his word and ask for courage to live according to it.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Looking Back at Unit 1 on page 32. Then complete the activities.
- ◆ When you've completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 34a–34d and encourage him or her to share it with other members of your family, or read and complete the section together.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 33–34**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 33. Say: **God wants us to live with him forever. He sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Jesus also shows us how we can have eternal life.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **God sent the Holy Spirit to help us live our calling. The Spirit is alive and works through us as we serve others.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Knowing the facts of our faith and the history of the Church helps us teach others about Christ.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 34. Say: **Saint Catherine’s example reminds us that we are serving God when we help those in need. Sometimes our actions are enough to make others desire to know God better.**
- ◆ 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 Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Invite your child to share something special that happened in his or her life this week. Say: **Your story shows how God is working in our lives.**
- ◆ Suggest that your child keep a journal to record his or her experiences noticing and sharing God’s love this week.