

## We Love God

- ◆ Before beginning Unit 3, read A Letter Home, found on page 80 of your child's book. Then begin the next paragraph with your child.
- ◆ Say: **In Unit 3, we will learn how to show love for God and put God first in our lives, as explained to us in the first three commandments.**

### CHAPTER 10 We Show Our Love for God

#### Centering PAGE 79

- ◆ Let your child recall feeling a sense of wonder at seeing something beautiful. Say: **Think about a time you said, "Wow! How beautiful!" Describe what you saw.**
- ◆ Say: **God wants his people to adore him. In the First Commandment, God says, "I am the Lord your God." God reminds us that he made us and gives us all the beautiful things in our world.**
- ◆ Ask: **What is the young girl doing in the picture? (praying) Say: When we pray, we lift up our hearts and minds to God. Read aloud the title and the Scripture quotation. God wants us not only to say that we will pray, but also to actually pray and to do good.**

#### Sharing PAGE 81

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the title and the text on page 81. Ask: **What gifts do you see in the picture at the bottom? (rabbit, green grass, nice weather) How is the girl taking care of God's gift?**
- ◆ Discuss the First Commandment, using page 249 of your child's book. Ask: **What is the First Commandment that God gave his people? ("I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.") How could other things become like gods to us? (when we think too much about them, when we sin to get them, when we spend more time on them than God)**
- ◆ Ask: **What are some gifts that people might make into gods? (money, clothes, food, good times, people, television) Say: When we keep God's First Commandment, we don't let other things take God's place. We love God more than God's gifts.**

**Sharing** PAGE 82

- ✦ Have your child read aloud God Asks for Our Love on page 82. Ask: **What does God ask for in the First Commandment?** (our love) **How does Jesus teach us to keep the First Commandment?** (to love God by loving and serving others)
- ✦ Have your child read and complete the activity.

**Sharing** PAGE 83

- ✦ Have your child read silently We Give God Our Love in Prayer on page 83 and underline the definition of prayer in the first sentence. Help him or her write an answer to the question in the second paragraph.
- ✦ Ask: **What is a prayer of petition?** (a prayer in which we ask for something) Point out that this is a Word to Know. Ask: **What are the three other kinds of prayers?** (praise, thanks, and sorrow)
- ✦ Say: **When we praise God, we give him the worship and adoration that he alone deserves. When we pray in thanks to him, we acknowledge that everything we are and have comes from him. When we ask God for help, we recognize that we depend on him and that he knows what is best.**
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

**Sharing** PAGE 84

- ✦ Look at the pictures on page 84. Ask: **Whom do you see in these pictures?** (Mary, St. Michael, St. Julie) Say: **God wants us to pray to Mary, the angels, and the saints.** Ask: **Why do we pray to them?** (When we honor them, we honor God.)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the page. Ask: **We can pray to Mary in our own words or say prayers we have learned. Which prayers can we say to Mary?** (the Hail Mary, the *Angelus*, the Rosary)
- ✦ Have your child complete the activity. Discuss the answers and share your thoughts about a saint you admire.

**Sharing** PAGE 85

- ✦ Help your child complete the activity on page 85. Say: **The prayers on this page are beautiful psalms that God's people use to worship.**

**Acting** PAGE 86

- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 10 Review on page 86.
- ✦ Teach your child the prayer to the Holy Spirit and encourage him or her to take it to heart. Ask: **What do we ask in this prayer?** (that the Spirit be within us, that we have God's love) **What does it mean "to renew the face of the earth"?** (to make it new again—full of peace and joy, as God created it)
- ✦ 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 87–88**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 87. Say: *Sanctify* means “to set something apart and make holy.” Christ wants us to make a special place for him in our hearts.

**PROCLAIM**

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **The saints lived through difficulties and problems. We can face our daily struggles by learning from their example.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The Bible is filled with stories we can share with others that give us reason to hope in God.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 88. Say: **Praying was not always easy for Teresa, but she never gave up. She teaches us that God is patient. We must never give up on our relationship 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 Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

**TRANSFORM**

- ◆ Say: **Wearing religious items is one way we share our faith. What are some other ways?** (Possible answers: supporting parish ministries; telling others about God’s presence in my life)
- ◆ Ask your child to write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the courage to show his or her faith to others.

## CHAPTER 11 We Love All That Is Holy

### Centering

- ✦ Ask: **Why are names important?** (They identify us. When people call us by name, it is a sign of recognition.)
- ✦ Ask: **How do you feel when you hear your name on the public-address system at school or read it on letters or cards? when people make fun of your name or say it in an angry voice? when people call you names other than your own?**
- ✦ Say: **Today we are learning about God's name. God's name is the most important.**

### Sharing PAGE 89

- ✦ Say: **Of all the names for God, one is special. That name is Yahweh.** [Write this word.] **Moses was afraid to lead God's people, but God told Moses, "I will be with you." Then God told Moses his name. "I am who am." In Hebrew, that name is Yahweh. It means "I am with you."**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the text on page 89. Ask: **What is the Second Commandment?** (You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.) **What does this mean?** (to use God's name in the wrong way or without a good reason)
- ✦ Say: **It is wrong to use God's name to wish evil or harm to someone or something. Using God's name in this way is called cursing. God, who is all good, doesn't wish evil on anyone, and using his name to do so offends him.**

### Sharing PAGE 90

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the directions and complete the activity on page 90. Ask: **Which name is another name for Jesus?** (Christ) **Which name honors the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, who helps us do good?** (Holy Spirit) **Which name did Jesus tell us to call God?** (Father)
- ✦ Say: **Sometimes we're with people who have a habit of using God's name in vain. They don't think about what they're saying.** Ask: **What should we do if we hear people use God's name in vain?** (pray for them, say God's name reverently, ask them to stop)

### Sharing PAGE 91

- ✦ Have your child read silently The Name of Jesus Is Holy on page 91. Ask: **How do we know that the name of Jesus is powerful?** (Peter and John healed a crippled man, and other disciples did marvels in Jesus' name.)

- ◆ Ask: **How can we pray using the name of Jesus?** (by repeating it over and over)
- ◆ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus slowly and reverently, pausing so your child can spend time in reflection.

### Sharing PAGE 92

- ◆ Have your child read aloud We Respect All That Is Holy on page 92. Call attention to *temple* and have your child find its meaning in the Glossary. Ask: **How did Jesus show people they must respect his Father's house?** (He overturned the money changers' tables; he had people who were selling things leave.)
- ◆ Say: **In our church, God is present in a special way. That is why we respect our church.** Ask: **How do we show that respect?** (We worship God in church; we are quiet; we genuflect to adore Jesus; we bless ourselves with holy water; we pray and sing.)
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity at the bottom. Discuss his or her ideas.
- ◆ Have your child locate the stand-up desk card with *Jesus* on it in the back of his or her book. Direct them to decorate the word *Jesus* and the card. Have your child cut out the sheet and fold it in half. Give your child time to look at the name of Jesus and say whatever is in his or her heart, then place the cutout where he or she can see it every day.

### Sharing PAGE 93

- ◆ Say: **When a priest celebrates Mass, he wears special clothes called vestments, which are used only in the worship of God.**
- ◆ Say: **Holy things remind us of God and help us pray.** Ask: **Can you name some things in our church and tell why they are holy?** (Examples: altar—the table on which a priest offers Mass; tabernacle—the place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept; crucifix—a reminder of how much Jesus loves us; holy water—a reminder that we are baptized and want to live as God's children)
- ◆ Ask: **What are some holy things in our school or in our home?** (crucifixes, pictures, statues, Bibles, palm branches, medals, holy water)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 93 and complete the activity.

### Acting PAGE 94

- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 11 Review on page 94.
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer. Say: **Let's think about how good God is to give us a sacred place where we can come often to speak to him and hear him speak to us. In the silence of your heart, thank God for this place.** [Pause.]
- ◆ 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 95–96**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 95. Say: **When we are baptized, we become God’s children. We join a family, a community of believers.**

**PROCLAIM**

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Holy places help us remember how much God loves us and how much we love him.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Jesus’ name is holy. We set it apart from our everyday speech. We use his name when we ask for help, when we thank him, and when we praise him.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 96. Say: **Martha took care of Jesus. He reminded her that it is equally important to spend time talking and listening to him. We can do this when we pray.**
- ◆ 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: **What do you do when you hear someone use God’s name in a disrespectful way?** Say: **You can show your disapproval by leaving the conversation or saying that God’s name is important to you.**
- ◆ Have your child ask the Holy Spirit for courage to defend God’s holy name.

## CHAPTER 12 We Keep the Lord's Day Holy

### Centering

- ✦ Say: **The first three commandments tell us how to love God. Ask: What do the first two command us to do?** (Honor God above all else; honor God's name.) Say: **Today you will study the Third Commandment.**
- ✦ Display decorations or items that your family enjoys for different holidays. Ask: **What do these remind you of? What would it be like if there weren't a Christmas, Easter, Halloween, or Valentine's Day?**
- ✦ Say: **The story of special days goes back to the beginning of time, when God first made the world.**

### Sharing PAGE 97

- ✦ Have your child read silently the first two paragraphs of *God Tells Us to Keep His Day Holy* on page 97. Ask: **What did God tell his people to do in the Third Commandment?** Have your child read aloud the sentence. **Which day is the seventh day?** (Saturday)
- ✦ Say: **God wanted the people to keep the Sabbath holy by resting from work. They were to worship together and rejoice. Every week God wanted them to honor his creation of the world.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the rest of the page. Point to the word *Sabbath* and have your child find its meaning in the Glossary. Ask: **Why do you suppose God wanted people to rest from work?** (They needed time to worship God; they needed time to rest and enjoy themselves.)

### Sharing PAGE 98

- ✦ Say: **Because the Sabbath begins the evening before, we begin the Sunday celebration on Saturday evening. Sometimes you may not be able to participate in Sunday Mass. You might be sick or have no way to get to church. You are sorry when this happens because you want to show love for God by celebrating the Eucharist. God understands and knows you want to come and love him.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the first column. Ask: **Which way of celebrating Sunday is shown in the picture?** Say: **Celebrating and having a good time with others once a week helps us become better people.** Discuss ways that your family tries to make Sunday special.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the rest of the page and complete the activity. Point out the term *Precepts of the Church* and have your child find its meaning in the Glossary.

- ✦ Write the names of these holy days on flash cards. Write the date of the holy day and the reason we celebrate on the back of the card. The holy days include *Christmas, December 25* (the birthday of Jesus); *Mary, Mother of God, January 1* (honor Mary); *Ascension, 40 days after Easter* (Jesus ascended into heaven); *Assumption, August 15* (Mary was taken, body and soul, into heaven); *All Saints Day, November 1* (all the saints in heaven); *Immaculate Conception, December 8* (Mary was born free of sin).
- ✦ Ask your child to choose a flash card and tell why the feast is important. Say: **We celebrate these holy days by taking part in Mass.**

### Sharing PAGE 99

- ✦ Have your child complete the activity on page 99.
- ✦ Lead your child to reflect on celebrating Sunday, using A Moment with Jesus.
- ✦ Enact this scene with your child. Say: **I will play the part of someone who wakes up on Sunday morning and doesn't feel like going to Mass. You will play the part of my conscience. What reasons will you give me to change my mind?**

### Sharing PAGE 100

- ✦ Ask: **How does the Eucharist help God's people?** (It unites us; it makes us holy; it deepens our relationship with God and with one another; it instructs us how to live as Christians.) Say: **Whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, we remember Jesus. He is with us, offering himself to the Father for us. During the Eucharist, Christ comes to us in Holy Communion. He strengthens us to live in love as he did.**
- ✦ Say: **Let's read the words we say to the priest at Mass.** Point to the text at the bottom of page 100 as you read it aloud together.
- ✦ Have your child complete the activity. Check his or her answers.

### Sharing PAGE 101

- ✦ Ask your child to read aloud the directions on page 101 and complete the activity. Discuss different ways to celebrate Sunday.
- ✦ Have your child read silently page 5 in his or her Scripture prayer booklet. Encourage your child to fill in as much as possible and to listen carefully to the readings and homily at next Sunday's Mass.

### Acting PAGE 102

- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 12 Review on page 102.
- ✦ 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 103–104**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 103. Say: **When we keep God first in our lives, all our actions become prayerful. We become living examples of his love.**

**PROCLAIM**

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **One way we keep Sunday holy is by praying together as a community at Mass. Ask: What are some other ways our family keeps Sunday holy?**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Look at page 248 of your book to find the Precepts of the Church. Let's review each one.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 104. Say: **Saint Luke, inspired by the Holy Spirit, acted as a witness for Christ. He and the other Gospel writers left us with instructions for how to follow Jesus. We must take what we learn and live as witnesses in the world today.**
- ◆ 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: **How can our family set an example for others?** (Possible answers: choose to do things together; celebrate Mass; volunteer to participate in parish ministries)
- ◆ Work together to complete the Share Your Faith activity. If possible, ask other family members to add to the list of ways your family can keep Sunday holy.

## CHAPTER 13 We Grow in Holiness

### Centering

- ✦ Say: **One way to love God is to listen to his Word and obey him.**
- ✦ Say: **Suppose you wanted to grow some snapdragons or petunias from seed.** Ask: **What would you do?** (Put good soil in a pot, plant the seeds, water them, and place them in a warm spot near a window.) **What would happen to the seeds if they had the right conditions?** (They would sprout and take root.) **Why wouldn't all the seeds grow?** (Some might be old; seeds watered too much might rot; neglected seeds would dry up.)
- ✦ Say: **Today you will hear what Jesus said about planting seeds.**

### Sharing PAGE 105

- ✦ Say: **A sower was the man responsible for planting seeds during Jesus' time. He first scattered the seeds by hand all over his land. Then he plowed his field. Jesus told a parable about this called the parable of the sower.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the first column on page 105. Ask: **In this parable, why didn't some seeds grow?** (some fell on rocky soil, some among weeds and thorns; some were eaten by birds; some had too much sun) **Which seeds grew well?** (those that fell in rich soil)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the rest of the page. Ask: **To what did Jesus compare the growing seed?** (to his Word and how it grows in our hearts) **Who is the sower in this parable?** (Jesus) **Where did Jesus plant God's Word?** (in our hearts) Say: **Some people's hearts are like good soil. These people believe in Jesus. They hear God's Word and do what God wants.**

### Sharing PAGE 106

- ✦ Say: **We can tell whether God's Word is growing in our hearts by looking at what we do.** Ask: **What are some things we do when God's Word is growing in our hearts?** (show love for God and others; keep the commandments; be kind, obedient, truthful, honest, pure, and generous)
- ✦ Have your child complete the activity on page 106. Check his or her work.
- ✦ If possible, have your child listen to a song about God's Word, such as "Speak, Lord." Then play it again and sing along.

### Sharing PAGE 107

- ✦ Together discuss the situations in *Is God's Word Growing?* on page 107. Have your child write solutions.

- ◆ Say: Listen to these rhymes and be ready to give the last word for each rhyme: I love your laws, O Lord; and will follow in your way. They fill my heart with joy, as I keep them every (day).; I love your name, O Lord; it's more valuable than gold. To speak your name with love is the law that can't grow (old).; I love your day, O Lord; it's a day of joy and rest. Your people came together to share the (Eucharist).
- ◆ Ask: Which commandments do these three rhymes remind you of? (the first three)

### Reviewing PAGES 108–109

- ◆ Have your child complete the activities on pages 108 and 109. After reading aloud the directions for the jigsaw puzzle, give your child an envelope and card for his or her puzzle. Say: **Make up your own motto or choose one from your book.**
- ◆ Discuss VIPs. Ask: **What is a VIP?** (a very important person) Say: **You are a VIP because Jesus called you to follow him. He called you at Baptism to help spread his kingdom. He gave you the chance to live in heaven. There you will be able to love God and enjoy God's love forever.**
- ◆ Have your child cut out and decorate the VIP badge at the back of his or her book. Tell your child to draw symbols and write his or her name to show the role he or she plays in God's kingdom. Add tape to the back so your child can wear it during the celebration.

### Celebrating PAGES 110–111

- ◆ Determine which parts you and your child will read aloud during the celebration on pages 110 and 111.
- ◆ Choose two songs to play at the beginning and end of the celebration.
- ◆ Invite your child to wear the VIP badge he or she decorated. Carry out the celebration. Say: **We are the VIPs in God's kingdom. We want to love and serve God in all that we think, say, and do. As we live and work for him, he gives his light to help us follow him and serve his kingdom. To show our happiness that we are workers in God's kingdom, let's celebrate.**

### Acting PAGE 112

- ◆ Have your child read aloud Looking Back at Unit 3 on page 112. Then complete the activities.
- ◆ When you've completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 114a–114d 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 113–114**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 113. Say: **What do these words intend to teach us: “not in word or speech but in deed and truth”?** (We show God’s love by how we act, not by using words alone to tell others what we believe.)

**PROCLAIM**

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **We can always learn more from God’s Word. The same Scripture passage teaches us new things each time we experience it.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Our mission is to show that we are Christians by matching our actions to our words. We show our faith in all we do.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 114. Say: **Isaac Jogues dedicated his life to telling others about Jesus. The Native American tribes had no knowledge of Christ. Let us thank God for Isaac and for other missionaries all over the world.**
- ◆ 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**

- ◆ Discuss the sense of feeling welcome. Ask: **What helps you feel comfortable in a new place?**
- ◆ Ask: **How can you help newcomers feel welcome at church?** Together brainstorm ways to welcome others, such as saying hello, offering the Sign of Peace, and giving compliments.