

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 14 Jesus Shows God's Love**Centering** PAGE 123

- ✦ Display a picture that shows a peaceful or happy scene. Say: **God made our world good and beautiful.** Ask: **What are some bad things in our world that make us sad?**
- ✦ Read aloud page 123. Ask: **Who came to help in our suffering?** (Jesus) Say: **God sent Jesus to bring his love to the suffering world. Today you will hear three stories about Jesus healing people.**

Sharing PAGE 124

- ✦ Tell or read aloud the story of the paralyzed man (Mark 2:1–12).
- ✦ Say: **The paralyzed man could not move parts of his body.** Ask: **What does this story teach us about Jesus?** (Jesus loves all people, especially those who suffer, and he wants to help them.)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud page 124 and color the picture.
- ✦ Discuss what it means to be physically challenged. Ask: **Do you know a person who is physically challenged? How is the person like you?** Say: **We treat these people the same way we treat others. It is also important that we be sensitive to what they tell us they need.**
- ✦ Pray: **Let us be like Jesus, thoughtful and helpful to others.**

Sharing PAGE 125

- ✦ Say: **Jesus loved people and wanted them to be happy. There are many Bible stories that tell what Jesus did to bring happiness to others. I would like to tell you one of these stories.**
- ✦ Read aloud Jesus Brings a Girl Back to Life on page 125 as your child follows along. Then ask: **Why do you think Jesus brought the girl back to life?** Say: **Jesus has power over suffering and death. He saved us from sin.**
- ✦ Help your child remove the puzzle of Jairus's daughter from the back of his or her book. Invite your child to do the puzzle and then share both the story and the puzzle with someone else.
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

Sharing PAGE 126

- ✦ Discuss what it feels like to be sick. Ask: **How did you feel when you could not go to school or play with your friends? What was the hardest part for you when you were sick?**

- ♦ Say: **I have a Bible story to tell you about a man who was very sick. He had a skin disease called leprosy. This man had to live away from his family. He was very lonely.**
- ♦ Tell or read aloud the story of the leper who was cured (Mark 1:40–43). Ask: **How do you think the man felt before he saw Jesus? How do you think the man felt after he saw Jesus?**
- ♦ Have your child read aloud page 126 and complete the activity.
- ♦ Say: **Jesus continues to heal people. He helps us through the doctors, nurses, and others who care for us.**

Sharing PAGE 127

- ♦ Read aloud page 127 and have your child complete the activity.
- ♦ Select a hospital or senior nursing facility in your area. Tell your child that he or she will be making a banner to brighten someone's day. Say: **Think about what you could draw or write to help make the person happy. Pray for your special person as you work. Use your imagination and be creative!**
- ♦ Cut a rectangle out of poster board or tagboard to make a doorknob banner. Punch one hole at the bottom of the rectangle and two holes at either edge of the top of the rectangle. Help your child pull yarn strands through the bottom to make a tassel and a single yarn strand through the top holes to hang the banner over a doorknob. Then have your child use markers to decorate the banner.
- ♦ Say: **We cannot give life as Jesus did. But we can bring Jesus' care to others. The person who receives your card will know that someone cares about him or her.**
- ♦ Lead your child in prayer. Say: **Jesus, show me how to be your helper to heal people who are suffering.**

Acting PAGE 128

- ♦ Help your child complete the Chapter 14 Review on page 128.
- ♦ Display the doorknob banner. Ask: **What would you like to ask God to do for that person? Say: Take a moment to pray a quiet prayer about how God might help him or her.**
- ♦ If possible, have your child accompany you when you deliver the banner.
- ♦ 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 129–130**INSPIRE**

- ♦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 129. Say: **Jesus wanted to heal people in body and spirit. He wanted to give them and all of us hope!**

PROCLAIM

- ♦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **It's important to be on the lookout for miracles in our daily lives. Small miracles happen all the time.**
- ♦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Everything Jesus did, he did to show God's love.**
- ♦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: **Anytime we feel hopeless, we can ask Saint Jude for strength. God will come to our aid.**
- ♦ 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: **When you are sick, what makes you feel better?** Say: **Just having someone nearby or knowing that someone cares can be very healing.**

CHAPTER 16 Jesus Teaches Us to Love Others

Centering

- ♦ Ask: Can you remember a time when someone was mean to you? Was anyone there to help take care of you when this happened?
- ♦ Say: Jesus told a story about how important it is to take care of one another. The story is called “The Good Samaritan.”
- ♦ Tell or read aloud from the Bible the story of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29–35) while your child looks at the pictures on page 139.

Sharing PAGE 139

- ♦ Say: Jesus said the most important law to follow is “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.” He said the second most important law to follow is “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- ♦ Ask: Who is your neighbor? (people next door; people in your neighborhood; people in need; everyone) Say: Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan so that we would know that everyone is our neighbor.
- ♦ Have your child read aloud Everyone Is Our Neighbor on page 139.
- ♦ Ask your child to retell the story of the Good Samaritan, using the pictures on the page. Say: We call someone who helps others a “Good Samaritan.” Ask: Do you know why? How can you be a Good Samaritan?
- ♦ Say: Ask Jesus to help you be kind when you see someone who needs help. [Pause.]

Sharing PAGES 140–141

- ♦ Have your child read aloud page 140 and complete the activity.
- ♦ Explain to your child that being a Good Samaritan begins at home. Say: Your family needs your help. Ask: Whom could you help?
- ♦ Say: Other people besides our family need our help. Who are some people who might need our help? (elderly neighbors, those who are ill) Think of ways that you can help them.
- ♦ Read aloud the directions on page 141 and have your child complete the activity.
- ♦ Lead your child in prayer. Say: Close your eyes and ask Jesus to let you know something you can do to help a family member. [Pause.] Ask Jesus for the grace to remember and to carry out this act of love. [Pause.]

Sharing PAGE 142

- ✦ Display an offering envelope and explain its use. Say: **People give different amounts of money each week to support what the Church does for others. God counts the amounts differently than the way we do.**
- ✦ Tell or read aloud from the Bible the story “The Widow’s Offering” (Mark 12:41–44). Ask: **Why did Jesus say she gave more than all the others?** (She gave all she had.) Say: Her gift was really love. **She was unselfish. She loved God and trusted that God would take care of her.**
- ✦ Read aloud the top of page 142. Ask: **What do you think Jesus wants us to do?** (share our love) Have your child complete the Two Coins activity.
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

Sharing PAGE 143

- ✦ Ask: **Why is our family fortunate?** (We have clothes to wear; we have food to eat; we have each other.) Say: **There are many people in our country and all over the world who aren’t as fortunate as our family; they have only one meal a day.** Ask: **How do you think these children feel?** (hungry)
- ✦ Say: **Missionaries are people who go all over the world to places where children need help.**
- ✦ Read aloud page 143 and look at the picture. Point to North America. Say: **This is where we live.** Ask: **What is the name of our country?** Point to other continents and ask: **Are people here our neighbors?** (Yes.)
- ✦ Ask: **How can we help missionaries bring help to people in other countries?** (We can pray for them and make sacrifices to give money.)
- ✦ Say: **Whenever we help missionaries, we are helping children receive the love and care they need.**

Acting PAGE 144

- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 16 Review on page 144.
- ✦ Ask: **How can our family give with the same spirit of love as the widow did? When you do not have money or things, what other signs of love can you give to others?** (a smile, a compliment, a helping hand)
- ✦ Ask: **How do you think learning about people in other countries helps us understand their needs better?** (We realize they are just people like us. They are our faraway neighbors.)
- ✦ Say: **Let’s pray now for all the children who are hungry, who are cold, who cannot go to school, or who do not know about God.** [Pause.]
- ✦ 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 145–146**INSPIRE**

- ♦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 145. Say: **Our neighbors include everyone in the world.** Ask: **What do neighbors do for one another?**

PROCLAIM

- ♦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **We must remember to keep judgment of others to God alone, who does not judge by appearances but looks into a person's heart.**
- ♦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **How should we treat people who seem different?** (with kindness and respect)
- ♦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: **We do not have to go to a distant land to help people. We just have to open our eyes and then act.**
- ♦ 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 the issue of homelessness. Say: **People who live without shelter need our help and God's help.**
- ♦ Brainstorm items that your child uses every day and make a list. Help your child put together a care package of similar items and deliver it to your church or to a homeless shelter.

CHAPTER 24 The Holy Spirit Helps the Church

Centering

- ♦ Display a newspaper or an online news website. Ask: **How do people find out news?** (from newspapers, radio, TV, online, other people) **Do you know someone who had good news for everyone?** (Jesus)
- ♦ Say: **Jesus was God's messenger who announced the Good News of the Kingdom of God.**
- ♦ Write these names on note cards and display them: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Say: **God chose men to write books about Jesus. The Gospel writers are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each one of the Gospel writers has a book about Jesus named after himself.**

Sharing PAGE 211

- ♦ Read aloud page 211 and have your child point to the word *Gospels*. Say: ***Gospel* means "Good News."** Ask: **How do we show respect for Jesus' Good News?** (We stand to show we are paying attention; we make the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips, and heart to show that we want Jesus' words to be in our mind, on our lips, and in our heart.)
- ♦ Guide your child in prayer. Say: **We can spread the Good News of Jesus too. You may wish to tell Jesus that you want to spread the Good News about him.** [Pause.] **You may ask the Holy Spirit to help you.** [Pause.]
- ♦ Encourage your child to listen to the Good News when the Gospel is read at Mass and to join in the responses.

Sharing PAGE 212

- ♦ Say: **The Holy Spirit helped the first Christians know that they could show their love for God by the way they loved others.** Ask: **How do you think they did this?** (They loved everyone and did not leave out anyone; they shared food, clothes, and everything they had.)
- ♦ Say: **People are happy when they are unselfish. Christians who try to be loving and kind like Jesus are happy.**
- ♦ Help your child read aloud page 212 and complete the badge.
- ♦ Encourage your child to show he or she is a Christian by bringing love to someone today. Ask: **What can you do today to surprise someone with your love?**

Sharing PAGE 213

- ✦ Say: **Jesus once said, “You are the light of the world.” When we let our light shine, we help spread God’s kingdom as Jesus did. Let’s name other ways we can let Jesus’ light shine.**
- ✦ Read aloud page 213.
- ✦ Say: **We let our light shine when we help the missions. Missionaries are people who go to many parts of our country and to foreign lands. Ask: What do you think it would be like to be a missionary?**
- ✦ Have your child complete the activity.
- ✦ Lead your child to pray for the missions. Say: **Think about how you can be a light to others.** [Pause.] **You might say a prayer that all the children who have not yet heard of Jesus’ love will someday hear the Good News.** [Pause.]

Sharing PAGES 214–215

- ✦ Have your child make a Good News scroll by having him or her write one of these messages on a sheet of paper: *Jesus is our Savior; Jesus saved us from sin; Jesus is risen; God loves us.* Demonstrate how to use a pencil to roll the ends of the paper into a scroll. Have your child give his or her scroll to someone special.
- ✦ Ask: **Who were the Gospel writers?** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- ✦ Say: **Just as the Holy Spirit guided the Gospel writers and helped them spread God’s Word, the Holy Spirit also guides us and helps us spread the Good News.**
- ✦ Say: **Today we are going to meet a saint who was moved by the Holy Spirit to show love for others.**
- ✦ Read aloud page 214. Ask: **Who is always with us to help us spread the Good News?** (the Holy Spirit)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud page 215 and do the activities.

Acting PAGES 215–216

- ✦ Use A Moment with Jesus on page 215 to lead your child in prayer. Say: **Look at the picture you drew on page 215. Ask Jesus to bless the person you will bring Jesus’ love to.** [Pause.]
- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 24 Review on page 216.
- ✦ 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 217–218**INSPIRE**

- ♦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 217. Say: **The Holy Spirit helps us listen, be better people, and be like Jesus.**

PROCLAIM

- ♦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **The Holy Spirit helped the first Christians travel and preach to people they didn't know.**
- ♦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The Holy Spirit inspires people to write about and learn more about the life of Jesus.**
- ♦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know. Say: **Saint Martin responded to God's grace when he made a small act of kindness. What small act of kindness can you do 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 directions in Share Your Faith and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ♦ Ask: **What are things you can do on your own?** For each suggestion, set up a domino or a block on its end in a straight line. Ask a question to help your child understand that there was help behind each independent action. (*Such as, they can tie their shoes. Who bought them the shoes or taught them how to tie them?*)
- ♦ Say: **We are never alone in our actions. The Holy Spirit is helping us. Everything we do starts with him.** Place a final domino or block for the Holy Spirit and tip it to activate the row.
- ♦ Remind your child to look for good things happening around him or her.