

Jesus Calls Us to Give Ourselves in Love

- ◆ Before beginning Unit 2, read A Letter Home, found on page 36 of your child's book. Then begin the next paragraph with your child.
- ◆ Say: **In Unit 2 we will learn more about the Ten Commandments, God's rules that help us live as his children.**

CHAPTER 5 Jesus Shows Us How to Love God Our Father

Centering PAGE 35

- ◆ Read aloud the title and the Bible verse on page 35.
- ◆ Ask: **How do you like to celebrate your birthday?** Say: **When we celebrate, we show all the joy that is inside us. What do you do to show your joy at a celebration?** (smile, laugh, sing, dance, clap, play, cheer)

Sharing PAGE 37

- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 37 and point out the words *Ten Commandments*. Ask: **What did Jesus say would bring us joy?** (living in his love, keeping his commandments)
- ◆ Say: **Jesus knows that loving is the most important thing we can do. He wants us to love and celebrate God our Father. Why?** (God loves us.)
- ◆ Say: **Jesus' friends asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Ask: What prayer did Jesus teach them?** (the Lord's Prayer, or the Our Father) Say: **The Our Father is on the inside front cover of your book. Remember, when you know the Our Father by heart, you may color the cross by it.**

Sharing PAGE 38

- ◆ Read aloud page 38. Have your child point to the words *Lord's Day* and find the meaning in the Glossary. Ask: **What is Jesus doing in each of these pictures?** (praying, teaching, going to the Temple)
- ◆ Say: **We can learn from Jesus the importance of praying, speaking about God with love, and celebrating the Lord's Day.**

Sharing PAGE 39

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 39 and complete the activity. Then read aloud the rest of the page. Say: **Commandments are like laws or rules. They are given to us by God to help us live good lives and be happy.**
- ✦ Say: **Turn to the front and back covers of your book.** Ask: **What do you see?** (prayers) **Which ones have you already prayed?** (Possible answers: Lord's Prayer, Sign of the Cross, Grace Before Meals)
- ✦ Say: **There are many different ways of praying.** Ask: **How do we pray during Mass?** (aloud in the responses, silently, in song)

Sharing PAGES 40–41

- ✦ Point to the picture on page 40. Ask: **What are some of the beautiful things in this picture? Wouldn't it be nice to be there?** Say: **Draw yourself into the picture. Remember that you are also part of God's beautiful creation.** Read aloud the adaptation to Psalm 139 on page 40 as your child works.
- ✦ Say: **God our Father is so good to us. No matter where we go or what we do, God is there, watching over us. When you think about God and when you love God, you are praying. It is good to think quietly about God in the morning, during the day, and at night.**
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.
- ✦ Say: **Jesus wanted everyone to say God's name with love.** Ask: **How would you feel if someone made fun of your name?** (sad, angry) Say: **It is wrong to use a person's name this way. It is even worse to use God's name without love. Why?** (because God loves me more than anyone else does) Say: **When we pray, we use God's name with love.**
- ✦ Say: **God's people have always kept a day holy for the Lord.** Ask: **What day do we keep holy?** (Sunday) Say: **We keep Sunday as the Lord's Day because Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday.** Ask: **What can you do to make every Sunday a holy and happy day, a day of rest?**
- ✦ Help your child complete the word banners on page 41.

Acting PAGE 42

- ✦ Help your child remove the God's Top Ten CDs punchouts, as well as the CD cover labeled God's Laws of Love. Say: **This CD will help you remember the key terms for the Ten Commandments. The first three key terms you have already learned are *pray, name, and Lord's Day.***
- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 5 Review on page 42.
- ✦ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 43–44**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 43.
Say: **Following God’s commandments helps us make room for the important things.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **If God hadn’t asked us to keep the Lord’s Day holy, what might happen on Sundays?** (People might not set aside time to worship God.)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **God wants us to share his commandments with others. When we share God’s commandments, we share our joy in following Jesus.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 44. Say: **In his Gospel, Saint Luke included many details about Jesus’ birth and childhood. These details help us know Jesus 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

- ◆ Say: **God wants us to spend the Lord’s Day doing activities that nourish our souls, just like the ones you named in Share Your Faith.**
- ◆ Help your child use his or her idea from Share your Faith to make a billboard advertisement for keeping holy the Lord’s Day. Tell him or her to write *Keep the Lord’s Day Holy* at the top. Encourage your child to share the advertisement with others.

CHAPTER 14 Jesus Calls Us His Friends

Centering PAGE 103

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the text on page 103. Ask: **Because we are friends of Jesus, what does he want us to do?** (listen to him and be with him, serve him out of love) **Where can we hear the words of Jesus?** (in the Bible, at Mass, during prayer) **How can we serve Jesus today?** (by being kind to others)
- ✦ Say: **Every day friends of Jesus care for others as Martha did. They are busy living a “Martha kind of day.” But they also do their work as Mary did by listening and speaking to God.**

Sharing PAGES 104–105

- ✦ Say: **We will play some games to help you remember the important things you have learned about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the directions on page 104. Say: **I will tell a riddle about each picture. See if you can find the picture that answers the riddle. Then find the name for it and write its number in the box.** Read aloud these clues.

Say: **I am thinking of someone who was a sinner. Jesus forgave her because she was sorry for her sins. (2. A Sinful Woman)**

I am thinking of a man who cheated many people out of their money. When he met Jesus, he was sorry and promised to make up for his sins. (6. Zacchaeus)

I am thinking of whom we meet when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (4. Jesus)

I am thinking of some men that Jesus gave his peace to and told them to give his forgiveness to others. (3. Apostles)

I am thinking of a sacrament in which Jesus forgives our sins. (5. The Sacrament of Reconciliation)

I am thinking of a sheep that ran away from the flock. When the Good Shepherd found it, he was happy and invited his friends to rejoice. (1. The Lost Sheep)

- ✦ Have your child complete the activities on page 105.

Reviewing PAGE 106

- ◆ Draw a hill on a sheet of paper and write the numbers 1 through 7 going up the hill. Say: **We will play Climb the Hill. Each time you answer a question correctly, connect two numbers with a line until you get to the top.** Use these questions. Ask: **What do we call doing something unloving on purpose?** (sin) **Whom do we ask to help us look into our hearts?** (the Holy Spirit) **What is absolution?** (the words of forgiveness) **What prayer do we pray to tell Jesus we are sorry?** (Act of Contrition) **When did we first receive the Holy Spirit?** (at Baptism) **Who forgives our sins when the priest gives us absolution?** (Jesus) **How can we show that we have new hearts after Jesus forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?** (by loving God and others more, by trying not to do what we did wrong again)
- ◆ Help your child complete the Unit 3 Review on page 106.

Celebrating PAGES 107–108

- ◆ Invite your child to prayer using We Celebrate on pages 107–108. Tell your child to read aloud the All parts after you read aloud the Leader parts. Conclude with a Sign of Peace.

Acting

- ◆ Write *penance* in large letters on a sheet of paper. Ask your child to cross out the two *n*'s. Point out what the remaining letters spell. (peace)
- ◆ Ask: **What are we to do with the peace that comes from the Sacrament of Reconciliation?** (spread it to others)
- ◆ When you've completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 110a–110d and encourage him or her to share it with other family members, or read and complete the section together.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 109–110**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 109. Say: **No matter how difficult a time we might be having, Jesus will reach out and save us.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **To be good friends with Jesus, we have to get to know him. We listen for his words in the Bible, at Mass, and during prayer.**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **How do Catholics make up for a sin?** (the Sacrament of Reconciliation) Say: **After we are forgiven, we thank Jesus for giving us peace.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 110. Say: **Jesus felt at home with Martha. She cared for him. She listened to him.** Ask: **How does Jesus feel at home with you?**
- ✦ 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 your child to share what he or she wrote for Share Your Faith. Say: **We can be friends with Jesus by helping others, obeying our parents, praying, and following God's laws.**
- ✦ Brainstorm an outdoor activity that your family and friends can play together. Say: **Before our game starts, tell everyone that Jesus is with them. After the game, we will pray to Jesus together to thank him for the gift of our family and friends.**

CHAPTER 22 We Share God's Love with Others

Centering

- ✦ Make three signs with the headings *Home, School, and Everywhere*. Brainstorm ways that Jesus can love through you and your child and list them on the appropriate sign. Visualize situations such as a family argument or a new student at school to help you think about what you would do. Place the signs in your home as reminders of how to love and serve the Lord at home, at school, and everywhere.
- ✦ Say: **In Holy Communion, Jesus comes into our hearts and makes us like himself. Today you will see how we are sent to go forth from the Mass to live in the world as Jesus did.**

Sharing PAGE 163

- ✦ Say: **Before Jesus went to heaven, he said what he wanted his Apostles to do. He said, "Go out to the whole world and tell the Good News." At Mass, Jesus teaches us to love and serve God just as he taught the Apostles. Ask: When does he do this? (in the readings and Homily)**
- ✦ Explain the last parts of the Mass. Read aloud the title and the text on page 163.
- ✦ Say: **At the end of the Mass, the priest blesses us and says, "May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." We pray the Sign of the Cross and answer *Amen*. The priest blesses us so that God will stay with us to help us glorify the Lord by living and serving him and one another. (Repeat the prayer and have your child pray the Sign of the Cross and respond "Amen.")**
- ✦ Say: **After the priest says, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life," we answer, "Thanks be to God." We usually sing a closing song to praise and thank God.**

Sharing PAGES 164–165

- ✦ Say: **When the priest tells us to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life," he is telling us to bloom where we're planted. We are bringing Jesus' love wherever we are. Where might this be? (at home, in school, on the playground)**
- ✦ Say: **Sometimes we may find it difficult to bloom where we're planted. We may find it hard to bring to others the love Jesus shares with us in Holy Communion. But Jesus helps us.**

- ◆ Have your child complete the activity at the top of page 164. Then have your child read aloud the paragraph at the bottom of the page. Point out the words *tabernacle* and *Blessed Sacrament* and look up the meanings in the Glossary.
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity on page 165.

Reviewing PAGE 166

- ◆ Help your child complete the Unit 4 Review on page 166.
- ◆ Prior to the activity, write these words on ten flower shapes: *Gospel, bread, wine, thank, gift, sorry, Amen, Jesus, praise, believe*. Place the flowers facedown. Take turns picking a flower and using the word in a sentence.

Celebrating PAGES 167–168

- ◆ Lead your child in the celebration *The Lord Is Our Shepherd* on pages 167–168. Take turns reading aloud the different parts. Allow your child enough time for quiet reflection after the reading.
- ◆ Choose a song that your child will sing during his or her first eucharistic celebration.

Acting

- ◆ Help your child remove the Response Wheel from the back of his or her book and attach the spinner with a metal fastener. Tell your child that the responses can be found in their Mass booklet on pages 6, 11, 14, 17, 21, and 24. Say: **Spin the spinner and give the response to the prayer on which it stops.**
- ◆ When you've completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 170a–170d and encourage him or her to share it with other family members, or read and complete the section together.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 169–170**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 169. Say: **Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us do his work. In a similar way, the priest sends us forth to do Jesus' work at the end of Mass.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Often, consecrated hosts are taken by extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to those who are sick or homebound.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Jesus Christ is present in the tabernacle.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 170. Say: **Martin cared for people who were ignored, unloved, and disrespected. When he saw someone who was hurting, Martin asked, "How can I help?"**
- ◆ 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: **All of us feel tired, afraid, worried, or hurt sometimes. We can pray to God to be brave and strong. If we keep our eyes and ears open, we will find people we can help, heal, or serve.**
- ◆ Invite your child to serve someone today. Say: **Thank you for sharing Jesus' love with others.**

The Church Celebrates God's Care

- ✦ Before beginning Unit 5, read A Letter Home, found on page 172 of your child's book. Then begin the next paragraph with your child.
- ✦ Say: **In Unit 5 we will learn more about the roles of our Church leaders and how we can love and imitate Mary, the Mother of God, to spread Christ's love to all.**

CHAPTER 23 We Are One in the Church

Centering PAGE 171

- ✦ Say: **Listen to this riddle. I have two arms and legs, two eyes and ears, one nose, and a mouth. What am I? (a person) Say: God has given you a wonderful body. What can you do because you have a body?** Ask your child to demonstrate some simple acts such as walking or clapping.
- ✦ Say: **All your body parts work together.** Ask: **How can you take care of and strengthen the parts of your body?** (eat well; exercise; get enough sleep)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the Bible verse on page 171. Say: **You have shared the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ along with the rest of the Church. You are more fully part of the Church. Today you will see what this means.**

Sharing PAGE 173

- ✦ Have your child read aloud page 173. Ask: **Who is the head of the Church?** (Jesus) Say: **We who are baptized are part of the Church's body.** Ask: **Who are some of the people who belong to the Church?** (priests, parents, neighbors, children)
- ✦ Say: **We need energy or power to live and grow as Christians.** Ask: **Where do we get our energy or power?** (at Mass when we offer Jesus' sacrifice and receive him in Holy Communion)
- ✦ Say: **The sun shines every day, even on rainy days when clouds hide its rays. Even if we are unable to go to Mass every day, Jesus offers himself for us so that we can have the strength to be good. We celebrate Mass every Saturday evening or Sunday. God asks us to do this to show our love.**
- ✦ Share with your child a time Christ helped you bring love to someone.

Sharing PAGE 174

- ✦ Say: **Jesus made Peter the chief shepherd, the first pope. Jesus gave us the pope to take care of the whole Church. The pope teaches all people about God's love.** Ask: **What is the name of our pope?**
- ✦ Ask: **Who else helps people find out about Jesus?** (bishops, priests, deacons, religious brothers and sisters, all members of the Church)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the top of page 174. Help your child read and fill in the names of Church leaders at the bottom of the page.

Sharing PAGE 175

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the paragraphs next to the pictures and discuss what the people are doing. Ask: **How are the people in the top two pictures on page 175 serving God?**
- ✦ Say: **Deacons help priests. They may baptize, read the Gospel at Mass, give homilies, assist at other Church celebrations, and teach. They also help those who are sick and those who are needy in the parish.** Identify deacons that you know.
- ✦ Say: **Jesus calls on some people to serve the Church as religious brothers and sisters. They give themselves to God in a special way. They promise to spend their lives serving the family of God.** Ask: **What are ways they care for people as Jesus did?** (pray for the Church and all people, help senior citizens, teach, care for the sick, work for the poor, work for justice, work as missionaries)
- ✦ Say: **Each member of the Church must do his or her own special job well if the Church is to bring all people together in love.**
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to answer the question and talk with Jesus in the quiet of his or her heart.

Acting PAGES 176–178

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the text and the directions on page 176. Help him or her read aloud the words in the purple box before completing the activity.
- ✦ Guide your child in reading aloud and working through We Become Like Jesus on page 177. Say: **The two new rules for your club should reflect a Christian outlook on life.**
- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 23 Review on page 178.
- ✦ 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 179–180**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 179. Ask: **How can we make the Body of Christ strong and healthy?** (love others; share; tell others about God’s love)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **Who makes up the Body of Christ?** (many parts; all of us)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Just as our bodies grow, Christ’s Body grows too. We love God, and we draw others into Christ’s Body through our actions and words.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 180. Ask: **How did Sister Theodore and the other sisters help grow the Body of Christ?** (They were filled with God’s love. They taught and cared for orphans and for those who were sick or poor.)
- ◆ 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: **You can tell about God’s love through your words and actions.**
- ◆ Ask your child to choose one of the following body parts: eyes, ears, mouth, hands, heart, or feet. Then ask him or her to think of a way to use that body part to love God and build up the Body of Christ. (Examples: eyes—see the beauty of nature; ears—listen to a friend; mouth—smile at someone; hands—carry groceries; heart—love someone; feet—dance for joy) Ask your child to perform his or her idea during the week.

CHAPTER 25 The Church Celebrates God's Love

Centering

- ◆ Say: You will play some games today to help you remember what you have learned about the Church and what you believe and do as Catholic Christians.

Sharing PAGE 187

- ◆ Using dots, write the word *people* on a sheet of paper. Say: I will ask you a question about the Church. If you answer the question correctly, you may trace one letter of the word. Examples of questions include the following. Ask: How is the Church like a body? How does Jesus help the Church? Why do we, who belong to the Church, care about people? In what ways do we meet Jesus at Mass? Why do we honor Mary and pray to her? How can we lead other people to Jesus? Ask your child how the word *people* reminds him or her of the Church. (The Church is made up of people.)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 187 and complete the activity.

Sharing PAGE 188

- ◆ Play "Who's Who in the Church." Say: I will say a riddle about someone in the Church. Find a picture of the person I am talking about in your book or tell me his or her name. Include these riddles. Say: I am the Good Shepherd and stay with my Church. I come to my people in Holy Communion and help them share my love. Who am I? (Jesus) I am the leader of the Church on earth today. Who am I? (the pope) I am the Mother of the Church, and I help those who call upon me in need. Who am I? (Mary) I am any person who belongs to the Church. I try to love and care for others as Jesus taught. Who am I? (a Christian)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 188 and complete the activity. Discuss the answers to the exercises.

Reviewing PAGES 189–190

- ◆ Help your child do the activity on page 189. Recall for your child some of the stories of Jesus he or she has learned. (finding of Jesus in the Temple, choosing the Apostles, wedding at Cana, forgiving of Zacchaeus and the sinning woman, Mary and Martha, loaves and fish, Good Shepherd, Last Supper) When your child is finished, invite him or her to retell the story using the drawings.
- ◆ Help your child complete the Unit 5 Review on page 190.

Celebrating PAGES 191–192

- ◆ In preparation for the celebration, have your child make a cross. Show your child a cross cut out of cardboard. Have him or her trace the cross, outline it in the color of his or her choice, and cut it out. Then make a hole in the cross and help your child tie a long piece of colored yarn to make the cross into a necklace.
- ◆ **Say: A cross is a sign of those who believe in Jesus. You received a cross to remind you that you are just beginning to understand what it means to be a Christian. Christians are always growing more and more into the likeness of Jesus. Remember that you are Christians all year round, no matter where you are. You should always try to be like Jesus in what you choose to do and say.**
- ◆ Have your child wear the cross as you carry out the celebration on pages 191–192. Take turns reading aloud the parts.

Acting

- ◆ **Say: Church members try to lead people to Jesus. Let's think of ways we can do this.** (pray for the Church, pray for people who do not know Jesus, pray and make sacrifices for the missions, tell others about Jesus, show love for others as Jesus taught, respect and take care of God's creation, follow Jesus) Make a point of performing at least one of these examples during the week.
- ◆ When you've completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 194a–194d and encourage him or her to share it with other family members, or read and complete the section together.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 193–194**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 193. Say: **To answer our call, we use the talents God gave us. Our talents are like stepping stones that lead people to God.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Jesus Christ is always in our hearts. He is truly present in Holy Communion.** Ask: **In what sacrament do we receive Christ's Body?** (the Eucharist) **Who makes up the Body of Christ?** (We do.)
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **After we receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion at Mass, what are we sent forth to do?** (share him with others) **How can we do this?** (be kind and loving to others)
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 194. Say: **When we do something that shows our love for Jesus, and someone sees it, we plant a seed in that person's heart. Charles and his friends planted seeds by their actions.**
- ✦ 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: **Let's imagine you are a grown-up. You are using your special talent to spread God's love.** Have your child write and share a description of the work they are doing in the future.
- ✦ Say: **Our faith life is an adventure. It will lead to wonderful places. We can serve God and the Church in many different ways.**