

Christ Our Life: God Loves Us

NEW EVANGELIZATION EDITION

K

AGES 5-6

AT-HOME EDITION

UNIT 4

Celebrating God's Love

Point to the unit title on page 115 and read it aloud. Have your child repeat it as you point to each word. Say: **In Unit 4 we will learn how to celebrate God's gift of love with others.**

Chapter 19 Seeds Are Good

Centering

- Say: **Seeds can help us understand what Jesus did for us. God made seeds in a wonderful way. Inside each seed is a tiny little plant. The seed also holds food for the little plant.**
- With your child, dramatize how a seed grows. Say: **The seed is deep down in the ground.** [Kneel with hands hugging knees, head touching floor and hands.] **The little plant in the seed is waking up.** [Raise head very slowly.] **The plant is beginning to grow.** [Rise slowly and stand up.] **The sun shines and the plant grows.** [Smiling, slowly raise arms and reach up to the sun.]
- Say: **Today you will learn more about the great act of love that Jesus did for us.**

Sharing PAGE 115

- Read aloud the chapter title and the poem on page 115. Say: **A seed dies to give new life to a plant. It's planted in the ground, but it does not stay there. It comes up with new life. Jesus did not stay in the tomb after he died. He rose with new life.**
- Say: **Jesus died to give new life to us so that we can grow to be more like him. You received this new life when you were baptized. This new life helps you live in love as Jesus did.**
- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus on page 115. Distribute the Chapter 19 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 116

- Read aloud the text at the top of page 116. Have your child reread the second sentence with you. Say: **Jesus died on the Cross so that we can have new life.** Help your child find the words *cross* and *heaven* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions.
- Introduce the Mystery of Faith. Say: **When we come together for Mass, we remember that Jesus died to give us new life. We sing or say this prayer: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again."** Help your child repeat it. Say: **This part of the prayer we pray during Mass is called the Mystery of Faith.**

Sharing PAGE 117

- Read aloud the text at the top of page 117. Help your child find the Word to Know *Sign of the Cross* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Show your child a cross. Say: **A cross is a special sign of God’s love for us. Jesus died on the Cross. Some crosses show Jesus’ body on the cross. When an image of Jesus is on a cross, it is called a crucifix.**
- Tell your child about the Sign of the Cross. Say: **Making the Sign of the Cross is a prayer. When we sign our forehead, we give God our mind. When we sign our chest, we give God our heart. When we sign our body from shoulder to shoulder, we give God our whole self. This is how we do it.** Pin a paper cross to yourself and make the Sign of the Cross.
- Have your child make the Sign of the Cross with his or her right hand as you say the words of the prayer: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**
- Have your child complete the activity on page 117. When your child has taken the prayer to heart, let him or her color the cross next to the prayer on the inside front cover of his or her book.

Acting

- Give your child the Cross punchout and ask him or her to draw seeds on it. Have your child display it somewhere in your home as a reminder that, just as the seed dies so the plant can grow, Jesus died to give us new life.
- Encourage your child to practice the Sign of the Cross by showing other members of your family how to do it.
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using John 3:17.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 118–119

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 118. Say: **God’s Son, Jesus, died for us. His love keeps growing and growing in our hearts.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we make the cross shape on our bodies to remind us that Jesus died for us.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **We show we love Jesus with our mind, our heart, and our whole self.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 119. Say: **Saint Teresa used prayer to fill her heart with God’s love.** Ask: **What can you do to help the seeds of God’s love grow in your heart?** (Possible answers: I can pray every day; I can help my family; I can cheer up someone who is sad; I can show love for the earth.)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Read aloud the loving acts that can make God’s love grow (share with others, help someone, be kind, pray for someone) and allow time for your child to complete the activity.

Transform

- Ask: **How can you make God’s love grow bigger and stronger in your heart every day?** (make good choices, pray, do kind and loving acts)
- Make a large drawing of a plant in a pot. Have family members add leaves to the plant as they discover ways to show and share God’s love. Label the leaves with each family member’s ideas.

Chapter Review PAGE 120

- Help your child complete the Chapter 19 Review on page 120.
- Read aloud the Words to Know and ask your child to use each word in a sentence.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 19 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 20 Butterflies Are Good

Centering

- Explain the life cycle of a butterfly. Ask: **Do you know where a butterfly comes from?** Say: **Once the beautiful butterfly was a caterpillar. It crawled like a worm.**
- **When the caterpillar is grown, it hangs upside down on a branch and spins a silk thread from its own body. The blanket of silk, or chrysalis, hardens. When the butterfly is ready, the chrysalis splits open. The butterfly comes out. It has a wonderful new life.**
- Say: **Spring is also a time of new life in the Catholic Church.**

Sharing PAGE 121

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 121. Say: **Spring is a special time of year. The whole world is singing a new song to the Lord. The butterflies come out of their chrysalises.** Ask: **What else is new in spring?** (Trees, bushes, and the ground have new life. Birds build nests for baby birds. Other animals have babies.) Tell your child what your favorite thing about spring is, and then have her or him do the same.
- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 20 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Then say: **Let's learn about another kind of new life, the new life of Jesus.** Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 122

- Read aloud the text on page 122. Help your child find the words *Resurrection* and *Alleluia* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions.
- Relate the butterfly's life cycle to Jesus' Resurrection. Say: **Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar's life died. It came out with a wonderful new butterfly life. Jesus died on the Cross. His sad friends put his body into a tomb. A tomb is a place where people are buried when they are dead. Then God raised Jesus from the dead. He came back to life! Jesus came out of the tomb with a wonderful new life.**
- Ask: **Have you ever been so surprised that you could barely talk? All you could do was open your mouth wide and say, "Wow!"** Say: **The Church celebrates Jesus' Resurrection this way. We are so full of joy because Jesus is risen that we shout out the Easter joy word "Alleluia." Alleluia means "Praise the Lord."**
- Read aloud the Scripture verse on page 122. Remind your child that these words come from God's special book, the Bible. Then say: **On Easter morning, Jesus rose gloriously with new life. Because Jesus died and rose for us, we can share in his new life. We share in Jesus' new life when we are baptized. We continue to live this new life as we live Jesus' love.**
- Together look at the picture on page 122. Ask: **How are the children living Jesus' love?** (They are at church. They are smiling.)

Sharing PAGE 123

- Read aloud page 123 and guide your child in doing the activity.
- Ask: **What new life in spring have we said reminds us of Jesus' new life?** (butterflies) Say: **Let's make a butterfly craft to remind us to live Jesus' new life.** Provide craft materials so you and your child can each draw and decorate a butterfly.
- Say: **Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we have celebrated Jesus' new life. Help us live in his love. We ask this through Jesus, our risen Lord.**

Acting

- Say: **We have new life too.** Ask: **When did we receive it?** (at Baptism) **What will the new life help us do?** (live in love)
- Say: **I'm giving you the butterfly I decorated to keep as a reminder to live Jesus' love. You should give the butterfly you decorated to someone to wish him or her a new life in Jesus' love. When you give away the butterfly, you may say, "Jesus is alive. Live in his love."**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 149:1.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 124–125

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 124. Say: **Jesus rose from the dead! He kept his promise. Jesus gave us all new life.**
- Say: **Jesus wants all people to be part of God’s family. As Christians, we can help share the Good News.** Ask: **How can we share the Good News about Jesus’ love with others?** (We can pray. We can act like Jesus. We can tell others about Jesus.)

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **The word *Alleluia* means “Praise the Lord.” Say “Alleluia!”**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Jesus wanted his friends to know that he was filled with new life. Jesus wanted them to know he would always be with them.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 125. Ask: **How do you think Mary Magdalene felt when she saw that Jesus had risen?** (Possible answer: She was happy because she knew he would be with her forever.)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Pray the word *Alleluia* together. Allow time for your child to color the prayer.

Transform

- Say: **Finish this sentence: Jesus rose from the dead to give me new life. I show my joy when I _____.**
- Pray together: **Alleluia! He is risen! Let us share the joy, love, and thanks we feel in our hearts. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 126

- Help your child complete the Chapter 20 Review on page 126.
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer after you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 20 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 21 Light Is Good

Centering

- Start by sitting in a darkened room. Ask: **When it's nighttime and you go into your room, what do you need to do in order to see everything in the room?** (Turn on the light.) Have your child turn on the light.
- Display a flashlight. Say: **Light is good. It changes what it touches.** Shine the light. Ask: **What will happen if I shine this light in a dark room?** (The darkness will be gone.) Say: **The light changes darkness into brightness.** Let your child experiment with how the light of the flashlight changes the way things appear in a dark room.
- Say: **Today you will learn that Jesus taught us ways to spread love like a light.**

Sharing PAGE 127

- Together study the picture on page 127. Ask: **What do you see in the picture?** (trees, people, sunlight) Read aloud the page and help your child find the Word to Know *Light of the World* in the Glossary. Read and discuss the definition.
- Read aloud the Scripture verse on page 127. Say: **You can find these words in God's special book, the Bible. Jesus calls himself a light. Jesus spoke, saying, "I am the light of the world."**
- Ask: **How is Jesus a light for us?** (He shows us how to bring light to others by being loving and kind.) Say: **On Easter when we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead, we remember that Jesus is our light. On the night before Easter, the priest lights a large decorated candle called the Easter candle. Three times the priest sings, "Christ our light," and everyone answers, "Thanks be to God."**
- Say: **Jesus gives us the light of his love when we are baptized. He wants his love to shine through us to others.**

Sharing PAGE 128

- Read aloud page 128 as your child follows along. Ask: **What is Jesus doing?** (talking; teaching the people) **What do you think he is telling the people?**
- Demonstrate what happens when light is covered up or blocked. Shine a flashlight in a dark room. Then have your child cover the light with a piece of cardboard or a book. Ask: **What happened to the light?** (It was blocked.) Say: **Jesus tells us to let our light shine!**
- Say: **At your Baptism, your baptismal candle was lit from the light of the Easter candle. That shows that you now have the light of Jesus within you.** Ask: **How do you let the light of Jesus' love shine through you?** [Prompt your child by asking, *What happens when you smile at someone? What happens when you ask someone, "Can I help you?"*]
- Lead your child in quiet prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 21 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 129

- Read aloud the text on page 129 and have your child complete the activity.
- Give your child the flashlight. Read the following scenarios and direct your child to turn on the flashlight if the scenario shows a way to spread Jesus' light. [*A child invites a friend to join their family on a beach trip. A child offers part of their lunch to another child who forgot theirs. A child makes fun of a friend who lost his front teeth. A child compliments her friend's drawing. A child takes a toy away from someone else. A child invites another child to join in a game of tag.*]
- Think of a time your child let his or her light shine recently. Share that example with your child. Then say: **Think of one thing you can do this week to let your light shine.** Praise your child when he or she carries out the idea during the week.

Acting

- Light a candle or turn on a battery-operated candle. Then demonstrate the candle rite of the Easter Vigil. Say: **Let us imagine we are at the Easter celebration on the night before Easter. I will hold this candle and say, "Christ our light." You say after me, "Thanks be to God."** [Raise the candle and say "Christ our light" three times.]
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 27:1.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 130–131

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 130. Say: **The word *arise* tells us that we need to take action and do something.** Ask: **What do you think it means to “shine”?** (We need to show Jesus’ light to others.) Say: **Jesus’ light shines on us and helps us grow closer to God.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Jesus’ light can shine through us as we help people, speak truthfully, and show love and understanding.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **We share Jesus’ love through our words and actions.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 131. Ask: **How did Saint John Neumann’s work help him share Jesus’ light with others?** (He opened Catholic schools to teach children about Jesus.)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and allow time for your child to complete the activity.

Transform

- Shine a candle in a dark room. Say: **When we light a candle in a dark room, the light grows and spreads so we can see. When we share Jesus’ light, we make his love grow by sharing it with one another.**
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **Dear Jesus, thank you for being the Light of the World. Help us shine your light on others. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 132

- Help your child complete the Chapter 21 Review on page 132.
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer after you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 21 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 22 Celebrating Is Good

Centering

- Wrap a small gift prior to the lesson. Let your child open it at the start of the lesson. Then say: **When people give us gifts, they give us their love. They give us a part of themselves. When we give gifts to others, we do the same thing. We give them our love and a part of ourselves.**
- Say: **Tell me about a time someone gave you a gift. Then tell me about a time you gave a gift to someone.**
- Say: **Today you will learn how we celebrate the gift of Jesus.**

Sharing PAGE 133

- Read aloud the chapter title and have your child follow along as you read aloud page 133.
- Say: **God loves us so much that he gave us the very best gift, his Son, Jesus.** Ask: **What are some ways that we can thank God for the gift of Jesus?** (say thank you when we pray; do good things)
- Say: **Mass is the special and important celebration that we share for thanking God. At Mass, Jesus thanks God our Father with us by offering himself as a gift. Jesus also gives himself to the people as food in the Eucharist. When you are older, you will receive this wonderful gift.**
- Read aloud the Scripture verse on page 133. Remind your child that these words come from God's special book, the Bible. Say: **The phrase "breaking of the bread" refers to the celebration of the Eucharist.**
- Together sing and clap to the following verses set to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell":
 1. We give God thanks at Mass...
 2. We thank God for his Son...
 3. Jesus gives himself at Mass...
 4. We give ourselves with him...
 5. Jesus gives himself as food...

Sharing PAGE 134

- Read aloud the text on page 134. Help your child find the word *Creed* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Say: **The food at Mass is very special. The priest takes our gifts of wheat bread and grape wine and does what Jesus did at the Last Supper. When he says the words that Jesus said, the wheat bread and grape wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. When we eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ, we are joined together with Jesus and his family, the Church.**
- Lead your child in quiet prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 22 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 135

- Read aloud the text on page 135. Then guide your child in completing the activity. When he or she is finished, read each part of the Creed together. Have your child place his or her finger on the first set of words from the prayer, “I believe in God the Father,” as he or she reads this sentence with you. Repeat this with the other two parts of the prayer.
- Say: **The Mass is a very special celebration. We thank God that we belong to the Catholic Church. We thank God that we are invited to the Mass celebration every Sunday.** Tell your child about your favorite part of Mass and then invite her or him to do the same.

Acting

- Give your child the Priest, Altar, and Candle punchouts from the back of the book. Prepare them together. [Fold the Priest punchout so it can stand. Fold the Altar punchout on the dotted lines and place it in front of the Priest punchout. Place the Candle punchout in the slits on top of the Altar punchout.] Say: **When Jesus had the Last Supper with his Apostles, he was celebrating a holy meal. We remember and celebrate this meal every Sunday. The priest leads us in the celebration.**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 89:2.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 136–137

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 136. Say: **You don't have to be in church or be directed by a priest to talk to God. You are welcome to pray on your own any time. God is always listening.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Like other celebrations, going to Mass includes receiving gifts. We receive the gift of forgiveness and love. We receive the gift of the Eucharist.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The priest helps us celebrate Mass as a Church family.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 137. Say: **Saint Ignatius wrote directions that help people share quiet time with God.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Together talk about your favorite part of Mass. Allow time for your child to complete the activity.

Transform

- Ask: **How can you participate in the Mass?** (Possible answers: sing, follow along with the readings, pray, keep my body calm, greet others) Record a list of ideas on a sheet of paper titled "How I Can Share in the Mass" and post it in your home.
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **God, thank you for your many gifts, and especially your gift of love. Help us show this love to others every day. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 138

- Help your child complete the Chapter 22 Review on page 138.
- Ask your child to identify the objects in the picture he or she colored.
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer after you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 22 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 23 Air Is Good

Centering

- Light a candle and ask your child to blow it out. Ask: **Where does the air you used to blow out the candle come from?** (our breath) Say: **We have air inside us. We breathe it into our lungs. Then we breathe it out again.**
- Say: **Plants and animals need air too. Air is invisible. We cannot see it. Today you will learn about the invisible Holy Spirit who brings Jesus' love into our hearts.**

Sharing PAGE 139

- Say: **Look at the picture on page 139.** Ask: **What does it feel like to be out in the fresh air and feel a cool breeze?**
- Say: **Air and wind are mysterious. We can hear the wind. We can feel the wind blow against us. We can see what the wind can do.** Ask: **What have you seen the wind do?** (blow the leaves on the trees; blow through tall grass; blow leaves along the ground) Say: **But we cannot see the wind itself. We cannot see the Holy Spirit either. We cannot completely understand the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is God and God is so great.**
- Read aloud page 139. Help your child find the Word to Know *Holy Spirit* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Say: **Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is everywhere, just as air is everywhere.**
- Say: **Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit and stays with us in the Holy Spirit. We cannot feel his touch the way people did when Jesus walked on earth. But Jesus is with us.**
- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 23 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 140

- Read aloud the Scripture verse at the bottom of page 140. Say: **Jesus promised to send us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help and guide us.**
- Read aloud the first two sections of the page. Say: **After we receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism, the Holy Spirit helps us think and feel and love as Jesus did. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his friends after he ascended, or went up, into heaven. His friends felt a strong wind blow. Then flames appeared above their heads. We sometimes use the symbols of wind and flames to represent the Holy Spirit.**
- Finish reading the page. Say: **The Holy Spirit in our hearts helps us pray and say yes to what God wants us to do.**
- Teach your child the last line of the Lord's Prayer. Say: **At the end of the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." We want to be good and loving like Jesus. Pray the words after me: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."** Have your child repeat it.

Sharing PAGE 141

- Read aloud the text on page 141. Before doing the activity, ask: **Who is sometimes represented by wind or flames?** (the Holy Spirit) Say: **We also can use a dove as a symbol for the Holy Spirit.**
- Read the directions and have your child complete the activity. Then pray the prayer together: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Acting

- Lead your child in prayer. Say: **We're going to pray to the Holy Spirit. After each prayer, respond with "Holy Spirit, fill me with love." Holy Spirit, help us do what God wants.** [Response] **Holy Spirit, help us love God and pray.** [Response] **Holy Spirit, help us respect and love everyone.** [Response]
- Direct your child to decorate a sheet of paper. Then make a fan by accordion-pleating the decorated sheet. Staple one end to make a handle. Play with the fan together to experience wind.
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Wisdom 1:7.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 142–143

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 142. Say: **Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit. He wants us to overflow with love for one another just as he overflows with love for us.**
- Say: **Imagine I am filling a glass with water.** Ask: **When the glass is full, what will happen if I keep pouring water?** (It will overflow.) Say: **Pretend your heart is a cup and the Holy Spirit is filling your heart with love and peace. The Holy Spirit continues to fill your heart even when it is overflowing.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **The Holy Spirit is always with us, helping us live and love like Jesus.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The Holy Spirit helps us make good choices.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 143. Say: **Saint Paul wrote many of the letters in the New Testament part of the Bible.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and have your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Discuss the words your child colored in Witness and Share. Ask: **Why is it good to know that the Holy Spirit is around us?** (It lets us know that we are loved, protected, and safe.)
- Guide your child to be more aware of the choices he or she makes and tell your child the Holy Spirit is always in his or her heart to help. Set aside a regular time for your child to share one good choice he or she makes each day. Invite your child to pray often to the Holy Spirit asking for help in showing love and care to others.

Chapter Review PAGE 144

- Help your child complete the Chapter 23 Review on page 144.
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer after you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 23 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 24 Joy Is Good

Centering

- Before you begin, draw a face and tape a frown on it for the mouth. Show your child the face and ask: **What do you notice about this person?** (The person looks sad.) **How do you know?** (The person is frowning.) **How can you make this person look happy?** Have your child turn the frown mouth into a smile by rotating it.
- Say: **If you turn a frown upside down, you will have a smile. Let's both frown. Now turn your frown into a smile.** Ask: **What makes you smile or laugh?** (playing with friends, when people do something nice for us) Tell your child things he or she does that make you smile or laugh.
- Say: **Today you will learn about how Jesus makes us smile.**

Sharing PAGE 145

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 145. Help your child find the word *joy* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: **How do you know the children in the wagon are happy?** (They are smiling.) Say: **Being with people who are happy can make us feel happy too. Their smiles can make us smile too.**
- Ask: **Has someone done something lately that made you happy?** Say: **All of us can be happy because God loves us and wants us to be joyful.**
- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 24 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 146

- Together line up dominoes or stack blocks. Then say: **God's joy is a little bit like these dominoes [or blocks]. Each smile or act of love spreads from one person to another. God can take the joy we share with just one person and extend that joy to many others. Watch.** Have your child gently tip the first domino or remove the bottom block so that everything falls.
- Read aloud page 146. Ask: **What are some things that you might do to bring a smile to someone's face?** (greet the person, do something to help the person, tell the person something funny or something happy)
- Read aloud the Scripture feature on page 146. Remind your child that these words come from God's special book, the Bible.
- Say: **Jesus fills us with the special kind of happiness called joy. After his Resurrection, Jesus brought great joy to his friends by showing them that he was really alive. He told his friends that he would be with them always. He sent the Holy Spirit, who gives his followers a joy that remains even during hard times.**

Sharing PAGE 147

- Read aloud the text and the directions on page 147. Then allow time for your child to complete the activity.
- Remind your child that we can also show our love and care for people who are sick. Say: **One way to bring joy to the sick people in our community is to make them gifts. The priests and Church members who visit the sick can deliver our gifts on their visits.** Together make cheerful get-well cards that can be distributed by members of your church.

Acting

- Act out joyful scenarios with your child. Make up scenarios as you go or use the following suggested scenarios. Pretend it's someone's birthday. Say "Happy Birthday, [name]!" together and then sing "Happy Birthday." Pretend you're in a classroom. One of you is the teacher and the other the student. The teacher presents the student with a good grade and congratulates him or her. Pretend you're playing a team sport together and you're about to win.
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 16:11.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 148–149

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 148. Say: **Rejoice means “to feel or show great joy.”**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What things created by God the Father give you joy?**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **We are full of joy because we know that Jesus is with us.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 149. Say: **Saint Dominic set a good example for those around him.** Ask: **What can you do to share God’s love and joy?**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and have your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Say: **Joy comes from a deep place in your heart no matter what you are doing or what is going on around you.** Say: **Finish this sentence: Even if I don’t have [something that makes you happy], I am filled with joy.**
- Pray together: **God, thank you for being with us in all we do and for filling our hearts with the joy of your love. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 150

- Help your child complete the Chapter 24 Review on page 150.
- Read aloud the Word to Know and have your child complete this sentence: **I can bring joy to _____ by _____.** Encourage your child to carry out his or her idea. Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer after you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 24 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 25 Life Is Good

Centering

- Say: **One of the ways we find joy is by using the gifts that God has given us. Let's play this game together and think about the wonderful things we can do because God has given us the gift of life.**
- Chant the words for this action game. Take turns performing each action. Encourage your child to suggest words for other actions. Say: [1] **Can you walk on two legs, two legs, two legs? Can you walk on two legs, round and round and round?** [2] **Can you hop on one leg?...** [3] **Can you wave with one hand?...**
- Say: **Today you will learn about the joy we receive from Jesus that never ends.**

Sharing PAGE 151

- Ask: **Why is life good?** (God has given us many wonderful gifts. We can use the gifts that God has given us to share joy with others.) Say: **Being alive is good. It is good to feel ourselves breathing.** Have your child be conscious of his or her breathing. Say: **It is fun to be able to move—to hop and skip and jump. It feels good to smile and laugh. There are other things that give us deeper joy in life.**
- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 151. Help your child find the Word to Know *Ten Commandments* in the Glossary. Read and discuss the definition. Say: **God gives us the Ten Commandments to help us make good choices. When we choose to follow God's rules, we grow closer to God.**
- Lead your child in quiet prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 25 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 152

- Read aloud the text on page 152. Help your child find the word *Christ* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Say: **Jesus Christ is alive. In heaven, Jesus lives forever with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We call living forever in glory *eternal life*. Jesus died on the Cross for us and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life with him.**
- Read aloud the Scripture verse on page 152. Remind your child that these words come from the Bible. Say: **We do not know what heaven is like, but in heaven, Jesus will make our joy complete.**

Sharing PAGE 153

- Read aloud the text on page 153. Help your child find the word *saint* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: **We believe that Jesus will bring to heaven all people who love God. We call these people saints. Saints are God’s special friends. They are people who loved God on earth. The saints live now and forever with God in heaven.**
- Guide your child to complete the activity on page 153. Allow time for your child to discuss his or her picture.
- Together do the “Easter Cheer.” Say: **Jesus is risen.** [Take two steps forward on the beats.] **Al-le-lu-ia.** [Raise arms up and down twice.] **Jesus is risen.** [Take two steps backward on the beats.] **Al-le-lu-ia** [Raise arms up and down twice.] **Jesus is risen.** [Take two steps forward on the beats.] **Al-le-lu-ia.** [Raise arms up and down twice.] **That’s gr—rr—** [Swing right arm around twice as if winding up for a pitch.] **—eat!** [Jerk right elbow back. Clap twice.] (by M. Kathleen Glavich, S.N.D.)

Acting

- Hide a small prize in the room. Have your child search until he or she finds it. Then ask: **How did you feel when you found the prize?** (happy) **What is the greatest prize you can ever get?** (heaven)
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 16:11.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 154–155

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 154. Ask: **What prayer did Jesus teach us to pray to his Father in heaven?** (the Lord's Prayer) Say: **We pray this prayer to give thanks, to say we are sorry, and to ask for help. We also thank God for being near us and for his promise of life with him in heaven.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **The saints in heaven tried to live like Jesus. We can ask them to help us follow Jesus too.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Our actions here on earth bring us closer to God in heaven.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 155. Say: **Jesus listened to Thomas and helped him. We can always ask Jesus to help us understand.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and have your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Invite your child to think about the place that God has for him or her in heaven. Say: **Jesus came to give us new life. He taught us how to live a good life here on earth. He also promised us a place in heaven, where we will be with him forever.**
- Say: **The sentence you decorated in Witness and Share can be a prayer. Let's pray it together: For the place you made for me in heaven, thank you, God.**

Chapter Review PAGE 156

- Help your child complete the Chapter 25 Review on page 156.
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer after you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith and Growing Faith sections with other members of your family, or together read aloud the sections to review.
- Read the Chapter 25 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.
- Conclude the final unit by holding the Unit 4 Celebration found at www.christourlife.com/family.