



Foundations of Our Faith: Scripture and Tradition

Before You Begin

- Print the Chapter 1 BLM: My Support System found at the end of this document.
- Have a Bible available during the session for reference.
- Download and print the Chapter 1 Prayer Service: Baptismal Promises.
- Download and print the *Called to Be Catholic* downloadable charts.

Engage: Page 1

- ◆ Read aloud the chapter title and opening questions on page 1. Take time to discuss your child's ideas. Say: **It's important to remember that to have a good friend, you have to be a good friend.**
- ◆ Display the Bible and read aloud the Scripture passage at the bottom of page 1. Say: **Each of us is being formed as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our Baptism makes us members of a worldwide Church community that can help us grow closer to God, make good decisions, solve problems, and live full, rich lives.**
- ◆ Pray together the Lord's Prayer and close with the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 2–7

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the section *God in Your Life* on page 2. Say: **The teachings of our Church are based on the Gospels. The Gospels tell us that God loves us and wants to be in relationship with us through his Son, Jesus Christ. This is really good news.**
- ◆ Have your child read quietly *What Makes a Relationship Good?* When he or she has finished, ask the following questions: **What is one thing that you know about your best friend that he or she wouldn't mind if you shared? What is one thing that you like to do with your friend? When you are with your best friend, how do you usually act? How often do you and your best friend communicate?** Explain that nurturing relationships leads us on a path to growing closer to our friends.
- ◆ Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity at the bottom of page 2 and the Chapter 1 BLM: My Support System.
- ◆ Take turns reading the section *Four Pillars of a Relationship with God* on pages 2–3 and distribute the downloadable charts that name the seven sacraments, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the four forms of prayer. Say: **These are just a few examples of how Scripture, Tradition, and the Church provide us with a path to a rich, full life in relationship with God.**

- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the first three paragraphs of *God Reaches Out* on page 3. Say: **Scripture is filled with examples of God reaching out to someone who answers the call.** Read aloud Exodus 24:12–18 from your Bible. Explain that when the Lord called out to Moses, Moses responded each time. In this case, he even climbed a cloud-covered mountain to follow God’s call. Say: **God communicates with us in a variety of ways, such as through the beauty of nature and the actions of others.**
- ◆ Have your child read the section *It’s Not About You* on page 4. Ask: **What sacrifice was Jesus willing to make for us?** (*He gave up his life for us.*) **Why did he make this ultimate sacrifice?** (*Possible answer: so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be with him in heaven*)
- ◆ Explain that we can remember and honor what Jesus has done for us by living like Jesus. Ask: **What are some ways that we can live like Jesus?** (*Possible answers: by being kind to others, by reaching out to those who are struggling, by being obedient to our parents, by giving our time and energy to helping others*). Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity.
- ◆ Read aloud the section *God’s Revelation* on page 5. Say: **Revelation means that God opens himself to us and shows himself to us through his creation and through significant people and events, especially his Son, Jesus Christ. When we talk about having faith, we are referring to believing and trusting in Jesus Christ.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud *Scripture and Tradition* on page 5. Say: **We are blessed as Catholics to have both the Bible and the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to guide us.**
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs on page 6. Say: **The word *creed* means “a set or system of beliefs.” It comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means “I believe.”** Point out that one of the creeds we pray at Mass is known as the Nicene Creed. The other is the Apostles’ Creed. Both can be found on page 91.
- ◆ Read aloud the section titled *Authority You Can Trust* on page 7. Say: **God gave authority to his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus gave authority to the Church through Peter, the first pope—and through Peter, to his successors, the bishops. Therefore, we can look to the Church as our authority and accept its teachings.** Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity.

Sacred Sign: Page 5

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the *Sacred Sign* feature on page 5. Say: **During Mass, we hear readings from both the Old and New Testaments. A psalm is read or sung in between, and then the priest or deacon proclaims from the Gospel.**

Rite: Page 6

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the *Rite* feature on page 6. Say: **One experience we celebrate as Catholics is our entry into the Church. We call this celebration Baptism.**
- ◆ Remind your child that Baptism is the first sacrament received in the Church. Say: **This sacrament, Baptism, includes prayers and ritual actions, such as the renunciation of sin, the immersion in or pouring of water over those being baptized, and the anointing with oil.**

Witness: Page 7

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the *Witness* feature on page 7, then read aloud Genesis 12:1–4 from your Bible.

- ◆ Ask: **How do you think Abraham felt when he heard this call from God? Do you think he was happy? Frightened? Nervous? Why do you think so?** Remind your child that Jesus himself was Jewish, and through Abraham, God made way for Jesus to be with us in human form without loss of his divinity.

Reflect: Chapter 1 Prayer Service BLM

- ◆ Invite your child to reflect on what he or she has learned about relationships. Say: **The most important relationship we will ever have is the one we have with God. The Church helps us build and strengthen that relationship. We also have Scripture and Tradition to help us develop faith and trust. All these things help us know Jesus, who is our way to God. With this understanding, let's now come together in prayer and renew the promises of our Baptism.**
- ◆ Proceed to your family's prayer space. A prayer space can be a simple table on which you place a Bible, crucifix, statue, icon, or another religious icon. Invite your child to assist you in creating this sacred space.
- ◆ Point out that when we pray, we can always ask our ancestors in faith, those who prepared for the coming of the Messiah, to help and support us as we prepare our hearts for prayer.
- ◆ Share a copy of the Chapter 1 Prayer Service: Baptismal Promises. Choose who will read the parts for the Leader 1 and Leader 2. You and your child will both read the parts labeled "All." Lead by example, participating actively and with reverence.
- ◆ Pray together the prayer service, following your assigned roles. Adapt it to your circumstances if needed. Observe the periods of silence and keep a prayerful pace. Allow time in between sections for reflection.
- ◆ Pause for a moment of silence before concluding.

Respond: Page 8

- ◆ Review with your child the *Faith Summary* on page 8. Ask your child to explain each sentence in his or own words and revisit concepts as necessary.
- ◆ Have your child read the *Remember* section silently, ensuring that he or she understands the main points of the chapter.
- ◆ Ask your child to choose one *Reach Out* item and follow the directions. Check in with your child and ask him or her to reflect privately on the outcomes.
- ◆ Read aloud the *Words to Know* and ask your child to use the words in sentences. Consult the Glossary at the back of the book and at www.loyolapress.com/calledtobecatholic/ if more clarification is needed.
- ◆ Invite your child to think about the *Reflect* scenario and write a response on the lines provided. If your child is comfortable doing so, encourage him or her to share the response with you.
- ◆ Pray together the closing prayer. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Invite your child to pray this week whenever he or she feels a need for help or guidance.
- ◆ Continue the conversation about this chapter at www.loyolapress.com/CTBCconversations.

Name _____

Date _____

My Support System

Sometimes in life, you are faced with difficult decisions and challenging situations. While it may seem overwhelming, remember you are not alone. There are people in your life that you can go to for support.

Making a Support-System Record Book

Directions: Use the record book below to list the names and contact information for people on whom you can depend. Keep the list handy for times when you need support.

	Name	Phone	Email
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			