



United in Love

Before You Begin

- Print the Chapter 2 BLM: My Creed found at the end of this document.
- Have a Bible available during the session for reference.
- Download and print the Chapter 2 Prayer Service: The Holy Trinity.

Engage: Page 9

- ◆ Read aloud the chapter title. Then have your child read aloud the opening paragraph. Take time to discuss. Say: **It's natural for us to feel unsure or overwhelmed by things we do not understand. Being willing to learn new things helps us grow.**
- ◆ Say: **In the first chapter, we learned that Jesus reveals God the Father to us. At Jesus' baptism, God proclaimed Jesus as his Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove.** Invite your child to read aloud the Scripture passage. Then lead him or her in praying the Glory Be to the Father.

Explore: Pages 10–15

- ◆ Read aloud the paragraph *Three Persons in One God* at the top of page 10. Say: **The Trinity teaches us that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Learning more about this relationship helps us grow closer to God in our lives.**
- ◆ Take turns reading the section *Getting to Know God*. Say: **The Sign of the Cross is a ritual action and prayer. It is also a way that Catholics tell the world they are marked by their Baptism as children of God. Point out that the Sign of the Cross expresses the amazing truth that we believe in one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity and complete the Chapter 2 BLM: My Creed.
- ◆ Read aloud the first paragraph of the section *The Doctrine of the Trinity*. Then have your child read the bulleted points on pages 10 and 11. Direct your child's attention to the Nicene Creed on page 91. Ask: **What does it say about God the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit? What does it tell about the relationship between God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?** Discuss your child's thoughts.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of *How Do We Know About the Trinity* on page 11. Say: **It is important for us to remember that no person or group of people made up the idea of the Trinity. God has revealed the Trinity to us.** Then take turns reading aloud the rest of the section.
- ◆ Give your child a Bible and have him or her look up one or all of the following Scripture passages: Exodus 17:1–7; Matthew 15:32–38; Acts of the Apostles 2:1–13. Ask: **How does God reveal himself in this passage? What did you learn about the Trinity?** Point out that Scripture and Tradition teach us about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Say: **Scripture and Tradition show us God's words and actions. Through these examples, we come to know God's love and his desire to be close to us.**

- ◆ Take turns reading aloud each of the three sections of *What Does the Trinity Tell Us About God?* on pages 12–13. Ask: **What does God’s fatherhood mean?** (*that he cares for his creation, especially human beings*) Ask: **How is Jesus our brother?** (*We have the same Father as Jesus.*) Ask: **What does it mean to say the Holy Spirit “proceeds” from the Father and the Son?** (*The Holy Spirit is an expression of their love.*)
- ◆ Remind your child that we can better know God through the relationships expressed in the Trinity. Say: **God also provides for your needs. Through each person of the Holy Trinity, God gives you what you need to live, grow, and do good works in the world.** Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity on page 12.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud *A God We Can Know* on page 13. Say: **It is only by looking closely at the Trinity that we come to see the truth about God. He is love and that love is demonstrated through the relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs of *What the Trinity Tells Us About Ourselves* on page 14. Then open a Bible and read aloud from Genesis 1:26–27. Ask: **What does this passage tell us about our relationship with God?** (*Possible answer: We are made in God’s image so we are like him.*)
- ◆ Have your child read independently the section titled *Unity* on pages 14–15. Ask your child to tell you what he or she thinks the word *unity* means and share examples of people experiencing unity. Say: **Our one God is complete in the three-Person unity of the Trinity.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the section titled *Love* on page 15. Say: **The Trinity is about love. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are a community of love.** Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity. Say: **One important way we experience unity with others is by sharing in the Eucharist at Mass.**

Sacred Sign: Page 13

- ◆ Read aloud the *Sacred Sign* feature on page 13. Discuss the illustration and provide other examples of how the dove has been portrayed in religious art. Read Matthew 3:16 from a Bible. Say: **This action teaches us that Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit.**
- ◆ Remind your child that Jesus’ ministry focused on compassion and mercy. Point out that he came to usher in his kingdom with peace.

Rite: Page 14

- ◆ Read aloud the *Rite* feature on page 14. Ask your child to recall times when he or she makes the Sign of the Cross. (*Possible answers: at the beginning of Mass, at the beginning and end of prayers, in times of trouble*)
- ◆ Say: **The Sign of the Cross is a reminder of the Trinity and that Jesus, the Son of God, died on the Cross. People make the Sign of the Cross to identify who they are as Christians and to ask for God’s blessing and protection.**

Witness: Page 15

- ◆ Read aloud the *Witness* feature on page 15. Explain to your child that a missionary is a member of a religious group sent out to tell people about God. Point out that missionaries often bring God to people while also performing ministries of service.
- ◆ Say: **Saint Patrick chose to explain the Trinity using a shamrock because it was familiar to the people, and they could better understand the connection that way.**

Reflect

- ◆ Invite your child to reflect on what he or she has learned about the Trinity. Say: **We seek community and love because the Trinity is a community of love. Let's now join together in our family community to experience their love through prayer.**
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Share a copy of the Chapter 2 Prayer Service: The Holy Trinity. Choose who will read the part for the Leader. You and your child will both read the parts labeled "All." Lead by example, participating actively and with reverence.
- ◆ Begin by taking a moment to help your child still his or her mind and open his or her heart to hearing God's Word.
- ◆ 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 16

- ◆ Review with your child the *Faith Summary* on page 16. 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 and be sure 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 Creed

At Mass, we state our belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each time we pray the Creed. We also express our belief in the Church.

In Your Own Words

Directions: Review the Creed on page 91 that we pray at Mass. Then use the lines below to write your own creed expressing your belief in the Trinity and its importance in your life.

A large rectangular box with a thick black border, containing 18 horizontal lines for writing. The box is intended for students to write their own creed.