



## PART 1 FOUNDATIONAL

# Jesus Offers Us His Saving Grace

### Before You Begin

- ♦ Prepare a prayer space in your home.
- ♦ Have your family Bible ready, or you can access the books of the Bible online at the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
- ♦ Print the Chapter 1 BLM: God's Covenants found at the end of this document.

### Engage Page 1

- ♦ Have your child read aloud the title of his or her book and the Chapter 1 title on page 1, Jesus Offers Us His Saving Grace. Say: **By working through this book together, we will be preparing you for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist—your First Reconciliation and First Communion. This is exciting! We will learn about the promise you received with your Baptism, how Jesus forgives us and heals us, the importance of God's love and how he is always by our side, and how we encounter Christ in the Eucharist.**
- ♦ Have your child open your family Bible to the Gospel of Matthew and read 1:18–21. Say: **The Bible is God's Word. What does this story tell us about God? What was Joseph asked to do?**
- ♦ Take turns to read aloud Joseph's Dream on page 1. Ask your child to find and underline the word *Savior*. Say: **Jesus is our Savior because he became human and saved us from our sins so we can be with God in heaven. What are some things you can do to show that you love God and want to be with him?**
- ♦ Pray with your child the prayer at the bottom of page 1. Then pray together the Sign of the Cross.

### Explore Pages 2–3

- ♦ Say: **Mary and Joseph were faithful and obedient. They responded yes to God's request. Let's think of times we found it difficult to make good choices or we made a wrong choice. How did we feel? What could we have done differently?**
- ♦ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs of Original Sin and Grace on page 2. Ask: **What temptation did Adam and Eve face? (*eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil*) What are some things we do to avoid temptation?**
- ♦ Continue reading the article. Say: **Adam and Eve made a wrong choice. They did not follow God's rule and their decision affects us today. In God's infinite love, he offers us through his Son, Jesus, a chance to overcome sin.**
- ♦ **Think About This** Explain to your child that in Baptism all our sins, Original Sin and personal sins, are forgiven.



- ◆ Have your child look up the terms *Original Sin*, *temptation*, *salvation*, *grace*, and *reconciled* in the Glossary at the back of his or her book. Discuss the definitions. Ask: **What temptation did Adam and Eve face?** (*the temptation to disobey God*) Say: **We find salvation as we receive the grace that comes with reconciliation.**
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud *The Gift of Grace* on page 3. Ask: **What does grace help us do?** (*reach out and help others, develop a stronger relationship with God*) Say: **God sent Jesus so that we would be reconciled with him. Grace also helps us be reconciled with one another.**
- ◆ Discuss with your child how Jesus' sacrifice healed our relationship with God. Say: **When Jesus was born, God's promise to send a Savior was fulfilled.**
- ◆ Say: **As Christians, we receive new life through Baptism. Baptism is the beginning of our life as Catholics and our friendship with God. Jesus reconciled us with God by restoring the relationship of grace we had with him originally. Jesus shows us how to become closer to God.**

## Explore Pages 4–5

- ◆ Have your child read aloud *An Invitation to Friendship* on page 4. Ask: **Why is Baptism a step toward a close relationship with God?** (*It frees us from Original Sin. Through our Baptism, we become members of the Church.*)
- ◆ Say: **You connect to friends many times each day. Now take a moment to think about how often you connect with God each day. Connecting is one way we show our friendship. Connecting with God strengthens our friendship with him.**
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud *A Year of Seasons* on page 5. Ask: **What do we recall throughout the liturgical year?** (*the Paschal Mystery—Jesus' life, Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension*) Introduce your child to the liturgical year.
- ◆ Say: **Just as we have a pattern of four seasons each year, the Church also has a calendar with seasons.** As an option, turn together to page 114 to review the liturgical year. Discuss the feast days in each season described there.
- ◆ Ask: **What are the liturgical seasons named on page 5?** (*Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time*)

## Reflect Page 6

- ◆ Read aloud the paragraph under *God Loves Us*. Say: **Let's pray together to thank God for creating the world, and for creating us, and inviting us to be close to him through our Savior, Jesus Christ.**
- ◆ As an option, you may choose to use *A Psalm of Thanksgiving* found on page 63, or you may invite your child to use his or her own words.



- ◆ **Living My Faith** Encourage your child to keep a journaling notebook as he or she prepares to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Say: **As we work together to prepare you to receive the sacraments, let's reflect on what we are learning about our Savior, Jesus, and the love God has for us. Together, let's think about what each new thing we discover means for the way we honor God and our baptismal call. You can record your thoughts in your journaling notebook, and you can keep them private.**

## Respond Page 6

- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the points under I Remember What I Learn and the questions in I Live What I Learn. Invite your child to write the responses to the questions in his or her journaling notebook. Remind him or her that the answers are private.
- ◆ Review with your child the words listed in I Know These Words. Refer back to the pages referenced and/or the Glossary as necessary.
- ◆ To conclude the Chapter 1 lesson, have your child complete the Chapter 1 BLM: God's Covenants.
- ◆ In the coming days, discuss Baptism, Jesus as our Savior, and mysteries and events we celebrate during the liturgical year.



## We Are a Sacramental People

### Before You Begin

- ♦ Prepare a prayer space in your home.
- ♦ Have your family Bible ready, or you can access the books of the Bible online at the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
- ♦ Print the Chapter 2 BLM: Rearrange the Letters found at the end of this document.

### Engage Page 7

- ♦ Have your child read aloud the Chapter 2 title on page 7, We Are a Sacramental People. Talk about different groups or teams your child belongs to and what makes him or her feel connected to these groups. Say: **The Church also brings people together, and we are connected to one another through our participation in the liturgy and the sacraments.**
- ♦ Whether in your family Bible or online, find Acts of the Apostles and read 2:1–47. Ask: **What happened when Mary and the disciples were praying together?** (*A loud wind arose, and tongues of fire appeared above the disciples' heads.*) **How did the Holy Spirit help the disciples?** (*The Holy Spirit filled them with grace and gave them courage.*)
- ♦ Take turns reading aloud The Coming of the Holy Spirit on page 7. Ask your child to find and underline the name *Holy Spirit* and look it up in the Glossary at the back of his or her book. Discuss the definition. Say: **Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us forever. The Holy Spirit is one of the Three Persons of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit guides us as we love and serve others.** Share with your child some ways each of you has noticed the Holy Spirit guiding you to serve others.
- ♦ Pray with your child the prayer at the bottom of page 7. Then pray together the Sign of the Cross.

### Explore Pages 8–9

- ♦ Ask: **What happens to something if you accidentally knock it off the table?** (*It falls to the floor.*) What makes it fall? (*gravity*) Say: **Even though we can't see gravity or completely understand it, we can see its effects. In the same way, we cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can see the effects of the Holy Spirit on our lives. The Holy Spirit is a mystery of our faith.**
- ♦ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs of The Holy Spirit and the Church on page 8. Ask: **Who are the Three Persons of the Trinity?** (*God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*) **What is a mystery of faith?** (*something that is impossible to know through human reason alone*)
- ♦ Continue reading the article. Say: **When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we remember the Trinity.** Ask: **When did Peter and the Apostles begin building the Church?** (*the day the Holy Spirit came to them*)
- ♦ **I Listen to God's Word** Have your child read aloud this feature. Explain that Jesus chose Peter to lead the Apostles and bring others into the Church.



- ◆ Have your child find and underline the terms *Trinity*, *mystery of faith*, and *Church* and look them up in the Glossary at the back of his or her book. Discuss the definitions. Ask: **What does the Trinity teach us about how to live as Catholics?** (*God calls us to live as a community of love just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are a community of love.*)
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud Liturgy and Sacraments on page 9. Ask: **What is made present in the liturgy?** (*Christ's salvation*) What are the sacraments? (*signs through which we receive God's love and grace*) Say: **We often think of the Mass as liturgy, but it is only one form of liturgy. Liturgy includes all the public prayers of the Church, including the sacraments.**
- ◆ Discuss with your child that the sacraments are signs that make God's presence real for us. Say: **For example, in the Sacrament of Baptism, water is a sign of new life and spiritual growth.**
- ◆ Say: **The Eucharistic liturgy is the heart of our Catholic faith because through it, Jesus is really present to us under the appearance of wheat bread and grape wine. All the sacraments strengthen our relationship with God, show that we are learning and growing in faith, and bring us God's love and grace.**
- ◆ Have your child find and underline the words *liturgy* and *sacraments* and look them up in the Glossary at the back of his or her book. Discuss the definitions.

## Explore Pages 10–11

- ◆ Talk with your child about people who help him or her learn, such as parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, and parish youth leaders. Discuss with your child ways we learn about God. Say: **In the Church, we learn about God and grow as Catholics from two different sources.** Have your child read aloud the first three paragraphs of Scripture and Tradition on page 10. Ask: **What are the ways named here from which we learn about God?** (*Scripture and Tradition.*)
- ◆ Take turns reading the rest of the article. **What is Scripture?** (*God's Word in the Bible*) **What is Tradition?** (*the teaching of Jesus passed on by the Apostles guaranteed by apostolic succession*)
- ◆ Say: **Tradition with a capital T means that basic beliefs of our faith passed on by the Church are truths that cannot be ignored, such as the truth that Jesus is both divine and human and that the Eucharist is the real presence of Christ. Tradition with a lowercase t refers to customs and practices that Catholics follow, such as fasting during Lent or using an Advent calendar.**
- ◆ Ask your child if he or she has a favorite saint and why. Name your favorite saint and explain why he or she is your favorite. Take turns reading aloud The Saints on page 11. Ask: **How are the saints like us?** (*They had families, came from different cultures, and were of different ages.*) Say: **Saints are holy people who accomplish great things through God's grace.**
- ◆ Have your child find and underline the words *Tradition*, *priest*, and *saint* and look them up in the Glossary at the back of his or her book. Discuss the definitions.

**Reflect** Page 12

- ◆ Read aloud the paragraph under We Celebrate and Remember on page 12. Say: **Let's pray together a prayer of praise, reflecting on the Trinity—one God in Three Persons—as the image of the community of love we share with our neighbors.**
- ◆ As an option, you may choose to use the Chapter 2 Prayer on page 64, Praise God, or you may invite your child to use his or her own words.
- ◆ **Living My Faith** Say: **Let's reflect on what we are learning about the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, the Church, the liturgy, and the saints. Record your thoughts in your journaling notebook.**

**Respond** Page 12

- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the points under I Remember What I Learn and the questions in I Live What I Learn. Invite your child to write responses to the questions in his or her journaling notebook. Remind him or her that the answers are private.
- ◆ Review with your child the words listed in I Know These Words. Refer back to the pages referenced and/or the Glossary as necessary.
- ◆ To conclude the Chapter 2 lesson, have your child complete the Chapter 2 BLM: Rearrange the Letters.
- ◆ In the coming days, talk about being an active part of the Church and your parish community.



## The Sacraments of Initiation Welcome Us

### Before You Begin

- ♦ Prepare a prayer space in your home.
- ♦ Have your family Bible ready, or you can access the books of the Bible online at the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
- ♦ Print the Chapter 3 BLM: Sacraments of Initiation found at the end of this document.

### Engage Page 13

- ♦ Have your child read aloud the Chapter 3 title on page 13, The Sacraments of Initiation Welcome Us. Discuss with your child what he or she thinks *initiation* means. Say: **Initiate means “begin.” Some groups may have special ceremonies to welcome new members.** Talk about such experiences you and your child are aware of or have experienced. Say: **In this chapter we will learn about special celebrations that welcome us and help us live as full members of the Catholic Church.**
- ♦ Whether in your family Bible or online, find the Gospel of Matthew and read 4:18–22.
- ♦ Then have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs of Come, Follow Me on page 13. Ask: **What is a disciple?** (*someone who has accepted Jesus’ mission and tries to live as he did*)
- ♦ Then take turns reading the remaining paragraphs of the article. Ask: **What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”?** (*Possible response: Jesus would teach the disciples how to gather others to follow him.*)
- ♦ Pray with your child the prayer at the bottom of page 13. Then pray together the Sign of the Cross.

### Explore Pages 14–15

- ♦ Talk about times when you felt welcomed by someone. Say: **The Church is a welcoming community. The process of becoming a member often begins when we are very young. As we learn and grow in faith, the Sacraments of Initiation bring us into full membership with the Church.**
- ♦ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of Baptism on page 14. Ask: **What are the three Sacraments of Initiation?** (*Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist*)
- ♦ Take turns reading aloud the rest of the article. Say: **In the new life we enter into through Baptism, we receive sanctifying grace.** Ask: **What else does Baptism do for us?** (*forgives Original Sin, seals us with a permanent spiritual mark, welcomes us into the Church*)
- ♦ **When I Celebrate** Explain to your child that when we enter a church, we can bless ourselves with holy water as a reminder of our Baptism.
- ♦ Have your child find and underline the terms *Sacraments of Initiation*, *Baptism*, and *catechumens* and look them up in the Glossary at the back of his or her book. Discuss the definitions.





- ◆ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs of Confirmation on page 15. Ask: **What do we receive at Confirmation?** (*grace, the Holy Spirit*) **Who is usually the celebrant of Confirmation?** (*the bishop*)
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the rest of the article. Talk about the responsibilities that come with receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ◆ Have your child find and underline the words *Confirmation* and *Chrism* and look them up in the Glossary at the back of his or her book. Discuss the definitions.

## Explore Pages 16–17

- ◆ Talk about various things that a person can do to stay healthy. Say: **Staying close to God and sharing God's life and love with others are signs of our spiritual health. Attending Mass and receiving a very special sacrament are ways we stay close to God.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs of The Eucharist on page 16. Ask: **What do we remember during the celebration of the Mass?** (*Jesus' life, Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension; his sacrifice for our salvation*) Invite your child to name some things we do at Mass. Guide him or her to recognize that listening to God's Word and receiving Jesus Christ in the Eucharist are two very important things we do.
- ◆ Then read aloud the last paragraph. Ask: **What do we need to do to complete our Christian initiation?** (*receive Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist*)
- ◆ **I Think About This** Talk about how going to Sunday Mass is one of the ways that we keep the Lord's Day holy.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs of Signs on page 17 and recall key ideas about the signs of Baptism. Then, take turns reading aloud the rest of the article. Ask: **What does receiving the Holy Spirit at Confirmation do for us?** (*It gives us abundance, cleansing, joy, and healing.*) What are the main signs in the Eucharist? (*wheat bread and grape wine*)
- ◆ Have your child find and underline the terms *Mass*, *Holy Communion*, and *Eucharist* and look them up in the Glossary at the back of his or her book. Discuss the definitions.

## Reflect Page 18

- ◆ Read aloud the paragraph under Our Path to Holiness on page 18. Say: **Let's pray together to express to God our trust and hope in him.**
- ◆ As an option, you may choose to use the Chapter 3 Prayer on page 65, Hope and Trust in God, or you may invite your child to use his or her own words.
- ◆ **Living My Faith** Say: **Let's reflect on what we are learning about the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. Record your thoughts in your journaling notebook.**





### Respond Page 18

- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the points under I Remember What I Learn and the questions in I Live What I Learn. Invite your child to write the responses to the questions in his or her journaling notebook. Remind your child that his or her answers are private.
- ◆ Review with your child the words listed in I Know These Words. Refer back to the pages referenced and/or the Glossary as necessary.
- ◆ To conclude the Chapter 3 lesson, have your child complete the Chapter 3 BLM: Sacraments of Initiation.
- ◆ In the coming days, discuss how the Sacraments of Initiation can help us live as disciples of Christ.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## God's Covenants

God made many promises, or covenants, with his people throughout the Old Testament. He promised to love and take care of them no matter what difficulties they faced. He also promised them a Savior. In the New Testament, God the Father sent his Son, Jesus, as our Savior to establish a new covenant, fulfilling his most important promise.

**Directions:** Read the following Scripture passages. Identify the people to whom God is making or reinforcing each covenant. Then write a sentence to summarize each passage.

1. 2 Samuel 7:1–17

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2. Genesis 12:1–3

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3. Luke 22:14–20

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4. Genesis 9:8–17

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5. Exodus 19:3–8

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6. Jeremiah 31:31–34

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Rearrange the Letters

Rearrange the letters below to make a key word from the chapter. Then write a brief definition for each word.

1. yTtrnii

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2. Hylo tSprii

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3. gliruyt

---

4. chrhCu

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5. nToridiat

---

6. tnias

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7. yrtnyse fo fhiat

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8. rpeits

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9. mscreaatn

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Sacraments of Initiation

**Directions:** Read each statement about the Sacraments of Initiation. Decide which sacrament is being described. Write *Baptism*, *Eucharist*, or *Confirmation* on the line. For the statement with more than one correct answer, write both words.

1. We are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Water is used to signify dying and rising to new life.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The wheat bread and grape wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The bishop is the celebrant of this sacrament. \_\_\_\_\_
5. We become a member of the Church. \_\_\_\_\_
6. This sacrament completes our initiation into the Church.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. We receive a permanent spiritual mark. \_\_\_\_\_
8. We must agree to this sacrament and agree to be a witness to Christ.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. We give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice and receive his Body and Blood.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Our parents and the community agree to teach us about our faith.  
\_\_\_\_\_