

Chapter 2 Names Are Good

Centering

- Write your child's name on a strip of paper and have him or her trace around the name with three different colors of crayons. Say: **Names are good because they let people know who we are. People who know and love us call us by name.**
- Say: **God calls us by our name and invites us to know his name. Today we will learn more about the importance of our names and the importance of God's name.**

Sharing PAGE 7

- Read aloud the chapter title on page 7 and discuss the picture. Point to the question and say: **This asks "Who are you?" The girl is saying her name is Anna.** Ask: **How do you think she feels?** (happy, proud)
- Read aloud the rest of the page and help your child write his or her name. Ask: **What do you think is the greatest name in the whole world?** (God) Say: **God's name is the greatest name throughout the whole Earth because God is so wonderful. Whenever we speak about God or say God's name, we speak our words with care. This is how we show our respect for God.**
- Say: **We have other special ways of showing our respect for God. One is by kneeling in a special way, called genuflecting.** Demonstrate how we genuflect and have your child practice genuflecting on the right knee. Gestures can and should be adapted when necessary to accommodate different needs, such as bowing instead of genuflecting.

Sharing PAGE 8

- Read aloud the body of page 8. Help your child find the words *Jesus* and *God* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Then reread the text aloud, pausing before the last word in each sentence and allowing your child to say the last words with you.
- Ask: **Why do we always say the name Jesus with love?** (Jesus is God's Son.) Say: **Remember that Jesus is with us always.**
- Read aloud the Scripture feature on the bottom of page 8. Remind your child that these words come from the Bible.

Sharing PAGE 9

- Read aloud A Moment with Jesus on page 9. Then say: **You can always speak with Jesus in the quiet of your heart.** Distribute the Chapter 2 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and guide your child to spend a few moments in silent prayer. When your child is done, remind him or her to keep this card in the same place he or she saved the card from Chapter 1. Reinforce that your child can use these cards to pray at any time.
- Say: **We can draw and color pictures in a special way when we want to show that something or someone is holy.** Show examples of holy cards, an icon, or a stained-glass window. Discuss what makes these pictures different from other pictures.
- Read aloud the directions to the activity on the page. Say: **Color and decorate the name “Jesus” to show that it is holy. When you are finished, look at Jesus’ name and say it softly with love.**

Acting

- Give your child the Jesus Name Card punchout found at the back of his or her book. Have your child color the punchout using a variety of colors to make a “stained-glass” picture of Jesus’ name. Say: **Put this card in a place where it will help you remember to pray.**
- Remind your child that he or she should say God’s name only for prayer and for talking about God.
- Have your child hold the “stained-glass” picture and pray with you. Pray the first part and invite your child to respond by praying “Jesus.” (“You welcome us...[Jesus].” “You are the Son of God...[Jesus].” “You love us...[Jesus].” “Your name is holy...[Jesus].” “We love you...[Jesus].”)
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 8:2.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 10–11

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 10. Explain that the word *praise* means “to show respect, love, and gratitude.” Say: **The words *Every tongue confess* mean “all people will say.”** Reread the Scripture verse substituting those words.
- Ask: **How do we act during Mass?** (We are quiet, respectful, and thoughtful.) Ask your child to demonstrate how to pray with folded hands, bowed head, and closed eyes.

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Point out the word *Creed*. Say: **A creed tells about what we believe.**
- Have your child turn to page 210 in the What Catholics Should Know section of his or her book. Point out the Apostles’ Creed. Say: **This is a prayer that tells what we as Catholics believe.** Read the prayer aloud. Say: **Jesus is God’s Son. We say Jesus’ name when we pray this prayer. We think about the love we feel for Jesus and how much we honor him.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **We show respect for God when we praise him in prayer.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 11. Say: **Saint Matthew shared Jesus’ story with the world. You can share Jesus’ name with others.** Ask: **What story about Jesus do you like to tell?**
- Read aloud the directions in Witness and Share and have your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Help your child read aloud the sentence in Witness and Share. Say: **When we say Jesus’ name is holy, we mean that it is set apart and sacred.**
- Say: **When you show love and respect to other people, you show love and respect for God.** Ask: **What are things you can do to show love and respect for others?** (Possible answers: treat them fairly; listen carefully; include them in your prayers)

Chapter Review PAGE 12

- Help your child complete the Chapter 2 Review on page 12.
- Read aloud the question in We Remember. After your child answers, ask: **Why do we say Jesus’ name with love?** (to show respect for Jesus)
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer aloud with 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 2 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 3 Stories Are Good

Centering

- Look through some familiar storybooks together. Read aloud the titles. For each book, ask: **Whose story is told in this book?** Then ask your child to share details about his or her favorite story.
- Say: **People have been telling stories for a long, long time. Before stories were printed in books, people told stories to one another. You have a story too. I'll ask you some questions to help you tell it.** Help your child by asking questions such as *Who are the people in your family? What do you like to do? What is your favorite toy?*

Sharing PAGE 13

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text at the top of page 13. Read it aloud again and invite your child to fill in the missing words when you pause.
- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus at the bottom of the page. Distribute the Chapter 3 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.
- Display your family Bible. Say: **There is one book that is different from all others. It is the best book of all. It tells the story of God's Son, Jesus.** Ask: **Do you know what it is called?** (the Bible) Say: **Because God is holy, God's words are holy. Because God's words are in the Bible, it is a holy book and should be treated respectfully.**
- Allow your child to handle the Bible and look through it. Then together pick a special and safe place to display the Bible in your home.

Sharing PAGE 14

- Read aloud the top of page 14. Help your child find the word *Bible* in the Glossary and discuss the definition. Say: **God's people come together every week to pray to God. At church during Mass we listen to God's story in the Bible. We listen to what God tells us.**
- Say: **Even though you may not understand everything you hear, you can listen quietly when the Bible is read aloud. This shows God that you know that God's Word is holy. We show respect for God when we listen carefully to his words to us in the Bible.** Read aloud the Scripture feature on page 14. Remind your child that these words come from the Bible.

Sharing PAGE 15

- Help your child prepare to listen to a Bible story. Use gestures to emphasize your words as you say: **It's time to be a good listener. Besides having listening ears, you must have listening eyes, listening hands, listening feet, and listening hearts.**
- Read aloud the story of Jonah and the Whale from a children's Bible. Ask: **What was your favorite part of this story?**
- Ask: **What did Jonah learn about God?** (how much God loves us; that God loves all people)
- Read aloud the directions on page 15 and help your child complete the activity.

Acting

- Explain to your child that we sometimes mark holy things with a cross. Teach the child to trace a cross slowly and reverently on his or her forehead, lips, and heart. Note that we do this at Mass before we listen to the reading from the Bible called the Gospel.
- Give your child the Chapter 3 Bookmark punchout from the back of the book. Read the Scripture verse from Jeremiah aloud and then say: **Listen to these words again.** [Reverently reread the verse.] Ask: **Who is saying these words?** (God) **What do you think the words "age-old love" mean?** (God's love for us has always been and will never stop.)
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 78:4.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 16–17

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 16. Say: **Observe can mean to look at something, but here it means “to follow” or “to obey.” We please God our Father when we obey his Word. God is happy, and so are we!**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Talk about different things your child learns about from looking at books or articles. Say: **We read books to learn about all kinds of things. We read the Bible to learn about God’s love.**
- Ask: **What lessons can we learn from the stories we read in the Bible?** (Possible answers: how to be a good friend, how to love one another)
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The people who wrote the stories of the Bible could hear God’s Word in their hearts.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 17. Say: **Saint Jerome studied and worked hard. He wanted everyone to be able to hear and share the stories of God’s creation and Jesus’ life.** Ask: **Why do you think this was a good idea?** (Possible answer: Many people could learn about God and his love for us.)
- Read aloud the directions of the Witness and Share activity. Have your child read the words on the dot-to-dot. Say: **Holy means that the Bible is set apart, or sacred. The stories in the Bible have been blessed by God.** Allow time for your child to complete the activity.

Transform

- Ask: **Where can you find stories about God’s creation and Jesus’ life?** (the Holy Bible) Together brainstorm ways to share God’s Word with others.
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **Dear God and Father, help us find ways to share your lessons with others.**

Chapter Review PAGE 18

- Help your child complete the Chapter 3 Review on page 18.
- Read aloud the question in We Remember.
- Point to the word *Bible* in Word to Know and have your child complete this sentence: *The Bible retells the story of _____. (Accept reasonable answers.)*
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer aloud with 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 3 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 11 Preparing Is Good

Centering

- Say: **Today we will talk about God's greatest gift. His name starts with a J.** Ask: **Who do you think this is?** (Jesus)
- Ask: **What are some things we do to prepare for a birthday party?** (Possible answers: get decorations, paper plates, a cake, a gift, make goody bags) Say: **On Christmas we celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus. The four weeks before Christmas are a special time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. This time is called the season of Advent. During Advent, we light candles on an Advent wreath to remind us that we are preparing to celebrate Christmas.**
- Discuss ways that your family prepares for the birth of Jesus Christ. (Possible answers: light an Advent wreath, send Christmas cards, make good things to eat, prepare gifts to give each other) Say: **Christians all over the world get ready to celebrate Christmas. We prepare to give gifts because God our Father gave us Jesus, the first and most wonderful Christmas gift.**

Sharing PAGE 63

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text at the top of page 63. Help your child find the term *Son of God* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Say: **Waiting can be very difficult. During Advent, we remember how God's people waited for Jesus, the Son of God. Our prayer during Advent helps us while we wait.**
- Read aloud the Scripture feature and remind your child that these words come from God's special book, the Bible. Then say: **Many stories in the Bible teach us that God the Father helped the world prepare for Jesus' birth.** Ask: **Do you think it was easy for God's people to wait for Jesus' birth?**

Sharing PAGE 64

- Read aloud page 64. Help your child find the word *Advent* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 11 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.
- Say: **As we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we prepare one very important thing. We prepare our hearts.** Show the Heart punchout. Say: **God made our hearts to love. The best gift we can give his Son, Jesus, on the day of his birth is the gift of our love. During Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus by being loving toward our families and others.**
- Reread the last sentence on the page. Say: **These words are a prayer you can pray to make your heart ready for Jesus.** Pray aloud the prayer together: **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- Role-play loving responses with your child. Let him or her suggest ways of being loving at home and at school when the following things happen: the babysitter asks you to pick up your toys; a friend wants to play with one of your toys; a family member wants to watch a different TV program than you do; your teacher asks you to wear your coat when you go out to play; your parent asks you to sit quietly in church.

Sharing PAGE 65

- Read aloud the sentence at the top of page 65. Say: **We light candles on an Advent wreath because Jesus is our joy and light.** Then have your child complete the activity.
- Pray together the Advent prayer from page 64. Say: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Acting

- If possible, show the family Nativity set, removing all figures and props. Say: **This empty manger reminds us that during Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.** Put your child in charge of adding one piece of the nativity to the manger each day until Christmas as they do a loving deed or say a prayer to prepare their hearts for Jesus. If your Nativity set will not accommodate this activity, draw an empty manger and have your child draw one figure or piece of the Nativity each day until Christmas.
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 25:5.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 66–67

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 66. Ask: **How does our family get our hearts ready to welcome God's Son, Jesus, during Advent?** (Possible answers: We pray. We try to make good choices. We do good deeds.)

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What makes waiting so hard?** (Possible answer: We are excited for what is coming.) Say: **Jesus' birth fills us with excitement as we prepare.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Each candle represents one of the four Sundays of Advent.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 67. Say: **Saint Elizabeth was also blessed with a baby named John. He grew up to be John the Baptist.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and allow time for your child to choose the correct responses.

Transform

- Discuss your child's choices in Witness and Share. Ask: **How does showing love help you get ready to welcome Jesus' love into your heart?** (Possible answer: It makes you closer to Jesus.)
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **God, help us prepare to welcome Jesus' love into our hearts. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 68

- Help your child complete the Chapter 11 Review on page 68.
- After your child finishes drawing a gift for Jesus, ask: **Why do you think this is a good gift to give to Jesus?**
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer aloud with 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 11 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Christ Our Life: God Loves Us

NEW EVANGELIZATION EDITION

K

AGES 5-6

AT-HOME EDITION

UNIT 3

Sharing God's Love

Point to the unit title on page 77 and read it aloud. Have your child repeat it as you point to each word. Say: **In Unit 3 we will learn how to find and share God's love with others through acts of kindness.**

Chapter 13 **Shepherds Are Good**

Centering

- Say: **Today you will hear how God leads us to good things.**
- Show the Sheep punchouts to your child. Ask: **What animals are these?** (sheep) **What sounds do they make?** (baa) Say: **Sheep are important to people. People shave sheep's hair, or fleece, and use it to make wool, yarn, and cloth.**
- Say: **Sheep are very gentle and shy. A group of sheep is called a flock. The person who cares for the sheep is called a shepherd. Sheep are helpless animals so a good shepherd stays close to his sheep to protect and care for them.**
- Say: **We need someone to care for us.** Ask: **Who cares for us always?** (God)

Sharing PAGE 77

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 77. Help your child find the Word to Know *Good Shepherd* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Display the Jesus the Good Shepherd punchout. Say: **Let's think about how Jesus is like a shepherd.**
- Read aloud the parable of the Good Shepherd from a children's Bible. Say: **The Good Shepherd loves his sheep very much! He has so many sheep, yet he knows each one. He calls them each by name.**
- Ask: **Do you know anyone in your family or among your friends who is like the Good Shepherd?** (parents, grandparents, teachers) **Why do you think Jesus calls himself a good shepherd who cares for his sheep?** (He loves and cares for us, just like a good shepherd loves and cares for his sheep.)
- Say: **We are Jesus' sheep. This makes us very happy! Jesus really loves us. He knows us by name.** Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 13 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 78

- Help your child set up the Jesus the Good Shepherd punchout found in the back of your child's book.
- Read aloud the text at the top of page 78. Ask: **What is Jesus doing in this picture?** (holding a baby lamb) **Why is Jesus taking care of the baby lamb?** (He loves it. It might have been lost.) **Who else does Jesus love and care for?** (us)
- Read aloud the Scripture about the Good Shepherd. Remind your child that this story comes from the Bible. Have your child move the figures to act out the story.
- Play a game pretending to be a shepherd looking for lost sheep. One of you should step away or close your eyes, while the other hides one of the Sheep punchouts somewhere in the room. As the shepherd tries to find the sheep, the hider should bleat softly like a lamb. As the shepherd nears the lost sheep, the hider should bleat more loudly to indicate the shepherd is close to finding it.

Sharing PAGE 79

- Read aloud the text at the top of page 79. Help your child find the word *bishop* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Tell your child the name of his or her bishop. Then have your child complete the activity.
- Say: **Now close your eyes and quiet your heart while I read this poem that is a prayer to the Good Shepherd.** Read aloud this poem: *Good Shepherd Oh, Jesus, Good Shepherd, You watch from above. You know me by name And call me with love. You guard me from evil And help me do right. You guide me to safety By day and by night. You love and you care, And give all that I need. Forever and always I'll go where you lead.* [by M. Kathleen Glavich, S.N.D.]

Acting

- Play a game with your child such as "Follow the Leader" or "Simon Says." Remind the children that we follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd.
- Invite your child to fold his or her hands for prayer: **Jesus, you love us and call us by name. Thank you for your loving care. We will try to follow your way of love. Amen.**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 23:1.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 80–81

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 80. Say: **Jesus takes care of us just as a shepherd looks out for his flock. He is always watching out for us.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **The pope and the bishops help us understand what God is asking of us so we can grow closer to him.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **A shepherd looks after his sheep, guides them, and keeps them safe.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 81. Ask: **How was Saint John Bosco like a shepherd when he became a priest?** (Possible answer: He took care of boys who had no place to go. He shared God's love and made them feel safe.)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Allow time for your child to complete the maze.

Transform

- Discuss the activity in Witness and Share. Say: **Jesus cares for all his sheep.** Then together brainstorm ways to show love and care to people who feel sad and alone.
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **Jesus, help us share God the Father's love, especially with those who need it most. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 82

- Help your child complete the Chapter 13 Review on page 82.
- Read aloud the question in We Remember and have your child give the answer. Then have your child complete this sentence: **Jesus is the Good Shepherd because he _____.**
- 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 13 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.