

Chapter 4 God's World Is Good

Centering PAGE 19

- Say: **God made everything around us—people, plants, animals. Let's name good things God has made.** Take turns completing this sentence: *God made* _____.
- Read aloud the chapter title on page 19. Then read aloud the text in each box and have your child point to the picture when they hear you name it.
- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus at the bottom of the page. Distribute the Chapter 4 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Then remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.
- Point to and read aloud the words *God made this wonderful world!* and have your child repeat it. Then say: **Today you will be learning more about the wonderful world that God made.**

Sharing PAGE 20

- If possible, take a nature walk with your child or look out the window to see the many good things God has made. Ask: **What do you see? What do you hear?** Allow time for your child to examine whatever captures his or her attention. Say: **God the Father has placed all of these things in the world for us to enjoy.**
- Encourage your child to collect interesting pieces of nature, such as a stone or a leaf, and bring them inside to admire and talk about. Ask: **Who made this wonderful world?** (God the Father) Say: **God the Father made everything in our world. Everything that God the Father made is good.**
- Read aloud the top of page 20. Point out the word *creation* and help your child find the word in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Read aloud the Scripture feature. Say: **These words come from God's special book, the Bible.**
- Have your child study the picture on the page. Ask: **What are the people doing?** (playing with animals; enjoying the outdoors) **Who made the ladybug?** (God the Father) **Who made the cute little puppy and kitten?** (God the Father) **What do all the good things God made tell us?** (God loves us.) Say: **God also wants us to care for the world he gave to us.**

Sharing PAGE 21

- Say: **People have not always taken care of the world and one another. A story in the Bible tells us that people acted so badly that God the Father was sorry he made the world. One day God decided to make the world over. Let's listen to the story of Noah.**
- Remind your child to be a good listener as you read aloud the story of Noah, the flood, and the rainbow from a children's Bible.
- Ask: **Why did God save Noah and his family?** (They lived the way God had asked.) **After they were able to leave the ark, what did Noah do?** (He thanked God.) **What did God give as a sign of his promise to love the world forever?** (a rainbow)
- Read aloud the text on page 21 and help your child complete the activity.

Acting

- Using the items your child gathered on your nature walk, help him or her create a collage of things God the Father has made. It can include pictures and cutouts from magazines or the internet as well.
- Play a game with your child, taking turns pretending to be one of God's gifts to the world. As one of you acts, the other should guess until you identify the gift.
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 33:5.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 22–23

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 22. Explain that *yielded* means "produced, or made" and *harvest* is usually a food crop. Say: **Everything in the world reminds us of God's love.** Together discuss your favorite things and trace these things back to God's love. Then pray with your child: **Thank you, God our Father, for the love you show us every day. Amen.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **How does caring for the world show your love for God?** (It makes God happy and shows respect for what he made and gave us.)
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Name some things our family does to take care of the world.** (Possible answers: feed pets, pick up trash, show love to others)
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 23. Say: **Saint Francis loved all of God the Father's creation.** Ask: **Why is it good to show love and care for God's creation?** (Possible answers: When we show love for God's creation, we show love for God. We take care of the gifts God has given us.)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Have your child identify what is shown in the pictures and allow time for your child to complete the activity.

Transform

- Discuss the matching activity in Witness and Share. Ask: **What are some ways you have shown love and care for God's creation?** (Possible answers: I take care of my pet. I help care for the flowers and garden in my yard.)
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **Dear God, thank you for giving us the many gifts of creation. Help us care for the world and one another. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 24

- Help your child complete the Chapter 4 Review on page 24.
- Read aloud the question in We Remember and discuss the answer. Ask: **What will rainbows remind you of from now on?** (God's love)
- 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 4 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 14 Hearts Are Good

Centering

- Help your child cut a large heart out of a sheet of construction paper. Say: **The heart is a symbol of love.** Ask: **What does the heart remind us of?** (God's gift of love.) Say: **Today you will learn more about God's care for us.**
- Say: **The gift of love is so precious that no amount of money can buy it. The more of this gift you give away, the more of it you have.**

Sharing PAGE 83

- Talk about the people who love your child. Then talk about the people your child loves. Say: **We feel happy when we know that people love us. Our love for others also brings happiness.**
- On your child's paper heart, have him or her draw a picture of Jesus on one side and pictures of people they love on the other side. Say: **Hold your heart as you repeat this prayer after me.** Lead your child in prayer: **I would like to thank God for giving me people to love. I would like to thank God for giving me people who love me.** [Hold up the heart.] **Thank you, God, for (names), who love me.**
- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 83. Help your child find the word *love* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: **Loving is more than just having a happy feeling inside. Love is showing that you really mean the words you say.**
- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 14 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 84

- Say: **Look at the picture on page 84.** Ask: **How are the children showing love?** (They are holding hands with each other and smiling.)
- Ask: **What do you do for our family to show your love?** After your child has responded, share some ways you share your love with him or her and the rest of your family.
- Read aloud page 84. Say: **Jesus loves people today. He listens when they talk to him. He speaks to them in their hearts. He gives them all the good things they have.**
- Read aloud the Scripture feature on page 84. Say: **These words are from the part of the Bible called the New Testament. The New Testament is filled with stories about Jesus' love.**

Sharing PAGE 85

- Read aloud page 85. Then guide your child in doing the activity.
- Say: **One of the most important things Jesus taught his disciples was about love. I want you to listen again to what Jesus told his disciples. Remember that this is found in the Bible in a part called the Gospels. When we hear the Gospel, we respond by offering praise to Jesus with the words “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.”** Practice the praise by having your child repeat it after you reread the Scripture on page 84.
- Say: **Those who love us are doing what Jesus told everyone to do: “Love one another, just as I have loved you.” You can love with Jesus’ love too.**
- Reread the last sentence on page 85. Then have your child read the sentence aloud with you. Say: **Thank you, Jesus, for your gift of love. We have many chances to love like Jesus each day.**

Acting

- Give your child the Jesus’ Name punchout. Have your child write his or her name on the blank side of the heart. Punch a hole in the heart and string it with a loop of yarn to make a pendant. As you place the pendant around your child’s neck, say: **Jesus has put his love into your heart. You can bring Jesus’ love to others. Wearing the heart pendant can help you remember this.**
- Say: **Let us praise Jesus for giving us a new commandment to love as he loves. Say after me, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.”**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 23:1.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 86–87

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 86. Say: **Jesus teaches us how to love. When we treat other people with love, we share God’s gift to us.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Have your child practice sharing a Sign of Peace with you. Demonstrate by shaking hands and saying: **Peace be with you.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **How do you feel when you share love with other people?** (happy)
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 87. Ask: **What words could you use to describe Saint Stephen?** (Possible answers: loving, helpful, faithful, brave, loyal)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and allow your child time to complete the activity.

Transform

- Say: **Sharing a Sign of Peace is one way to show love to one another. There are many ways to show others that you love them.** Model a polite greeting with a smile and a kind word or compliment. Have your child return the compliment.
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **Jesus, help us show love to others just as you show your love to us. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 88

- Help your child complete the Chapter 14 Review on page 88.
- Read aloud the question in We Remember and have your child answer it. Then ask: **How can you show love to the person in your drawing?**
- 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 14 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 15 Hands Are Good

Centering

- Hold your child's hands as you both study them. Ask: **Who gave you your hands?** (God) Say: **God the Father made your hands just for you. No one has hands exactly like yours. Look at the lines on the palms of your hand and fingertips. This is one way God makes each person special. Show your child your hands and compare the similarities and differences.** If your child's hands display any family traits, point them out to your child.
- Ask: **What are some good things you do with your hands?** (build or make things, draw or color a picture, help others)
- Say: **You learned that God gave us the gift of love. Very often we give our love to others by doing things for them with our hands.**

Sharing PAGE 89

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 89. Have your child study the picture and ask: **How are the children showing each other love with their hands?** (They are holding hands as they walk together.)
- Say: **People use the gift of their hands to help make our world a better place.** Ask: **How do these people use their hands to help others? Gardeners?** (They make the world more beautiful.) **Doctors?** (They help sick people feel better.) **Artists?** (They make beautiful art.) **Musicians?** (They make beautiful sounds and music.)
- Ask: **How does the person who is praying help others?** (Praying shows love and care for people and for the world.) Ask: **How does a priest help us?** (The priest uses his hands to bless and to lead God's people to be holy. With his hands, he offers up gifts to God for the people.) Say: **The bishop anoints the hands of a new priest with blessed oil. This holy oil is a symbol of holiness and strength.**

Sharing PAGE 90

- Read aloud the opening text on page 90. Help your child find the word *miracle* in the Glossary. Read it aloud and discuss the definition.
- Point out the Scripture feature. Say: **This is part of a story from God's special book, the Bible. The story is about Jesus and two men who are blind.** Have your child study the stained-glass image. Ask: **What do you think is happening?** (The men who are blind are asking Jesus for help; Jesus is helping them.)
- Read aloud the Scripture story. Say: **The healing of the blind men is one of Jesus' miracles. Jesus loved the blind men so much that he wanted to help them.**
- Say: **Close your eyes. Think about what it might be like not to be able to see.** Let your child try to do a simple task such as putting on their shoes or walking across the room with their eyes closed. Say: **We use our eyes for many things. Many things might be more difficult for us if we could not see. Yet people who are blind learn to do many things well without their sight.**

Sharing PAGE 91

- Say: **Jesus helped anyone who needed him, not just his friends and family.**
- Read aloud the text at the top of page 91 and have your child repeat after you: **We can use our hands to help others.**
- Describe a time your child helped you and how it made you feel. Then have your child complete the activity. Discuss your child's picture and encourage him or her to carry out the task during the next week.
- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 15 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.

Acting

- Play the game "Helping Hands." Say: **To help you think of things you can do for others, we will play a game called "Helping Hands." I will name people. You will think of how you could help them.** Prompt your child by asking what they could do for the person you name. For each person discussed, exchange a high-five.
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 90:17.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 92–93

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 92. Say: **We can share Jesus' love through the things we do. We are acting like Jesus when we help others.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **We use our hands for good, just as Jesus did. Our actions help others and let us share Jesus' love.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **It is important to help people in need.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 93. Ask: **How did Saint Vincent de Paul follow in Jesus' footsteps?** (He loved everyone as Jesus taught him to.)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Have your child recall ways he or she can help others in your community. Then allow time for your child to complete the activity.

Transform

- Say: **Giving items like food, clothing, books, and toys to people in need is one way to use your hands to help people.** Ask: **What are some other ways?**
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **Dear God, let me use my hands to help share your love. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 94

- Help your child complete the Chapter 15 Review on page 94.
- Read aloud the Word to Know and ask your child to use the word *miracle* in a sentence about the story of Jesus helping the blind men.
- 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 15 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 16 Forgiveness Is Good

Centering

- Say: **When we make good choices, we are happy. But sometimes we hurt people by the things we choose to do or say. Today you'll learn more about your feelings, which are also given to you by God.**
- Say: **God put different kinds of feelings within us when he made us as human beings.** Ask your child to name some feelings.
- Ask your child to show the person's feelings in the following situations. Ask: **How did Mandy feel when her mother made her a beautiful birthday cake? How did Juan feel when his dog was feeling sick? How did Ashley feel when she couldn't find her mother in a big store? How did Chen feel when his big brother said he was too little to play a game?**

Sharing PAGE 95

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 95. Help your child find the Word to Know *Original Sin* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: **What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God?** (They sinned.) **What was the first sin called?** (Original Sin) **What can we say to the people we hurt when we sin?** (I'm sorry.) **Whom else should we tell we are sorry when we sin?** (God)
- Say: **Sometimes we forget that other people have feelings too. When we do unkind and unloving things to others, they hurt just as much as we do when someone does things like that to us.**
- Say: **When we have hurt someone else's feelings, we tell them "I'm sorry." We also say "I'm sorry" to God. God always forgives us.**

Sharing PAGE 96

- Read aloud the text on page 96. Help your child find the word *forgiveness* in the Glossary. Read it aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: **How do we show that we love God?** (We forgive as Jesus did.)
- Say: **Jesus had feelings too. Sometimes Jesus' friends hurt him. Jesus chose his friend, Peter, to be one of his special helpers. Peter told a lie and said he was not one of Jesus' helpers. Peter said this because he was afraid of Jesus' enemies. He was afraid they might put him in prison if they knew he was Jesus' friend.**
- Ask: **How do you think Jesus felt when Peter said he didn't know him?** (sad, hurt, angry) Say: **Jesus may have been hurt by what Peter said, but he knew Peter was sorry. Jesus forgave Peter. He showed Peter they were still friends.**

- Say: **We are happy when Jesus forgives us. We can make other people happy by forgiving them after they have hurt us.**
- Read aloud the Scripture feature on page 96 and remind your child that these words come from God's special book, the Bible. Say: **Jesus wants us to forgive others just as God the Father forgives us when we make wrong choices. We don't keep any anger deep inside us.**

Sharing PAGE 97

- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus on page 97. Say: **In the quiet of your heart, tell Jesus you are sorry for something you have done wrong. Ask Jesus to forgive you.** [Pause.] **Ask Jesus to forgive others.** [Pause.] Distribute the Chapter 16 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: **One day Jesus forgave a man no one liked. Listen to the story.** Read aloud the story of Zacchaeus from a children's Bible. Ask: **What did Zacchaeus do that was wrong?** (He cheated people by stealing their money.) **How did he show he was sorry?** (He paid people back more than he took from them.) **Why do you think Jesus forgave Zacchaeus?** (Jesus forgave sinners; Jesus loved Zacchaeus.) **Would you forgive Zacchaeus if he had stolen money from you?**
- Read aloud the directions and have children complete the activity.

Acting

- Teach your child the part of the Lord's Prayer in which we ask for forgiveness. Say: **When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we use a big word for the wrong things we do. The word is *trespasses*. Say each line after me: "And forgive us our trespasses" [Repeat.] "as we forgive those who trespass against us."** [Repeat.]
- Say: **Let us join hands now and pray the Lord's Prayer.**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 38:19.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 98–99

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 98. Say: **God is listening when we say we are sorry and forgives us when we sin.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Jesus knows what is in our hearts. He knows when we feel sorry for our words and actions.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question. Ask: **How do you feel when you tell someone you are sorry?** (relieved, happy)
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 99. Say: **Divine Mercy means that we can always pray for God the Father’s forgiveness. Saint Faustina wrote about the messages and instructions she received from God.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and have your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Have your child discuss what he or she drew in Witness and Share. Then talk about situations that require forgiveness. Say: **We share God’s mercy when we say we are sorry and when we forgive others.**
- Together practice apologizing. One person can say, “I am sorry,” and the other can say, “I forgive you.”

Chapter Review PAGE 100

- Help your child complete the Chapter 16 Review on page 100.
- 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 16 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.