

Growing in God's Love

Together look at family photos and discuss how you are all related to each other. Say: **Today we will talk about our families and about God the Father's special family, the Church.**

Point to the unit title on page 39 and read it aloud. Have your child repeat it as you point to each word. Say: **In Unit 2 we will learn about how each of us is a special gift in the eyes of God.**

Chapter 7 Families Are Good

Centering

- Review the last session. Say: **In the last session, you learned the word for talking to God.** Ask: **What is it?** (prayer) Say: **Today you will learn a very special prayer about families that we can pray every day.**
- Provide your child with drawing materials and have him or her draw a picture of your family.

Sharing PAGE 39

- Read aloud the chapter title on page 39 and have your child identify the family members in the picture. Have your child show you his or her drawing of your family and discuss.
- Say: **Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus also belongs to a family like you and me.** Ask: **Who is in Jesus' family?** (Mary and Joseph)
- Read aloud the rest of the page. Help your child find the Word to Know *Holy Family* in the Glossary. Read and discuss the definition.
- Say: **Jesus' family is called the Holy Family.** Ask: **Why do you think we call it that?** (Jesus is the Son of God. Mary and Joseph loved and followed God.) Say: **The members of the Holy Family loved one another and took care of one another.** Ask: **How do you think Jesus might have helped Mary and Joseph?** (doing chores, obeying his parents)
- Remind your child about prayer posture. Then guide him or her in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 7 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 40

- Read aloud page 40. Help your child understand that he or she is a member of God the Father's family. Say: **The Church is our other family. You became a member of the Church on the day you were baptized with holy water. The pope, who lives in Rome, is the head of the Catholic Church. We are brothers and sisters to people all over the world.** Show your child a picture of the current pope.
- Read aloud the Scripture feature. Remind your child that these words come from God's special book, the Bible.

Sharing PAGE 41

- Say: **God is a loving father who takes care of us all the time. He gives us everything we need—good food, water, and most especially, people who love and care for us.**
- Read aloud the text at the top of page 41. Point out the Word to Know *Lord's Prayer*. Help your child find the term in the Glossary. Read and discuss the definition.
- Read aloud the directions on page 41 and have your child complete the activity.

Acting

- Show your child the Lord's Prayer Card punchout found in your child's book. Say: **Jesus taught us a special prayer called the *Lord's Prayer*, or the *Our Father*. Here is a punchout card. On one side of the card is our yes word, *Amen*. The other side says *Lord's Prayer*. The whole prayer is inside.**
- Direct your child to place the Lord's Prayer Card where it will remind him or her to pray to God our Father in heaven.
- Say: **Let's use words and gestures to pray the first two lines of the Lord's Prayer. Repeat after me:**
Our Father, [Join hands.]
who art in heaven, [Raise joined hands.]
hallowed [Fold hands, fingers pointing up.]
be thy name. [Bow head.]
- Say: **The word *hallowed* means "holy." When we say *hallowed be thy name*, we are telling God, "Holy be your name" or "We want everyone to keep your name holy."**

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 42–43

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 42. Discuss how God is our Father. Ask: **How does God show us love?** (He gives us a family to care for us.)

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **People in families share special times together. Our church family celebrates together every time we gather for the Mass.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **You become a member of the church family on the day you are baptized.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 43. Say: **All of us learn things from our parents.** Ask: **What do you think Mary learned from Saint Joachim and Saint Anne?** (Possible answer: She learned to be kind, obedient, and caring.)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Together identify the people in your church family. Say: **All of us the world over are brothers and sisters in God's family. Our priest and members of our parish are part of our church family.** Allow time for your child to color the picture.

Transform

- Have your child point to a country on the picture of the globe. Ask: **How are the families who live here like our family?** (We are all brothers and sisters in God's family.)
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **God, help us treat our church family with love and care. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 44

- Help your child complete the Chapter 7 Review on page 44.
- Read aloud the question in We Remember. Have your child answer it by identifying the members of the Holy Family in his or her drawing.
- 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 7 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 9 Growing Is Good

Centering

- Have your child draw a “then and now” picture. Fold a sheet of paper in half. On one side, have him or her draw a picture of what he or she looked like as a baby. On the other half of the paper, have him or her draw a picture of what he or she looks like now.
- Say: **Babies are special signs of love. They show the mother and father’s love. Babies show God’s love.** Look at your child’s drawings. Ask: **Were you ever this small? What happened to you?** (I grew.) Say: **Growing is good. All living things grow and change.**

Sharing PAGE 51

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 51. Ask: **What helps pumpkins grow?** (water, sunlight, warmth) **What helps elephants grow?** (food, water, rest) **What helps seeds grow?** (water, sunlight, soil) **What helps children grow?** (food, rest, water, love)
- Say: **You will not always be a child. One day you will be grown up.** Ask: **Do you know any older people?** Say: **They are important. They have lived a long time and can teach us many things about loving God and other people. Even though they are grown up, they are still God’s children.**
- Invite your child to close his or her eyes and think about the pictures of him or her as a baby and as a child. Then lead your child in reflective prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 9 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 52

- Read aloud page 52. Have your child point to the words *sacrament* and *Baptism* and help them find these words in the Glossary. Read and discuss the definitions. Say: **Jesus gave us seven sacraments. Baptism is the first one we receive.**
- Say: **At your Baptism, holy water was poured on you. Then you were anointed with Chrism. The priest or deacon put blessed Chrism oil on the top, or crown, of your head. The anointing showed you belong to Jesus’ kingdom and to his family, the Church.**
- Help your child decorate the I Am a Christian crown punchout found in his or her book. Staple the crown to fit your child’s head. Say: **Your crown tells you that you belong to Jesus’ special royal family, the Church.**
- Teach your child the next two lines of the Lord’s Prayer: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Invite your child to pray these two lines of the Lord’s Prayer with you.
- Say: **We grow in many different ways. One special way we grow is in faith.** Ask: **How might we grow in our faith lives?** (learn more about God, go to Mass, pray) Say: **We can grow to be more like God’s Son, Jesus, when we act in kind and loving ways.**

Sharing PAGE 53

- Say: **You know that you grow by eating good food. Your body grows. Your mind grows. You grow as a Christian too. All your life you keep growing in Jesus' love.**
- Guide your child in doing the activity on page 53.
- Read aloud the Scripture feature on page 53. Ask: **Where can you find these words?** (in the Bible)

Acting

- Say: **Let us pray all the parts of the Lord's Prayer that you know.** Pray the first four lines of the Lord's Prayer together.
- Say: **At your Baptism, you were anointed with Chrism, which is a special oil made from olive oil and perfume. Long ago, perfumed oil was very precious because it was hard to make. It was used to anoint kings! It showed that they were holy.**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 52:10.
- Say: **This psalm mentions an olive tree. An olive tree grows the olives used to make Chrism. When you pray that psalm, you are telling God that you are precious and growing, just like the olive tree that helps us make Chrism.**

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 54–55

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 54. Talk about how roots help a plant grow. Then ask: **How does being “rooted” in Jesus help us grow as loving Christians?** (We follow Jesus’ example and love others as Jesus does.)

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Baptism connects us to God our Father, to each other, and to members of our church family.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **When we are baptized, our church family helps us understand how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 55. Say: **Saint Mary and Saint Martha were sisters. They showed their love for Jesus in different ways.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and help your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Discuss the people your child named in the Witness and Share activity. Ask: **What are different ways to show love to the people you named? What does it mean to grow in Jesus’ love? How will you feel as your love grows bigger and deeper?**
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **Jesus, Son of God, help us share your love with everyone we meet. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 56

- Help your child complete the Chapter 9 Review on page 56.
- Read aloud the Words to Know and ask your child to use them in a sentence.
- 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 9 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 17 Church Is Good

Centering

- Write the words *church* and *Church* on note cards and set them aside. Together study the pictures on pages 102–103. Ask: **What do you see in the picture?** (people in church) **What do we do in church?** (pray, celebrate Mass) Say: **Today you will learn more about God’s family, the Church.**
- Say: **We have a special word for what we do when we gather at church. We gather at church to worship God. When we worship, we offer praise and thanks to God, who is so good to us.** Ask: **What do we do at church?** (We worship God.)

Sharing PAGE 101

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 101. Help your child find the word *Church* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Show your child the note cards with the words *church* and *Church*. Say: **A church is a place where God’s people gather to worship God.** Hold up the note card *church*. Then say: **This same word, Church, is also used to talk about the people who gather to worship God.** Hold up the note card *Church* and point out the capital C.
- Say: **We believe in Jesus and try to follow his way of love. We are the Church, God’s people, who worship in a building that is called a church.**
- Remind your child that he or she became a member of the Church when he or she was baptized. Pull out pictures of your child’s Baptism and any other family Baptisms. Tell your child about the people in each photograph.
- Lead your child in a quiet prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 17 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 PAGES 102–103

- Say: **The church building is a very holy place. Sometimes people call the church building “God’s house.”**
- If possible, arrange for a church visit. Show reverence as you describe the sacred objects. Point out the following objects: holy-water font, altar, ambo, celebrant’s chair, crucifix, candles, tabernacle, sanctuary light (lamp), baptismal font, statues, and stained-glass windows. If you’re not able to visit a church in person, check to see if your parish has a website with pictures.
- Read aloud page 102 and help your child find the word *priest* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Read the Scripture feature and remind your child that these words come from God’s special book, the Bible. Say: **The word *sanctuary* means a holy place in the church building around the altar. This is the place where Jesus becomes present to us in the Eucharist during Mass.**
- Say: **Greeters are people who welcome us when we enter the church building for Mass. A priest is the person who leads us when we celebrate Mass. Altar servers assist the priest. The lector reads God’s Word. The choir leads us in song at Mass. The choir director leads the choir. Different people do different things, but everyone is needed.** If you or a member of your family has ever held any of the roles mentioned, tell your child about it.
- Say: **Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is the head of the Church. But he has special helpers on earth to lead the Church for him.** Ask: **Who are these special helpers?** (the pope, cardinals, bishops, priests) Name for your child the priests who serve in your parish.
- Read aloud page 103 and point out the two ways the word *church* is used on the page. Remind your child that *church* with a small c means the building where we worship and *Church* with a big C means God’s family, the people who make up our church family. Then have your child complete the activity.

Acting

- Provide your child with drawing materials and have him or her draw your church. Help your child include as many of the sacred objects taught today as possible.
- Encourage your child to share what he or she learned about the church and the people who make up the Church with another member of your family or a friend.
- Using your family bible or a children’s Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 122:1.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 104–105

Inspire

- Ask: **Who are the people in your family?** [Let children respond.] Based on their reply, remind them that the Church is a family too and that we are all part of God's family.
- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 104. Say: **Jesus is always ready to listen when we come together to pray.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **How is the Church like a family?** (God is our Father and we are all his children.)
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Our priest helps us share God's love when we pray together as a family during Mass.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 105. Say: **Saint Augustine had lots of bad habits that he had to break in order to follow Jesus.** Ask: **Who helps you make better choices?** (Possible answers: teachers, parents, priests)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and have your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Discuss the completed dot-to-dot. Say: **Our Church family gathers together for Mass, and when we do, Jesus is with us.**
- Ask: **How can we share love with our Church family?** (Possible answers: Treat one another with kindness, love, and respect, as we do with everyone.)
- Create a Thoughtful List to display in your home. Brainstorm ways that your family members can be helpful and loving with one another and add them to your list.

Chapter Review PAGE 106

- Help your child complete the Chapter 17 Review on page 106.
- Together say a silent prayer that includes your priest's name.
- 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 17 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 18 Meals Are Good

Centering

- Set a place mat on a table, keeping the items needed to finish the place setting out of sight. Ask: **If we were to use this place mat for our meal, what other items might we need?** Identify the plate, fork, knife, spoon, napkin, and cup and have your child set each one in place.
- Say: **Sharing a meal with others is special. It reminds us to share our love.** Discuss favorite family meals and if possible, gather pictures of special meals your family has shared to discuss.
- Ask: **How can you help make our family's mealtime a happy time?** (Smile. Listen to others. Tell something interesting or funny. Say nice things. Be thankful for the food that was prepared. Help by setting the table or drying the dishes.)

Sharing PAGE 107

- Say: **Bread is one of the most important foods we eat. It helps us grow strong and healthy. Wine is a drink made from grapes. Wine is sometimes used to celebrate at special meals.**
- Introduce the Last Supper to your child. Say: **On the night before Jesus died on the Cross for us, he had a very special meal with his friends, the Apostles.** Read aloud the story of the Last Supper from a children's Bible. When you are finished, say: **At this meal, Jesus shared himself in a new way. He gave himself with all his love to his Apostles. He gave his friends a special meal. We call this special meal the Mass, or the Eucharist. In this special meal, Jesus offers himself to each of us.**
- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 107. Help your child find the word *Eucharist* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Encourage your child to talk about what happened at Jesus' Last Supper.

Sharing PAGE 108

- Ask: **What is happening in the top picture on page 108?** (A family is worshipping together at Mass.) Read aloud the text on this page. Help your child find the word *Mass* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: **God invites us to his table to receive the wheat bread and grape wine that have become the Body and Blood of Jesus. We do this when we celebrate Mass. You belong to God's special family, the Catholic Church. One day, God will call you to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at your First Holy Communion.** Tell your child about your First Holy Communion.
- Read aloud the Scripture feature on page 108. Say: **These words come from God's special book, the Bible.** Ask: **What is Jesus asking us to do in memory of him?** (celebrate the Mass together)

Sharing PAGE 109

- Identify the chalice and the host on page 109. Point out the plate and say: **We call this special plate that holds the Eucharist a *paten*.**
- Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.
- Lead your child in a prayer of thanksgiving with A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 18 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

- Give your child the Last Supper Triptych punchout. Help your child fold it on the lines so that it stands up. Say: **Let's thank God for giving us the holy wheat bread and the holy grape wine that is Jesus.** Help your child locate Jesus, the holy wheat bread, and the holy grape wine on the Last Supper Triptych. Have your child display the triptych in your home.
- Say: **Remember to try and share God's love with others through acts of kindness each day.**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 104:14–15.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 110–111

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 110. Say: **We come together for a special meal at Mass. We remember the Last Supper that Jesus had with his friends. We remember that Jesus died for us.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Blessed Sacrament is another name for Eucharist. Jesus is with us in the Blessed Sacrament.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The Apostles were Jesus' friends.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 111. Say: **Juan Diego was on his way to Mass when Mary first appeared to him. Juan Diego loved Jesus.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and have your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Discuss your child's family meal picture he or she drew in Witness and Share. Ask: **What makes the meals we share as a family special?** (Possible answer: It is a time to be together and to share in one another's lives.)
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **Dear God, we give thanks when we gather together. We share your food and your love with each other. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 112

- Help your child complete the Chapter 18 Review on page 112.
- 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 18 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.
- Conclude the unit by holding the Unit 3 Celebration found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 22 Celebrating Is Good

Centering

- Wrap a small gift prior to the lesson. Let your child open it at the start of the lesson. Then say:
When people give us gifts, they give us their love. They give us a part of themselves. When we give gifts to others, we do the same thing. We give them our love and a part of ourselves.
- Say: **Tell me about a time someone gave you a gift. Then tell me about a time you gave a gift to someone.**
- Say: **Today you will learn how we celebrate the gift of Jesus.**

Sharing PAGE 133

- Read aloud the chapter title and have your child follow along as you read aloud page 133.
- Say: **God loves us so much that he gave us the very best gift, his Son, Jesus.** Ask: **What are some ways that we can thank God for the gift of Jesus?** (say thank you when we pray; do good things)
- Say: **Mass is the special and important celebration that we share for thanking God. At Mass, Jesus thanks God our Father with us by offering himself as a gift. Jesus also gives himself to the people as food in the Eucharist. When you are older, you will receive this wonderful gift.**
- Read aloud the Scripture verse on page 133. Remind your child that these words come from God's special book, the Bible. Say: **The phrase "breaking of the bread" refers to the celebration of the Eucharist.**
- Together sing and clap to the following verses set to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell":
1. We give God thanks at Mass... 2. We thank God for his Son... 3. Jesus gives himself at Mass...
4. We give ourselves with him... 5. Jesus gives himself as food...

Sharing PAGE 134

- Read aloud the text on page 134. Help your child find the word *Creed* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Say: **The food at Mass is very special. The priest takes our gifts of wheat bread and grape wine and does what Jesus did at the Last Supper. When he says the words that Jesus said, the wheat bread and grape wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. When we eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ, we are joined together with Jesus and his family, the Church.**
- Lead your child in quiet prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 22 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 135

- Read aloud the text on page 135. Then guide your child in completing the activity. When he or she is finished, read each part of the Creed together. Have your child place his or her finger on the first set of words from the prayer, "I believe in God the Father," as he or she reads this sentence with you. Repeat this with the other two parts of the prayer.
- Say: **The Mass is a very special celebration. We thank God that we belong to the Catholic Church. We thank God that we are invited to the Mass celebration every Sunday.** Tell your child about your favorite part of Mass and then invite her or him to do the same.

Acting

- Give your child the Priest, Altar, and Candle punchouts from the back of the book. Prepare them together. [Fold the Priest punchout so it can stand. Fold the Altar punchout on the dotted lines and place it in front of the Priest punchout. Place the Candle punchout in the slits on top of the Altar punchout.] Say: **When Jesus had the Last Supper with his Apostles, he was celebrating a holy meal. We remember and celebrate this meal every Sunday. The priest leads us in the celebration.**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 89:2.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 136–137

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 136. Say: **You don't have to be in church or be directed by a priest to talk to God. You are welcome to pray on your own any time. God is always listening.**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Like other celebrations, going to Mass includes receiving gifts. We receive the gift of forgiveness and love. We receive the gift of the Eucharist.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The priest helps us celebrate Mass as a Church family.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 137. Say: **Saint Ignatius wrote directions that help people share quiet time with God.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Together talk about your favorite part of Mass. Allow time for your child to complete the activity.

Transform

- Ask: **How can you participate in the Mass?** (Possible answers: sing, follow along with the readings, pray, keep my body calm, greet others) Record a list of ideas on a sheet of paper titled "How I Can Share in the Mass" and post it in your home.
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **God, thank you for your many gifts, and especially your gift of love. Help us show this love to others every day. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 138

- Help your child complete the Chapter 22 Review on page 138.
- Ask your child to identify the objects in the picture he or she colored.
- 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 22 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.