

Overview

The At-Home Edition of *Christ Our Life* provides you with the opportunity to work with your child, using the Student Book, to grow together in faith. Whether you are doing home catechesis or seeking to be more deeply involved in your child's faith formation, these pages will give you the support you need.

Prepare

Designate a learning space where the lessons will take place. Before presenting the Student Book to your child, leaf through it. Pay particular attention to the following features:

- Traditional Catholic prayers found on the inside front and back covers
- Table of Contents
- **Families in Mission** pages that appear at the end of each core chapter
- **Special Seasons and Lessons** section
- **What Catholics Should Know** section
- **Glossary**
- **Pullout** pages

Pray that you and your child may recognize the presence of Christ in your lives today and every day.

Unit 1: God Gives Us Life and Love

Before You Begin

Read **A Letter Home**, found on page 2 of the Student Book. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit and chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.

1. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, writing supplies, and art supplies.
2. Explain in your own words that this book is a way we can learn more about God and our Catholic faith.
3. Familiarize yourself with the **Word to Know** for this chapter: *Trinity*.

Page 1 Unit Opener

To highlight the special nature and purpose of the Student Book, call your child by name and present the book to him or her as you would a present. Say: ***Because this is such a special book, you will want to receive it and hold it reverently and with respect.*** Invite your child to demonstrate how to treat something with reverence.

Then look through the book together. Say: ***In Unit 1, we will learn about how everything and everyone is a gift from God. We will also learn about the Sacrament of Baptism and the Church.*** Invite your child to turn to page 1. Read aloud the unit title, **God Gives Us Life and Love**. Have your child find the Scripture passage at the bottom of page 1. Then explain that the words are from our holy book, the Bible. Show the Bible. Next, read aloud the Scripture passage.

Discuss the pictures on the page. Point out the pictures of a loving family, a mama bird sitting on her eggs in a nest, and neighbors and families walking to church. Say: ***God the Father is great and wonderful, and he gives us many gifts. God's most important gift to us is his Son, Jesus.***

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and watch the video together.

Chapter 1: God Is the Giver of Gifts

Point out the picture at the top of the page. Ask your child to describe the photo. (a child jumping in a puddle on a rainy day) Ask: ***How could this moment be one of God's gifts?*** Discuss gifts from God you and your child have received. Say: ***God has given us many gifts. God loves us very much.***

Page 3 God's Gifts Show His Love

Together with your child, read aloud the poem on page 3. Ask: ***Who loves and cares for us?*** (God, family members, friends) Say: ***You are one of God's gifts. The Bible tells us that we are made in God's image and likeness. That means God made us to be like himself. Out of all the wonderful creations in our world, we are the closest to and the most like God.***

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and watch the video together.

Page 4 We Are Gifts

Read aloud the first paragraph on page 4. Ask: ***Who creates all things?*** (God) Call your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature. Read aloud the definition for *Trinity*. Say: ***Another name for God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is Trinity. We pray to the Trinity every time we pray the Sign of the Cross.***

Read aloud the next two paragraphs. Say: **God loves and cares for all of us.** Ask: **What three things can we do because we are made in God's image?** (think, choose, and love) Ask: **What are some ways you can give yourself to others?** (zip up someone's jacket; give someone a smile or a kind word; sing a song; give someone a hug) Ask: **How can you give yourself to God?** (pray; make good choices; help others)

Pray together the Scripture passage from the **God's Word** feature on page 4. Then pray the Sign of the Cross.

Page 5 **God Gives Us Gifts**

Ask your child to read aloud page 5. Guide him or her to read and complete the activities **I Can Think, I Can Choose, and I Can Love.** Then invite him or her to share and talk about what he or she wrote and drew.

Page 6 **God Cares for Us**

Say: **Jesus wanted people to know that God our Father cares for everything he makes and that God cares for people more than anything else.** Read aloud page 6. Ask: **Why don't birds plant seeds or store food in barns?** (God makes sure they have what they need.) **Why does God care for us?** (God loves us more than any other part of his creation.) Say: **God is always with you. You can pray to God anytime.**

Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature on page 6. Pray the Sign of the Cross to conclude the prayer.

Invite your child to complete the activity **God Cares for His Gifts.**

Page 7 **God's Gifts Are Precious**

Have your child read aloud page 7. Then ask him or her to complete the activities **My Gift from God** and **Thank You, God.**

Page 8 **Chapter Review**

Help your child complete the Chapter 1 Review on page 8. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review.** Discuss the question under **We Remember.** Review the **Word to Know** in this chapter by locating the word and its definition in the **Glossary.** Call your child's attention to the **We Respond** section and pray the prayer together. Allow time for your child to complete the **Your Turn** activity. Ask your child to share what he or she drew.

Page 9 Families in Mission

Complete the **Families in Mission** pages with your child.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 9. Say: *God speaks to us through the Gospels and in the sacraments. First, we hear God's message. Then we go out and share it with the world.*

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: *God loves you and cares about you.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. Say: **We show our love for the Trinity when we pray the Sign of the Cross.** [ANSWER: the Trinity.]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 9.

Page 10 Families in Mission**A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 10. Say: *The saints show us how to live and love like Jesus. Bernadette was faithful, and she told the truth. We can be more like the saints by hearing and sharing Jesus' message.*

WITNESS AND SHARE

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to tell you about what he or she wrote. Say: *Our special light from God gets brighter the more we share it.*

Chapter 2: Jesus Is God's Best Gift

Before You Begin

1. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit and chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
2. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, writing supplies, and art supplies.
3. Familiarize yourself with the **Word to Know** for this chapter: *disciple*.

Page 11 Jesus Shows Us the Father's Love

Read aloud page 11. Say: *God our Father loves us so much that he gave us his only Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. At our Baptism, we receive the gift of grace, the life of God in us.*

Page 12 Jesus Saves Us

Ask: *What does a seed need to grow?* (soil, water, and sunlight) Say: *When a seed is in the ground, it begins to change, or die, so that it can become a new plant.* Read aloud page 12. Say: *Jesus died on the Cross to save us from sin and to give us new life. We will share this new life with God forever in heaven.*

Read aloud the directions for **The Story of a Seed** and have your child complete the activity. Then go over the answers together.

Page 13 Jesus Calls People to Follow Him

Invite your child to read aloud page 13. Call his or her attention to the **Word to Know** feature. Read aloud the definition for *disciple*. Say: *The people who followed Jesus during his time on earth became his Church. After Jesus died and rose, his disciples went out and spread his message. Jesus calls you to follow him and be his friend. When you were baptized, you became Jesus' disciple and a member of his Church. We are called to live and love like Jesus.*

Page 14 Jesus Shares His Life with Us

Read aloud page 14. Say: *A vine or a tree shares life with its branches. Jesus shares his life with all of us. A vine gives its branches the strength to grow fruit. Jesus helps us and gives us the strength to make good choices. When we make good choices, we stay close to Jesus.* Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity **The Vine and the Branches**. Invite your child to share his or her work.

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and watch the video together.

Page 15 We Pray the Sign of the Cross

Demonstrate how to pray the Sign of the Cross. It might be easier for your child to follow along if your back is to him or her. Turn around and use exaggerated movements, making sure your child can see where you are placing your hands (especially on your left and right shoulders), as you pray the words of the prayer slowly and reverently.

Invite your child to read aloud page 15 and complete the activity **How to Pray the Sign of the Cross**. When he or she is finished, go over the answers. Then lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature. Pray the Sign of the Cross to conclude the prayer.

Page 16 Chapter Review

Help your child complete the Chapter 2 Review on page 8. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**. Discuss the question under **We Remember**. Review the **Word to Know** in this chapter by locating the word and its definition in the **Glossary**. Call your child's attention to the **We Respond** section and pray the prayer together. Allow time for your child to complete the **Your Turn** activity. Ask your child to share what he or she drew.

Page 17 Families in Mission

Complete the **Families in Mission** pages with your child.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 17. Say: *Jesus is the greatest gift of all. Jesus teaches us how we can grow closer to God the Father.*

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: *We are Jesus' followers.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. Say: *God the Father gave us his Son, Jesus.* [ANSWER: the Son of God the Father.]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 17.

Page 18 Families in Mission, continued**A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 18. Say: *Even though Peter made mistakes along the way, Jesus chose him to lead his Church. Jesus knows that none of us is perfect. He asks us to do our best to live and love like he did.*

WITNESS AND SHARE

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to tell you about what he or she wrote.

Chapter 3: Jesus Lives in His Church

Before You Begin

1. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit and chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
2. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, writing supplies, and art supplies.
3. Familiarize yourself with the **Words to Know** for this chapter: *Original Sin, faith, sacrament, bishop, and priest.*

Page 19 God Gives New Life in Baptism

Point out the picture at the top of page 19. Talk about Baptisms your family has attended and share any photos you may have. Talk about your child's godparents and why they were chosen. Say: ***At our Baptism, we become children of God.*** Ask: ***What does God give us at Baptism that makes us his children?*** (grace; a share in God's life) Say: ***God comes to live within us when we are baptized. At your Baptism, the priest asked us, "What name do you give your child?"*** Share with your child the reason you chose his or her name.

Invite your child to read aloud page 19. Call your child's attention to the **Words to Know** feature. Read aloud the definitions for *Original Sin, faith, and sacrament.*

Say: ***At Baptism, we receive three gifts: faith, hope, and love. Faith is trust in God and his teachings. Hope is confidence that God will always be with us. Love is care and respect we show for God and for one another. Faith, hope, and love strengthen our friendship with God.*** Together, find and pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love prayer on the inside back cover of the book.

Pages 20–21 The Church Welcomed Us in Baptism

Read aloud the first paragraph on page 20. Then invite your child to look at each picture and read aloud the words next to it.

Read aloud the Scripture passage from the **God's Word** feature on page 21. Say: ***This passage from the Bible reminds us how much God loves us.***

Invite your child to look at each picture on page 21 and read aloud the words next to it. Say: ***When you were baptized, Original Sin was taken away. You were given a white garment, which is a sign of the new life within you. The baptismal candle is a reminder to let Jesus' light shine within you.***

Page 22 We Belong to the Church, Jesus Helps Us Through His Church

Ask your child to read aloud page 22. Say: ***We are Christians. We believe in Jesus Christ and want to live and love as he did.*** Call your child's attention to the **Words to Know** feature. Read aloud the definitions for *bishop* and *priest*.

Say: ***Jesus chose leaders who would help us keep our promises as Christians.*** Ask: ***Who were they?*** (the Apostles) Say: ***Jesus chose Peter to lead his Church as the first pope. Peter and the rest of the Apostles cared for the Church by teaching people what Jesus taught them. The Apostles baptized people and helped them grow in God's life.***

Tell your child the name of the current pope. Say: ***The pope wants all people in the Church to know how important they are and what they can do to spread Christ's love. Our church leaders teach us and help us be like Jesus.***

Page 23 You Are a Part of the Church

Read aloud page 23. Say: ***Saint Paul also said that the Church is a house made of "living stones."*** Ask: ***What do you think that means?*** (The Church is really made of God's people and is not a building.) Say: ***Each of us is important to God's family, the Church. Without one of us, the Church is like a house with a missing stone. It is not as strong as it can be.***

Invite your child to complete the activity **You Are a Member of the Church**. Then lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature. Pray the Sign of the Cross to conclude the prayer.

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and watch the video together.

Page 24 Chapter Review

Help your child complete the Chapter 3 Review on page 24. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**. Discuss the questions under **We Remember**. Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by locating the words and their definitions in the **Glossary**. Call your child's attention to the **We Respond** section and pray the prayer together. Allow time for your child to complete the **Your Turn** activity. Ask your child to share what he or she wrote.

Page 25 Families in Mission

Complete the **Families in Mission** pages with your child.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 25. Say: ***Peter reminds the early Christians who they are. We are God's people and part of his family, the Church.***

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: *In Baptism, grace flows into us like water or light. It washes away Original Sin.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. Say: *We belong to our family, our parish, our community, and our country. We also are members of the most important group of all—the family of God, the Church.* [ANSWER: the Church.]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 25.

Page 26 Families in Mission**A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 26. Say: *When we follow Jesus and do God's work, we can make a big difference. We can do great things for God and for others.*

WITNESS AND SHARE

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to tell you about what he or she wrote. Say: *We can trust in God when are facing a problem and ask for his help. Faith in God helps us grow closer to him.*

Chapter 4: God Speaks to Us

Before You Begin

1. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit and chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
2. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, writing supplies, and art supplies.
3. Familiarize yourself with the **Words to Know** for this chapter: *Old Testament*, *New Testament*, and *saint*.

Page 27 Jesus Helps Us Hear God Speak

Say: **Today we'll learn about a time when Jesus communicated with someone who couldn't hear or speak. Jesus changed this person's life.**

Invite your child to read aloud page 27. Ask: **What might have been the first sounds the man heard?** (Jesus' words, sounds in nature, other people talking) **What do you think the man's first words were?** (words of thanks or praise to Jesus) **What do you think all the people learned from Jesus that day?** (Jesus' love for God the Father and for all people; all the good things Jesus had done)

Ask: **How can we spread the message about the new life Jesus has given us?** (tell others about Jesus; live and love as Jesus did)

Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity **I Can Hear and I Can Speak**. Then invite your child to share his or her work.

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and watch the video together.

Page 28 Our Hearts Are Open to God's Call

Take turns reading aloud page 28. Call your child's attention to the **Words to Know** feature. Read aloud the definitions for *Old Testament*, *New Testament*, and *saint*. Ask: **Where do we hear God's Word?** (in the Bible; in church; at home) Say: **God also speaks to us through his gifts in the world: in the beauty of a flower, in the taste of a juicy red apple, in the joy of a fun activity, in the warm love of those who care about us.** Ask: **What does God say to us through his gifts?** (that he cares for us, loves us, and wants us to be happy)

Ask: **Who are some people who bring us God's Word and help us understand it?** (saints, priests, catechists, parents, family members) Say: **Saints are people who listened to God and talked to others about God. You are living and loving like the saints when you hear God's Word and tell others about God's goodness, when you are kind, when you are helpful, and when you live and love like Jesus.**

Page 29 We Belong to the Church

With your child, go through the following Unit 1 review questions. You may need to provide hints. Ask: *What is the name of the life God shares with you?* (grace) *What is the sacrament that made you a member of the Church?* (Baptism) *What is washed away at Baptism?* (Original Sin) *What is the celebration at church in which we remember Jesus and we receive Jesus' Body and Blood?* (the Eucharist; Holy Communion; Mass) *What is poured on a person's head at Baptism?* (water) *Who said he is like a living vine and we are like his branches?* (Jesus)

Invite your child to read aloud **We Belong to the Church**. Guide him or her to complete the activity **Church Puzzles**. Say: *You are an important member of God's family, the Church.*

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**.

Page 30 Unit Review

Read aloud and discuss **Using Our Gifts for God** on page 30. Then help your child complete the Unit 1 Review. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child take the **Interactive Unit Review**. Discuss the question under **We Remember**. Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by locating the words and their definitions in the **Glossary**. Call your child's attention to the **We Respond** section and pray the prayer together. Allow time for your child to complete the **Your Turn** activity. Ask your child to share what he or she drew or wrote.

Pages 31–32 WE CELEBRATE

Before beginning the prayer celebration, decide who will read aloud the leader's parts and the reading from John's Gospel. Then guide your child through the prayer celebration on pages 31–32.

Help your child tear out the Scripture prayer booklet **I Am the Good Shepherd** from the back of his or her book. Say: *God speaks to you in the Bible. It is like a letter God has written to you. This booklet will help you talk to and listen to God. It has verses from the Bible, prayers, and activities. On page 2, you can color a piece of the stained glass whenever you use your booklet. Hopefully, you will use this booklet so much that you will color the entire stained-glass window.*

Page 33 Families in Mission

Complete the **Families in Mission** pages with your child.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 33. Say: ***When we are baptized, we become members of a royal priesthood. We are royal because we are God's people. We are priests because it is our job to serve others and share the Good News of Jesus.***

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: ***The Scripture passage we just talked about is from the New Testament, but Peter is using words from the Old Testament.***

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. Say: ***We can all help the Holy Spirit spread God's Word.*** [ANSWER: New Testament.]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 33.

Page 34 Families in Mission**A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 34. Say: ***God wants us to use our talents to help others.***

WITNESS AND SHARE

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to tell you about what he or she wrote. Ask: ***In the Scripture story you chose, what did someone do to serve God and help others?*** Encourage your child to take a similar action to serve God and others.