

Unit 2: God Is Great and Good

Before You Begin

1. Read **A Letter Home**, found on page 46 of the Student Book.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit and chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
3. Familiarize yourself with the **Words to Know** for Chapter 6: *Apostles' Creed, creed, mystery, and Hebrews*.
4. Be prepared to help your child with some of the words and phrases in the Scripture on page 51: *affliction, taskmaster, spacious, oppressing, and executing justice*.

Page 45 Unit Opener

Say: ***In Unit 2, you will learn some characteristics of God, and we will discuss how to respond to him with love and respect.*** Invite your child to turn to page 45. Have your child read aloud the title of the unit, **God Is Great and Good**, and then find the Scripture verse at the bottom of the page. Guide your child to the fact that this Scripture verse is from the Book of Psalms, and remind him or her that David, about whom he or she learned in the last chapter, wrote psalms of praise to God. Say: ***This is a psalm of David. Here David writes that God is eternal, just, and fair.*** Have your child read aloud the Scripture verse.

Point out the pictures on the page: the tablets on which Moses received the Ten Commandments, a glorious sunrise or sunset over mountains, and a church with people who have just attended Mass. Invite your child to share any ideas about what these pictures represent. Explain that the tablets represent God's Law and his promise to us. The image of the sun, the sky, and the mountains represent the beauty of God's creation and the love with which he creates all that is. The church represents the community in which we worship God.

Say: ***You will learn how we honor the promise, or covenant, God has made with us.***

Page 47 Chapter 6: We Believe in God

Ask: ***How would you express your belief in God? What would you say about him?*** Listen to your child's response. Say: ***Many centuries ago, early church leaders wanted to put in writing, in a clear and powerful way, what we believe as Christians.***

Have your child read aloud the chapter title, **We Believe in God**, on page 47.

We Profess Our Faith

Have your child read aloud **We Profess Our Faith**. Point out the terms *Apostles' Creed* and *creed* in blue. Have your child read aloud the definitions in the **Words to Know** box. Ask: **Do you know in what part of the Mass we profess our faith?** Remind your child that after the Homily, we all stand and pray aloud together the Creed: "I believe in one God, the Father almighty . . ." Say: ***This chapter will help you better understand our profession of the Creed at Mass.***

Pray aloud together **The Apostles' Creed**.

If you wish, scan the QR code in the upper-left-hand corner of the page using a handheld, web-enabled device to experience the media.

Page 48 Mysteries of Our Faith

If you have not done so, place your Bible on the table.

Take turns reading aloud with your child **Mysteries of Our Faith** on page 48. Point out the word *mystery* in blue in the first sentence. Have your child read aloud the definition in the **Word to Know** box. Ask your child if he or she now understands better what we mean when we pray the Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Have your child take a moment to reflect silently on the last sentence in this section: "Everything that we believe, say, and do as Catholics comes from this great mystery."

Have your child complete the activity **One God in Three Persons**.

Page 49 God Is Good

Read aloud **A Moment with Jesus**. Have your child thank Jesus quietly in his or her heart.

Have your child read aloud **God Is Good**. Invite your child to share an instance when he or she has known God in the world around us. Have him or her complete the activity **God in the World Around Us**. Invite your child to share his or her responses with you.

Pages 50–51 God Kept His Promises to the Israelites

With your child, look at the pictures on page 50. See if your child recognizes that the top picture is from a stained-glass window. Point out that stained-glass windows in churches are ways of telling Scripture stories in pictures. Have your child read aloud the caption. Then ask if your child recognizes what is shown in the photo across the bottom. Discuss aspects of the setting. Say: ***We are in a desert. The pyramids show that we are in Egypt. The man is looking with excitement at the new land he is about to enter. Let's learn more about the story behind this picture.***

Take turns reading aloud with your child **God Kept His Promises to the Israelites**. Point out the word *Hebrews* that appears in blue. Have your child read aloud the definition in the **Word to Know** box. If necessary, explain or help your child look up the definitions of *affliction*, *taskmaster*, *spacious*, *oppressing*, *executing justice*, and any other words from the Scripture with which your child may be unfamiliar.

Page 52 **God Keeps His Promise to Us**

Take turns reading aloud with your child **God Keeps His Promise to Us**. After reading the last paragraph, invite your child to share ways that learning about what we believe as Catholics has helped his or her faith grow. Ask: *What is God's promise to us?* (our salvation through God the Son, Jesus Christ)

Have your child complete the activity **We Can Grow in Faith**. Have your child read the completed sentences aloud to you. Help him or her make any corrections.

Page 53 **Stand Up for Your Beliefs**

Have your child read aloud the paragraph under **Stand Up for Your Beliefs** on page 53. Share with each other answers to the questions in the paragraph. Have your child complete the activity **Things We Know About God**. Have your child read aloud the sentences he or she wrote by rearranging the words below the lines.

Point out the picture across the bottom of pages 52–53. Ask what your child thinks is shown. (The children are in a parade. They are showing that they are believers in and followers of Jesus.) Together, find details in the picture that show aspects of our faith. (They are playing music and dancing in praise of Jesus. Some are carrying roses, a symbol of Mary. They are one group, but the children come from different cultures; they have one message, in both English and Spanish.)

Page 54 **Chapter 6 Review**

Help your child complete the **Chapter Review** on page 54. Discuss the two questions under **We Remember**. Pray together **We Respond**. Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter. Have your child read aloud the directions for **Your Turn**. An example of one of the statements in the Apostles' Creed might be that Jesus was "born of the Virgin Mary." To illustrate this belief, your child might make a drawing of Mary holding the baby Jesus.

If you wish, have your child undertake the **Interactive Chapter Review** by scanning the QR code on page 54.

Pages 55–56 **Families in Mission**

Complete **Families in Mission** on pages 55–56 with your child.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and Scripture in the sidebar on page 55. Say: *God speaks to us through the Gospels and in the sacraments. First we receive 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: *Knowing the truths of our Catholic faith, we proclaim them in what we say and do.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. [ANSWER: Creed.] Say: *We profess our beliefs at Mass. We can take a moment to quietly profess our beliefs throughout the week.*

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 55.

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 56. Invite your child to imagine being Ignatius. Have him or her imagine how much more glorious Ignatius found it to serve God than to win fame in battle.

WITNESS AND SHARE

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each one for reflection.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to share his or her list with you. Invite him or her to elaborate on one of the items in his or her list.

Pray a prayer from the inside front or back cover of the Student Book to bring the chapter to a close.

Page 57 Chapter 7: God Is Powerful and Loving**Before You Begin**

1. Familiarize yourself with the **Words to Know** for this chapter: *covenant* and *worship*.
2. Bookmark your Bible to Exodus 16:31 and Numbers 11:7–8 for descriptions of manna.
3. Have ready a handful of whole coriander seeds if possible.
4. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.

God Saves the Israelites with His Power

Call your child's attention to the picture in the center of page 57. Say: **Think about what we read in the last chapter about God calling Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. You might know the story shown in this picture.** See if your child knows the story of Moses leading his people across the Red Sea. Say: **Let's read this continuation of what happened with Moses and the Israelites.**

Have your child read aloud the chapter title, **God Is Powerful and Loving**, on page 57. Take turns reading aloud with your child **God Saves the Israelites with His Power**. You might discuss with your child a time when he or she faced a difficulty and God helped him or her through it.

Page 58 We Trust God's Power

Take turns reading aloud **We Trust God's Power** and the **God's Word** feature with your child. Share a time when you have been inspired recently to “sing to the Lord.”

Have your child complete the activity **What God Is Like**. Have your child read his or her completed sentences aloud to you.

Page 59 God Fed the Israelites

Take turns reading aloud **God Fed the Israelites**. Read aloud to your child the descriptions of manna in Exodus 16:1 and Numbers 11:7–8. Show your child the coriander seeds if you have them.

Ask: **What aspects of a father and of a mother did God show the Israelites?** (He was like a father in leading and encouraging the Israelites. He was like a mother in feeding them. At the same time, we know that mothers and fathers can fill both these roles. The most important thing is that God guides mothers and fathers in their love for their children.)

Ask if there is a part of the Lord's Prayer that this story reminds your child of. Pray together, “Give us this day our daily bread.”

If you wish, scan the QR code on the page using a handheld web-enabled device to experience the media.

God Feeds Us

Say: *What we will read now is about a new way God feeds us through his Son, Jesus.* Take turns reading aloud **God Feeds Us** on page 59. Ask: *When do we receive this living bread?* (in the Eucharist)

Page 60 **God Makes a Covenant of Love**

Take turns reading aloud **God Makes a Covenant of Love** on page 60. Have your child point to the words *covenant* and *worship* that appear in blue. Have him or her read aloud the definitions in the **Word to Know** box.

We Have a Covenant with God

Have your child read aloud **We Have a Covenant with God** on page 60.

Page 61 **Keeping the Covenant**

Have your child read aloud the questions under **Keeping the Covenant** on page 61. Discuss possible answers.

Have your child read aloud the directions for the activity **An Acrostic on God's Promise**. Have him or her complete the sentences and then read them aloud to you. Ask your child to identify and read aloud the word formed by the acrostic: *covenant*.

Lead your child in prayer using **A Moment with Jesus**. Say: *Let's close our eyes and reflect on something that has happened today for which we are thankful to God.* Sit quietly together for a moment. Then pray: **Amen**.

Page 62 **Chapter 7 Review**

Help your child complete the **Chapter Review** on page 62. Have your child complete the activity **Exodus and Beyond**. Discuss the questions under **We Remember**. Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter. Pray together the psalm verse in **We Respond**. Have your child complete the activity **Fill in the Blanks** by finding the word from the word bank to write in each space to correctly complete the sentence. Have your child read aloud the directions for **Your Turn**. Then have your child write his or her prayer. Invite him or her to share it with you.

If you wish, have your child undertake the **Interactive Chapter Review** by scanning the QR code on page 62.

Pages 63–64 Families in Mission

Complete **Families in Mission** on pages 63–64 with your child.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 63. Say: *God speaks to us through the Gospels and in the sacraments. First we receive 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: *Learning more about our faith helps us spread the Good News to others.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. [ANSWER: the commandments.] Say: *We obey the commandments to show our love and respect for God and for one another.*

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 63.

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 64. Say: *Imagine writing about your faith each day as Catherine of Siena did.*

WITNESS AND SHARE

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each one for reflection.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Encourage and affirm your child by pointing out times you have appreciated the respect he or she showed for you.

Pray a prayer from the inside front or back cover of the Student Book to bring the chapter to a close.

Page 65 Chapter 8: God Is Holy and Great**Before You Begin**

1. Familiarize yourself with the **Word to Know** for this chapter: *grace*.
2. Be prepared to name religious sisters and/or brothers associated with your parish and to discuss with your child who they are, what they do, and where you see them.
3. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.

The Lord Our God Is Holy

Have your child read aloud the chapter title, **God Is Holy and Great**, and then the heading and first paragraph in **The Lord Our God Is Holy** on page 65. Read aloud the Scripture passage. Have your child read aloud the paragraph that follows it and then the **God's Word** feature.

Have your child read aloud the last paragraph. Say: *This is part of the Glory to God, which we sing during the Introductory Rites at Mass.* See if your child recognizes these words.

Page 66 God's Holy Name

Take turns reading aloud **God's Holy Name** on page 66. Invite your child to share with you by what name he or she addresses God when he or she prays or at other times when he or she thinks about God. If God sent him or her to a group of people with a message, who would your child say sent him or her? Share with your child the name you would use.

Have your child complete the activity **The Sign of the Cross**. Then pray the prayer together.

Page 67 A Special Home

Take turns reading aloud with your child **A Special Home**. Ask: *What is the special home for God where we go to attend Mass?* (Name your parish church.) Discuss characteristics of your church that make each of you feel that it is a special home for God.

Page 67 Jesus Makes His Home Among Us

Take turns reading aloud the two paragraphs of **Jesus Makes His Home Among Us**.

Call attention to the word *grace* that appears in blue. Have your child read aloud the definition in the **Word to Know** box.

Page 68 God Is Everywhere

Have your child read aloud **God Is Everywhere**.

God Knows All Things About His People

Read aloud to your child **God Knows All Things About His People**.

Pages 68–69 God Knows All About the Universe

Take turns reading aloud the two paragraphs of **God Knows All About the Universe**.

If you wish, scan the QR code in the upper-right-hand corner of the page using a handheld, web-enabled device to experience the media.

Read aloud the **Psalm Prayer** on page 69 together, taking turns reading alternate lines.

Have your child read silently **A Moment with Jesus** on page 69. Have your child close his or her eyes as you again read aloud to him or her the psalm prayer above. Pause and read aloud the question in the feature. Invite your child to quietly envision that place for a moment.

Pages 70–71 We Give God First Place in Our Lives

Read aloud to your child **We Give God First Place in Our Lives** on page 70. Have your child name the religious sisters and/or brothers associated with your parish. If your child doesn't know, name these people. Discuss with your child who they are, what they do, and where you see them, such as at Mass, at parish events, and/or in religious education. If your child is acquainted with this person or these people, invite him or her to describe ways this person shows devotion to God.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Take turns reading aloud the two paragraphs in **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton** on page 70. Invite your child to share how life in your family has strengthened his or her devotion to God.

Have your child complete the activities **Help Along the Way** and **Can You Find Signs of the Holy?** on pages 70 and 71. To complete the second activity, have your child draw on his or her direct experience from attending Mass. Otherwise, help your child as needed to name the signs.

Page 72 Chapter 8 Review

Help your child complete the **Chapter Review** on page 72. Have your child complete the activity **Describing God**. Discuss the three questions under **We Remember**. Pray together psalm verse in **We Respond**. Review the **Word to Know** in this chapter. Have your child read aloud the directions for **Your Turn**. Then have your child draw the place where he or she likes to be with God. Guide your child to recognize that this could be someplace in nature, in his or her room, or in some other special place. It may be in church, but it does not need to be.

If you wish, have your child undertake the **Interactive Chapter Review** by scanning the QR code on page 72.

Pages 73–74 Families in Mission

Complete **Families in Mission** on pages 73–74 with your child.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and Scripture in the sidebar on page 73. Say: *God speaks to us through Scripture and in the sacraments. First we receive 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: *We can respond to God's call by being like the saints.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. [ANSWER: “the One who is”] Say: *Examples of names by which we call God now are “Father” and “Lord.”*

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 73.

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 74. Say: *The saints are role models who show us how to do our best in following Jesus. Like John Bosco, you can be Catholic in your work by trying hard and being honest in your schoolwork and by helping others lovingly.*

WITNESS AND SHARE

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each one for reflection.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to tell you more about a place in which he or she experiences or has experienced God's presence.

Pray a prayer from the inside front or back cover of the Student Book to bring the chapter to a close.

Page 75 Chapter 9: God Is Just and Merciful**Before You Begin**

1. Familiarize yourself with the **Word to Know** for this chapter: *justice*.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.

Our Just and Merciful God Loves Us

Have your child read aloud the chapter title, **God Is Holy and Great**, on page 75.

Ask your child: *What kinds of things do I do when I treat you justly?* Your child may say that you listen to his or her side of the story if there is an issue; that consequences for doing something he or she shouldn't have done are fair and the child understands them. Then ask: *What kinds of things do I do when I treat you mercifully?* Your child may say that you give him or her a second chance; that you understand what he or she may be going through at a given time; that you show him or her clearly that his or her mistakes do not alter your love for your child. Say: *If I treat you with justice and mercy, even though I may not do so perfectly, think about what it means for God to treat you with justice and mercy!*

Take turns reading aloud with your child **Our Just and Merciful God Loves Us**. Then say: *Let's pray together the psalm prayer in which David praised God's mercy*. Take turns reading aloud the alternate lines of the psalm prayer.

Page 76 Jesus Revealed the Father's Justice and Mercy

Take turns reading aloud **Jesus Revealed the Father's Justice and Mercy** on page 76. Call attention to the word *justice* that appears in blue. Have your child read aloud the definition in the **Word to Know** box.

The Good Shepherd

Ask your child if he or she has ever heard Jesus referred to as the Good Shepherd. Ask what Jesus does as the Good Shepherd. Then have your child read aloud **The Good Shepherd**.

If you wish, scan the QR code in the upper-right-hand corner of the page using a handheld web-enabled device to experience the media.

Page 77 Just Like Jesus

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of **Just Like Jesus** on page 77. Say: Now we will read about two saints who lived in this way.

Take turns reading aloud about the two saints: **Saint Vincent de Paul** and **Saint Louise de Marillac**. Ask your child what kind of work he or she would like to do to help relieve others' suffering and help them see God's love and mercy.

Page 78 Chapter 9 Review

Help your child complete the **Chapter Review** on page 78. Discuss the two questions under **We Remember**. Pray together **We Respond**. Review the **Word to Know** in this chapter. Have your child read aloud the directions for **Your Turn**. Then have your child write his or her prayer. Invite him or her to point out where in his or her prayer he or she named the three characteristics of God he or she is praising.

If you wish, have your child undertake the **Interactive Chapter Review** by scanning the QR code on page 78.

Pages 79–80 Unit 2 Review

Help your child complete the two **Unit Review** activities on pages 79–80: **Our Knowledge of God** and **Make a Journey**. After he or she has completed **Make a Journey**, invite your child to read aloud the completed sentences. Then make sure he or she doesn't forget to draw the path on the map.

If you wish, have your child undertake the **Interactive Unit Review** by scanning the QR code on page 79.

Pages 81–82 We Celebrate the Greatness and Goodness of God

Read aloud together the celebration on pages 81–82. Take the part of the Leader, and have your child take the part of the Reader. Pray the “All” parts together in unison. Decide who will be “Group 1” and “Group 2,” and read aloud your parts accordingly. Choose and sing songs from Mass that you are familiar with.

Pages 83–84 Families in Mission

Complete **Families in Mission** on pages 83–84 with your child.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 83. Say: *God speaks to us through Scripture, including letters from Paul and other early leaders of the Church, and in the sacraments. First we receive 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: *As God treats us with justice and mercy, we try to do the same with those around us.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. [ANSWER: his sending of Jesus as our Savior.] Say: *God showed his mercy by sending us a Savior.*

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 83.

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 84. Say: *The saints are role models who show us how to do our best in following Jesus. Like Saint Martín de Porres, we can serve God by doing simple tasks.*

WITNESS AND SHARE

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each one for reflection.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to think about ways he or she feels treated fairly and kindly and then describe things he or she can do that show fairness and kindness.

Pray a prayer from the inside front or back cover of the Student Book to bring the chapter to a close.