

## Unit 3: We Love God

### Before You Begin

1. Read **A Letter Home**, found on page 80 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.
2. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, and writing supplies.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: The First Commandment tells us to adore only God, giving him our faith, hope, and love. The Lord has written the commandment "I, the Lord, am your God" in our hearts. God proclaims his glory through the gifts of creation, which evoke in us wonder and admiration. Jesus, God's greatest gift to us, expresses the Father's glory in a way that surpasses all others, for Jesus shows us how our lives can become responses of praise and adoration.

### Page 79 Unit Opener

Begin by praying the Sign of the Cross together. Invite your child to turn to page 79 and read aloud the unit title, **We Love God**. Say: *In Unit 3, we will learn how to show love for God and put God first in our lives, as explained to us in the first three commandments.*

Direct your child's attention to the scenes depicted on the page. Have your child describe each one. (top left: a child dipping his fingers in holy water at church to pray the Sign of the Cross; top right: people entering church and a girl putting flowers at a statue of Mary; bottom: children enjoying God's creation, flying a kite, petting and taking care of a cat)

Have your child slowly read aloud the Scripture verse at the bottom of the page. Read it a second time. Emphasize that it is important for us to accept Jesus into our hearts so we can stay close to God and become more like him. Discuss how the pictures connect to the Scripture verse at the bottom of the page. (The images show people loving God and the things he has created. They aren't just saying they love him; they are doing things that show their love.)

### Page 81 Chapter 10: We Show Our Love for God

Have your child describe what is happening in the picture at the top of the page. (children are praying) Ask your child what gifts he or she sees in the bottom picture. (a horse, grass, the sun, hay, people) What is happening in the picture? (Children are feeding a horse, taking care of God's creation by feeding it with gifts from God.)

## God Gives Us Gifts

Have your child silently read the first two paragraphs. Then discuss some gifts that God gives us. (people, love, animals, plants, the sun, water) Explain that all of God's gifts tell us of his beauty and glory. Say: ***Most of all, we can know the glory of God from Jesus, who shows us the love and goodness of God the Father. When we see the glory of God in his gifts, we want to adore God.***

Read aloud Psalm 111:1–2. Discuss how both images on the page show praise to God.

## Page 82 God Asks for Our Love

Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs on the page. Ask: ***What does God ask for in the First Commandment?*** (He wants us to love him more than anything else.) Direct your child's attention to the word *adore* and its definition in the **Word to Know** feature on page 83.

Explain that by saying "You shall not have strange gods before me," God meant for us to adore only him, to love him most of all. Point out that when we love God's gifts more than God, we make them into little gods.

Have your child name some gifts that people might make into gods. (money, clothes, good times, people, technology)

Share that other things can become like gods to us when we think too much about them, spend more time on them than we give to God, or sin in order to get them. When we keep the First Commandment, we don't let other things take God's place.

Review the directions for the **How We Show Love to God** activity and have your child complete the activity. [ANSWERS: 1. goodness, 2. adore, 3. believe, 4. hope, 5. love, 6. pray.]

## Page 83 We Give God Our Love in Prayer

Have your child read silently the first two paragraphs. Ask your child to underline what it means to pray and circle the ways Jesus prayed.

Read aloud the next two paragraphs, including the Scripture verses. Discuss what Jesus taught us about praying. (Prayer isn't about other people seeing you but about being with the Father. We should let God know what we need or hope for and trust he will take care of us.)

Direct your child to read aloud the last paragraph **Forms of Prayer**. Recall the meaning of a prayer of petition (a prayer in which we ask for something) and name the other forms of prayer. (intercession, praise, thanksgiving, and adoration)

Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature, inviting your child to sit quietly and spend time with Jesus.

**Page 84 We Honor Those in Heaven with Prayer**

Read aloud the first paragraph on the page. Call attention to the definition of *saint* in the **Word to Know** feature.

Have your child read aloud the second paragraph. Discuss what it means to imitate Mary and the saints. (to try to be like them, to love God and others the way they did)

Ask: **Why do we seek assistance from those in heaven with prayer?** (They bring God's messages to us; they take our prayers to God; they love us and want us to be with Jesus one day as they are.)

Share saints who have special meaning for you, those perhaps you named your children after, or patron saints of causes that are important to you. Work with your child to complete **The Saint I Would Like to Meet** activity together.

**Page 85 We Pray the Psalms**

Have your child complete the **We Pray the Psalms** activity. [ANSWERS: thanksgiving, praise, petition, intercession, and adoration]

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and listen to the audio together.

**Page 86 Chapter Review**

Have your child read the **We Remember** questions and discuss the answers together. You will use the **We Respond** prayer to conclude the lesson.

Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by locating the words and their definitions in the **Glossary**.

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

Review the directions for the **Your Turn** activity. As your child draws a place for prayer, you can do so on a separate sheet of paper. Invite your child to describe his or her drawing and what makes it a special place for prayer; you can then do the same.

**Page 87 Families in Mission**

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

**SCRIPTURE**

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Say: **Sanctify means "to set something apart and make holy." Christ wants us to make a special place for him in our hearts.**

**KNOW AND PROCLAIM**

Have your child read aloud the sentence above the chart. Then read aloud the first bullet under **We Know Our Faith**, and have your child read aloud the corresponding bullet under **We Proclaim Our Faith**. Repeat this for the remaining points. Point out that the saints lived through difficulties and problems. We can face our daily struggles by learning from their example.

**TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE**

Read aloud the question in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child read the answer choices and choose the correct answer. [ANSWER: psalms]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 87.

**Page 88 Families in Mission, continued****A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know**.

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

Say: *Praying was not always easy for Teresa, but she never gave up. She teaches us that God is patient. We must never give up on our relationship with him.*

**WITNESS AND SHARE**

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then take turns with your child reading aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each for reflection.

**SHARE YOUR FAITH**

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and complete the activity. Invite your child to share his or her ideas, and then share yours, or work together. Have other family members participate if possible.

Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit in the **We Respond** section on page 86 to finish the lesson.

Page 89 **Chapter 11: We Love All That Is Holy****Before You Begin**

1. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, writing supplies, images or a video of your church, and holy objects that you have in your home.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: The Second Commandment tells us to respect God's name and all that is related to God. The way we speak to and about others indicates how we feel and think about them. Words of praise speak of love. Degrading and abusive words communicate a lack of reverence and respect. When we use God's name in an offensive, vulgar way, we are expressing an attitude toward him that is insensitive to both God's majesty and goodness.

**We Praise God and His Name**

As you begin the lesson, help your child transition into this special time of faith formation. Have your child put away any devices, toys, or other things that could distract either of you from giving full attention to God. If it will help your child to center himself or herself, play calming instrumental music for a minute. Invite your child to take a deep breath in and out, as you do the same. Then pray, "You are most holy, O God, and we honor you and your holy name. Amen."

Talk about the significance of your child's name. Share why you chose the name you did. Was your child named after a family member or someone famous? Share any background on your name or other family members' names. Discuss why names are important. (They identify us. When people call us by name, it is a sign of significance.)

Read aloud the first paragraph on page 89. Discuss how your child would feel hearing his or her name announced on the school intercom. How is that similar to or different from hearing friends say it or reading it in message? Talk about how we feel when people make fun of our names or say them in an angry way or if someone continually calls us by the wrong name.

Tell your child you will be learning about God's name. God's name is the most important of all. Ask: ***When we read the Bible, what are some names or titles we see for God?*** (God, Jesus, Lord, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Christ) Have your child read aloud the second paragraph.

Explain that when God asked Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt, God told Moses his name: “I am who I am.” (Exodus 3:14) In Hebrew that name is Yahweh. Say: ***Yahweh means that God, who is all-powerful and all-loving, is always with his people. The name Yahweh was so sacred that the Jewish people would not speak it. Instead, they would say Elohim, which means “God,” or Adonai, which means “the Lord.”***

Have your child read aloud the Second Commandment in the green box. Then read aloud the third and fourth paragraphs.

Have your child explain why we use the title *Lord* for God. (We use this title of power and might because God rules over everything.) Review what *in vain* means. (“for no good reason”) Call your child’s attention to the **Word to Know** feature and invite him or her to read aloud the definition for *blasphemy*.

Explain that it is wrong to use God’s name to wish evil or harm to someone or something. Using God’s name in this way is called *cursing*. Point out things we can say or do when others use God’s name in vain because they don’t really think about what they are saying. (say God’s name reverently, ask them to stop, pray for them)

Have your child read silently the last paragraph on the page.

## Page 90 Calling on God in Prayer

Have your child read aloud the paragraph about calling on God in prayer.

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and listen to the audio together.

Have your child review the directions for and complete **The Trinity and Prayer** activity. Clarify as needed. [ANSWERS: Jesus, Christ, Holy Spirit, Father] Say: ***These are all names for God. Remember to use them only when you are speaking humbly to him or lovingly about him.***

## Page 91 The Name of Jesus

Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs on the page. Remind your child that the maroon text is a Scripture passage from the Bible.

Discuss how we know that the name of Jesus is powerful. (Peter and John healed a physically disabled man, and other disciples did marvels in Jesus’ name.) Ask: ***How do we know that the name of Jesus is great?*** (The Bible says, “At the name of Jesus every knee should bend.”)

Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature, inviting your child to sit quietly and spend time with Jesus. Read the prayer slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate long enough for your child to reflect on the words.



**Pages 92–93 We Respect All That Is Holy**

Tell about how Jesus got upset with money changers at the Temple by reading aloud the first two paragraphs, including the Scripture quote from the Gospel of John. Then ask your child what the people were doing in the Temple. (buying and selling things)

Be mindful that this story needs some background, which you can share with your child before or after the reading. Explain that God's people bought and sold lambs and doves because they offered these to God in sacrifice. They exchanged money for special temple coins so that people would have the right coins for their offerings. But some people overcharged for their services, and others did not give the right amount of temple coins to the buyer.

Say: ***It must have been loud and chaotic when Jesus approached the Temple. Jewish travelers from all over were coming to the Temple for a great holiday. Crowds needed temple coins, and merchants and money changers shouted out to convince buyers to come to their tables.*** Ask: ***How did Jesus feel about this?*** (He was angry.) Ask: ***How did Jesus show the people that they must respect his Father's house?*** (He overturned the money changers' tables; he told the people who were selling things to leave the Temple.)

Explain that Jesus stopped everything that made the Temple into a place of business. Only when the people respected the Temple as a place of prayer would they be able to pray in it.

Read aloud the **God's Word** feature and the last paragraph.

Point out God is present in a special way in our churches. Ask your child what this way is. (He is present in the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle.) That is why we respect our church. Ask: ***What are ways we show this respect?*** (We worship God in church; we are quiet; we genuflect to adore Jesus; we bless ourselves with holy water; we pray and sing.)

Show your child a video and/or images of the interior of your parish church or another Catholic church. Explain that holy things remind us of God and help us pray. Discuss the following holy objects and why they are holy.

- altar—table on which a priest offers Mass; a sign of Christ
- tabernacle—place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept
- Bible—Word of God
- statues—reminders for us to live holy lives
- crucifix—reminder of how much Jesus loves us
- holy water—reminder that we are baptized and want to live as God's children
- candles—reminders that Jesus is the Light of the World

Read aloud **Our Homes Are Holy** on page 93. Direct your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature for a deeper understanding of the word *sacramental*. Discuss sacramentals you may have in your home or that you have seen in the homes of extended family and friends. (crucifixes, pictures, statues, Bibles, palm branches, medals, rosaries, prayer books, blessed candles, holy water) Talk about ways we show respect for holy things. (We use them to help us pray; we handle them reverently; we never play with them or make fun of them.)

Have your child complete the **Sacramentals at Home** activity. Invite your child to share his or her response.

## Page 94 Chapter Review

Have your child complete the **Living the Second Commandment** activity. Discuss how Liam, Layla, and Emma are showing reverence for what is holy. Discuss what Gabriel, Avery, and William could do differently to show deeper respect for God's name, sacramentals, and holy places.

Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by having your child locate the words and their definitions in the **Glossary**.

Have your child describe the Second Commandment in his or her own words. Then have your child compare this to the **We Remember** and **We Respond** statements.

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

Complete the **Your Turn** activity together with your child.

## Page 95 Families in Mission

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

### SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Say: ***When we are baptized, we become God's children. We join a family, a community of believers.***

### KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Have your child read aloud the sentence above the chart. Then read aloud the first bullet under **We Know Our Faith**, and have your child read aloud the corresponding bullet under **We Proclaim Our Faith**. Repeat this for the remaining points.

### TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child read the answer choices and choose the correct answer. [ANSWER: speak the Lord's name with love and respect.] Say: ***Jesus' name is holy. We set it apart from our everyday speech. We use his name when we ask for help, when we thank him, and when we praise him.***

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



Page 96 **Families in Mission, continued****A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know**. Say: *Saint Martha took care of Jesus. He reminded her that it is equally important to spend time talking and listening to him. We can do this when we pray.*

**WITNESS AND SHARE**

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then take turns with your child reading aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each 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 example, and then share yours, or work together. Have other family members participate if possible.

Wrap up the lesson with a reminder that we can pray Jesus' name over and over. When we need to ask for forgiveness, we can say an ancient prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." Invite your child to reflect on his or her day for a moment. Then offer the prayer. "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Amen."

Page 97 **Chapter 12: We Keep the Lord's Day Holy****Before You Begin**

1. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, writing supplies, and the Scripture prayer booklet **Walking with Jesus** from previous lessons.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: The Third Commandment tells us to honor the Lord's Day by participating in the Eucharist, resting and spending time with family, and doing works of charity. Celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday, the Lord's Day, is the heart of the Church's life. It is also our response to God's command to worship him. Sunday recalls the first creation and symbolizes the new creation resulting from Christ's Resurrection. Sunday is a day when we should take extra time to appreciate God's precious gifts of life and love and to give God thanks and praise through the eucharistic celebration, time with family, and rest.

**The Day of Jesus' Resurrection**

As you begin the lesson, help your child transition into this special time of faith formation. Have your child put away any devices, toys, or other things that could distract either of you from giving full attention to God. If it will help your child to center him- or herself, play calming instrumental music for a minute. Invite your child to take a deep breath in and out, as you do the same. Then pray, "You are most holy, O God, and we honor you by offering this time to learn about you and your commandments. Amen."

Remind your child that the first three commandments tell us how to love God. Review what the first two commandments call us to do. (honor God above all else; honor and respect God's holy name)

Talk about your child's favorite holidays or special events your family celebrates every month or year. Discuss why you like celebrating these special times and then imagine what it would be like if you did not have these practices. We have different ways of celebrating holidays and important days, and the things we do often become traditions. We expect to do them, and when we don't for some reason, the celebration doesn't feel the same.

Share that the story of special days goes back to the beginning of time when God created the world. Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs, including the Third Commandment. Explain that God rested on the seventh day, and he wants his people to rest and rejoice in his work of creation too.

Read aloud the third and fourth paragraphs. Have your child underline reasons why we keep Sunday as our holy day of the week. Call your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature and review the definition of *Lord's Day*.

**Page 98 Sunday Observances**

Have your child read silently the first three paragraphs on the page. Discuss the ways the Church tells us to keep Sunday holy. (participate in Mass, rest from work, spend time with family, and serve others)

No family is perfect, just like no person is. We can all strengthen our Sunday observance, and God is calling us to grow closer to him. Learning more about the Third Commandment can be a grace-filled moment for your family, a time to draw you into deeper commitment to worship and time with family. Discuss how your family already tries to make Sunday holy and what else you can do together to honor the Lord's Day.

Read aloud **Holy Days of Obligation**. Refer to the definition of *precepts of the Church* in the **Word to Know** feature. Have your child go to page 248 of the **What Catholics Should Know** section of the book and locate the holy days of obligation and precepts of the Church. Explain that we celebrate special feast days honoring Jesus, Mary, and the saints by offering Mass. Talk about each one.

**Page 99 Keeping the Lord's Day Holy**

Have your child complete the activity on page 99. [ANSWERS: 1. Mass; 2a. pray; 2b. rest; 2c. rejoice; 3. Sunday; 4. Resurrection; 5. Jesus]

Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature, inviting your child to sit quietly and spend time with Jesus. Pray the prayer slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate long enough for your child to reflect on the words.

Enact this scene with your child. Say: ***I will play the part of someone who wakes up on Sunday morning and doesn't feel like going to Mass. You will play the part of my conscience. What reasons will you give me to change my mind?***

Lead your child in a discussion of the images on pages 97–99. Share how each is connected to keeping the Lord's Day holy.

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

**Page 100 The Eucharist Is Our Greatest Prayer**

Read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture quote on page 100. Discuss why these words of Jesus sound so familiar. (Jesus said these words when he instituted the Eucharist, and we hear similar words in every Mass during the Eucharistic Prayer.)

Say: ***Jesus commanded us to celebrate the Eucharist every week because he knew we needed his help and his strength to lead holy lives. How does the Eucharist help us?*** (It unites us; it makes us holy; it deepens our relationship with God and with one another; we hear God's Word; we receive the gift of Jesus himself in Holy Communion.)

Have your child read silently the remaining paragraphs on the page. Point out that the prayer on the page is what we say in response to the priest when he begins the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**Page 101 Make the Sun Shine on the Lord's Day**

Have your child read aloud the directions for the activity and complete it together. Talk about things you already do together as a family that you can intentionally offer as a way to make Sunday holy—ride bikes together, take care of pets, visit family members, eat a meal together, just be together without phones and devices.

Direct your child to open the Scripture prayer booklet **Walking with Jesus** to page 5 and read it together. Encourage your child to fill in as much of the page as he or she can and to listen carefully to the readings and Homily at next Sunday's Mass.

**Page 102 Chapter Review**

Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by locating the words and their definitions in the **Glossary**.

Have your child read the **We Remember** statement and together say aloud the **We Respond** statement.

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

Point out that the word *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving.” Read aloud the directions for the **Your Turn** activity. As your child completes the activity in the book, you do so as well on a separate sheet of paper. Take turns sharing your responses. Encourage your child to see the importance of being thankful for the simple but beautiful experiences in life, like a smile from a family member or a good laugh with a friend.

**Page 103 Families in Mission**

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

**SCRIPTURE**

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Say: ***When we keep God first in our lives, all our actions become prayerful. We become living examples of his love.***

**KNOW AND PROCLAIM**

Have your child read aloud the sentence above the chart. Then read aloud the first bullet under **We Know Our Faith**, and have your child read aloud the corresponding bullet under **We Proclaim Our Faith**. Repeat this for the remaining points.

**TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE**

Read aloud the question in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child read the answer choices and choose the correct answer. [ANSWER: participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.]

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

**Page 104 Families in Mission, continued****A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know**. Share that Saint Luke, inspired by the Holy Spirit, acted as a witness for Christ. He and the other gospel writers left us with instructions for how to follow Jesus. We are meant to take what we learn and live as witnesses in the world today.

**WITNESS AND SHARE**

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then take turns with your child reading aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each for reflection.

**SHARE YOUR FAITH**

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and discuss the activity.

End the lesson by praying the Lord's Prayer and giving each other a sign of peace and love.

Page 105 **Chapter 13: We Grow in Holiness****Before You Begin**

1. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, writing supplies, a houseplant/flowers/herb plant, two songs, and candles or flowers for the prayer celebration.
2. Decide whether you will start the lesson outside if you have a flower or herb garden.
3. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
4. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: We must not only hear God's Word but also live it. The parable of the sower is an invitation to a life of deeper faith, hope, and love. These three gifts, which were given to us at Baptism, must grow if God's Word is to take root in our hearts. In this parable, Jesus compares the things that hinder the growth of God's Word in our hearts to the things that hinder seeds from growing. He compares the good soil to hearts that are open to him in faith.

**We Receive the Word of the Kingdom**

As you begin the lesson, help your child transition into this special time of faith formation. Have your child put away any devices, toys, or other things that could distract either of you from giving full attention to God. If it will help your child to center him- or herself, play calming instrumental music for a minute. Invite your child to take a deep breath in and out, as you do the same. Then pray the following as an echo prayer. You pray aloud a phrase and have your child repeat it before moving to the next one. "Holy Spirit, open our ears to hear your Word and open our hearts to make your Word a part of our lives. Amen."

If you have a garden area or a place inside where you keep houseplants or an herb garden, you may want to gather there for the beginning of the lesson.

Remind your child that you have learned about the first three commandments, which tell us to love God. Point out that one way to love God is to listen to his Word and obey.

Discuss the process of growing a flower. If you have planted seeds with your child, reference that experience. Ask your child what the seed would need to grow into a flower. (water, soil, sunlight) Talk about what would happen to the seeds if you put them in a pot with good soil, watered them, and placed them in a warm spot near a window. (They would sprout and take root.) Why wouldn't all the seeds grow? (Some might be old; seeds watered too much might rot; neglected seeds would dry up.) Tell your child that today you will hear what Jesus said about planting seeds.

Explain that in Jesus' time, a farmer in Palestine didn't plow his field first and then plant the seeds, as we do today. First the farmer would scatter the seeds by hand all over his land. Then he plowed his field, turning the seeds under the soil. The farmer responsible for scattering the seeds is called a *sower*. Jesus once told the parable of the sower.



Read aloud the first paragraph and Mark 4:3–9 on page 105. Ask: ***In this parable, why didn't some seeds grow?*** (some fell on rocky soil; some fell among weeds and thorns; some were eaten by birds; some had too much sun) ***Which seeds grew well?*** (those that fell in rich soil)

Take turns reading aloud the rest of the page to learn Jesus' explanation of the parable.

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and listen to the audio together.

Say: ***Just as we give seeds what they need to grow, we should give God's Word what it needs to grow in our hearts. We need a strong faith and love for God if God's Word is to grow in our hearts. Faith and love come from God, but we can help. What can we do to increase our faith and love?*** (We can pray and ask God to help us; we can participate in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and receive Holy Communion regularly; we can read and listen to the Word of God.)

Discuss things in our hearts that keep God's Word from growing. (laziness, selfishness, stubbornness, loving other things more than God) Identify things we can do when we notice these things in our hearts. (tell God we are sorry; ask him to help us; participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation) Share things we do when God's Word is growing in our hearts. (We show love for God and others; we keep the commandments; we are kind, obedient, truthful, honest, pure, and generous.)

### Page 106 Understanding the Parable

Have your child complete the **Understanding the Parable** activity. Check his or her work and clarify information as necessary. [ANSWERS: top row—1, 5; middle—3; bottom row—2, 4]

### Page 107 How Is God's Word Growing?

Discuss with your child the situations in the **How Is God's Word Growing?** activity. Have your child write solutions.

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

### Pages 108–109 Unit 3 Review

Have your child work independently to complete the **Word Search** activity on page 108. Together, read each incomplete statement in the **Complete the Sentences** activity on page 109. Have your child write the correct word on the blank line. [ANSWERS: 1. life; 2. God; 3. Lord; 4. gods; 5. hearts; 6. saints; 7. vain; 8. people; 9. Lord's; 10. holy]

**Pages 110–111 From Tiny Seeds the Kingdom Grows**

Ask your child to help you select two songs for the celebration. You may wish to use candles or flowers to decorate the space you will hold the prayer celebration.

Determine which parts you and your child will read aloud during the celebration. Have other family members participate if possible.

Say: ***We are all important and special in God's kingdom. We want to love and serve God in all that we think, say, and do. As we live and work for him, he gives his light to help us follow him and serve others. To show our happiness that we are workers in God's kingdom, let's celebrate.***

Follow the order of celebration, pausing before and after each reading and prayer.

**Page 112 Looking Back at Unit 3**

Take turns reading the page. Have your child complete the **Living the Message** activity. Talk about the sentences your child did not check and discuss ways he or she may live the Lord's message more fully.

Read the directions for the **Planning Ahead** activity and listen to your child's ideas. Consider having some of the activities be things the family can do together.

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child play the **Stump the Shepherd** unit review game.

**Page 113 Families in Mission**

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

**SCRIPTURE**

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Explain that we show God's love by how we act, not by using words alone to tell others what we believe.

**KNOW AND PROCLAIM**

Have your child read aloud the sentence above the chart. Then read aloud the first bullet under **We Know Our Faith**, and have your child read aloud the corresponding bullet under **We Proclaim Our Faith**. Repeat this for the remaining points. Say: ***We can always learn more from God's Word. The same Scripture passage teaches us new things each time we experience it.***

**TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE**

Read aloud the question in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child read the answer choices and choose the correct answer. [ANSWER: Only talk about God with other Christians.]

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

Page 114 **Families in Mission, continued****A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know**. Say: *Isaac Jogues dedicated his life to telling others about Jesus. Let us thank God for Isaac and for other missionaries all over the world.*

**WITNESS AND SHARE**

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then take turns with your child reading aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each for reflection.

**SHARE YOUR FAITH**

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and complete the activity together. Have other family members participate if possible.

Conclude the lesson with a commitment to active participation in Mass. Pray: *Holy Father, as we fully give our hearts and minds to you at Mass, fill us with your peace and love so we may live your message more fully each day. Amen.*