

Unit 2: God Forms a Family of Faith

Before You Begin

Read **A Letter Home**, found on page 48 of the Student Book. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit 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, and writing supplies.
2. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: Abraham made a covenant of faith with the one true God. God identified himself to Moses as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through God's self-revelation, Abram the shepherd became Abraham, "Father of Many Nations."
3. Familiarize yourself with the **Words to Know** for this chapter: *covenant* and *sacrifice*.

Page 47 Unit 2 Opener

Invite your child to turn to page 47. Ask him or her to read aloud the title of Unit 2 and the Scripture passage at the bottom of the page. Discuss each image and how your child thinks it might relate to the unit. Relate that he or she will learn in this unit about salvation history, how God's plan of salvation unfolded in the lives of the Patriarchs, and how the Old Testament anticipates the salvation we find in Jesus Christ.

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

Page 49 Chapter 6: Abraham Is Our Father in Faith

Ask your child to read aloud the chapter title. Tell your child that Abraham is known as the father of all who believe. Explain that Abraham's example of trusting in God gives us hope that despite the challenges we face, our Father in heaven will always be there for us.

God's Call and Abram's Response

Take turns with your child reading aloud the text on page 49. Explain that moving was not easy in Abram's day. In addition to Abraham being 75 years old, moving was dangerous and meant traveling with relatives, servants, flocks of animals, and household goods. Also point out that God was just beginning to reveal himself. Abram knew little about God at this time. Ask your child how he or she would feel being asked to move to a new place where he or she did not know anyone or what the place was like.

If you choose, scan the QR code at the top of the page and listen to the audio together.

Page 50 Map Search

Review the map on page 50 with your child. Ask your child why he or she thinks the shaded area is called the Fertile Crescent. (The soil is rich and crops grow well. It is a crescent shape like a quarter moon.) Read aloud the directions for the first part of the activity and complete it together with your child. Point out that Abram probably settled somewhere between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

After finishing the first part of the activity, open your Bible to Isaiah 43:1 and invite your child to read it aloud. Allow time for him or her to reflect and write his or her thoughts. Discuss with your child where he or she hears God calling him or her to be part of his holy family. Give an example of your own.

Page 51 God's Covenant with Abram

Have your child read silently **God's Covenant with Abram** on page 51. Explain to your child that in ancient times, names not only identified a person but also told what kind of individual that person was. A change in name meant a change in the person. Discuss with your child ceremonies today, such as Confirmation or Holy Matrimony, at which people change their names and how that signifies they are new people.

Point out the boldfaced word and read aloud the definition of *covenant* from the **Word to Know** feature box. Explain that a covenant is a sacred relationship that God invites us to enter into. Though that covenant expresses our total dependence on him, God does not impose his will on us.

In God We Trust

Have your child read aloud **In God We Trust**. Discuss what it means to him or her to be part of one faith family and what responsibilities we have to all our brothers and sisters.

Page 52 Our Covenant with God

Have your child read aloud **Our Covenant with God** on page 52. Point out that just as Abraham made a journey of faith, so do we beginning at Baptism. Discuss ways we live out our baptismal covenant with God and grow in our relationships with him and others. (by praying, participating in the sacraments, and giving witness to our faith in Christlike words and actions)

Read aloud the directions for **Keeping the Covenant** on page 52 and allow time for your child to complete the activity. Share with him or her something you do to live out your own baptismal covenant. When you are finished, lead your child in prayer to Jesus using the **A Moment with Jesus** and conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

Page 53 A Challenge to Abraham's Faith

Ask your child to tell about a time when he or she was asked to trust someone or to trust God in a difficult situation and everything turned out all right. Share an experience of your own. Then take turns reading aloud **A Challenge to Abraham's Faith** on page 53. Point out the boldfaced word and read aloud the definition for *sacrifice* from the **Word to Know** feature box. Say: *The main lesson of this chapter is that God looks for the sacrifice of our wills rather than for human sacrifice.*

A Story of Trust

Have your child read aloud **A Story of Trust** on page 53. Discuss some times from your own life in which you sacrificed your will to say yes to God.

Page 54 Abraham's Sacrifice

Decide which parts you and your child will read aloud in **Abraham's Sacrifice** on page 54. You may also consider involving additional family members. Read aloud the skit and challenge your child to put him- or herself in Abraham's place. Discuss how your child would feel to be asked to make such a tremendous sacrifice. Remind him or her that Abraham did not know God was only testing him. Abraham did not know God would stop him before sacrificing his son. Explain to your child that in the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, we pray that God will accept our offerings as he accepted "the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith."

Pages 55–56 Chapter Review

Direct your child to the Chapter 6 Review on pages 55 and 56. Lead him or her through the **We Remember** questions and review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by locating the words and their definitions in the **Glossary**. Allow time for your child to respond to the **We Respond** prompt and complete the **Your Turn** activity. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**.

Allow time for your child to complete the review activities on page 56 and discuss his or her responses.

Page 57 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 57. Say: *In Baptism, God promises to give us eternal life if we have faith in him and live our faith in word and actions.*

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: *God called Abram to make a journey to a distant, unknown land. His journey led Abram to a deeper and clearer life of faith.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the sentence and answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child complete the sentence and say: *Abraham's life teaches us that we are to trust God if we truly desire a life of faith.* [ANSWER: Chosen People.]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 57.

Page 58 Families in Mission, continued**A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 58. Say: *Dominic's mission was to live a life of ministry, bringing salvation to people through the Word of God.*

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 **Share Your Faith** directions and have your child complete the activity. Invite him or her to tell how his or her relationship with God has grown and discuss your own relationship with God.

Explain that Abraham lived in the Middle East, a region of the world that suffers from political and religious conflict today. Invite your child to include the people in the Middle East in his or her nightly prayers. Then, if time allows, pray a decade of the Rosary for peace in the world.

Page 59 Chapter 7: Jacob Is Chosen by God**Before You Begin**

1. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this 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. Familiarize yourself with the **Word to Know** for this chapter: *Israelites*.
4. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: The covenant promises were passed on through Jacob. The story of Jacob illustrates the freedom of God's everlasting choice. In spite of Jacob's faults and failures, God does not revoke his choice but continually calls his chosen one to grow.

Page 59 Sibling Rivalry

Have your child read aloud the chapter title and tell him or her that this lesson is about Abraham's grandson Jacob and how he was chosen by God. Then take turns reading aloud the text on page 59. Ask your child what he or she thinks this story says about each person in it: Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau.

If you choose, scan the QR code at the top of the page and listen to the audio together.

Page 60 God's Promises Endure

Have your child read aloud the paragraph at the top of page 60. Explain that while it might appear that Jacob's deception of Isaac was all part of God's plan, it was human intervention. Rebekah and Jacob did not trust God.

Read aloud Genesis 27:1–29 from your Bible. Then have your child answer the questions in the activity **A Stolen Blessing** on page 60. Ask your child to share his or her answers.

Have your child read silently **Jacob's Dream** on page 60. Discuss with him or her your experience of receiving the Eucharist at Mass and how it feels to know Christ is truly present.

Page 61 More Tricks

Have your child read aloud the section **More Tricks** on page 61. Then find Genesis 29:15–30 in your Bible and read the passage aloud. Explain that in Jacob's day, it was unusual for a younger sister to marry before an older sister. Because the custom was for the groom not to see the bride's face until after the marriage ceremony, Laban could trick Jacob into marrying his older daughter, Leah.

Invite your child to find Genesis 31:1–18 and read it aloud. Discuss how he or she thinks Jacob has changed over the course of the story. Ask your child what he or she thinks Jacob's obedience to God's will, despite his fear of Esau's anger, tells us about Jacob. (He had learned to trust in God.)

Jacob Wrestles with God

Take turns reading aloud **Jacob Wrestles with God**. Then point out the boldfaced word and read aloud the definition for *Israelites* from the **Word to Know** feature box. Remind your child that God changed Abram's and Sarai's names as well when he gave them a special calling.

Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature. Allow time for your child to pray quietly and conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

What Is Your Name?

Have your child read aloud **What Is Your Name?** on page 61. Relate to your child if you took a new name at Confirmation, what it is, and why you took that name.

Page 62 **A Chosen Race**

Have your child read aloud **A Chosen Race** on page 62. Relate to him or her that as baptized members of the Church, our mission is to walk with Jesus wherever we go, bringing his message to others. Explain that walking with Jesus is not always easy, but God wants us to know that we are never alone. The Holy Spirit is always with us.

Chosen, Not Perfect

Read aloud **Chosen, Not Perfect** on page 62. Discuss if your child thinks we are like Jacob and how. (Possible answers: God chose Jacob; God chose us. Jacob was weak and needed God's strength; we are weak and need God's strength.) Say: ***We can always pray and ask God to help us. Your Father is always listening.***

Read aloud the introduction to the activity **Sacramental Grace** and have your child answer the questions. Discuss his or her answers.

Pages 63–64 **Chapter Review**

Direct your child to the Chapter 7 Review on pages 63 and 64. Lead him or her through the **We Remember** questions and review the **Word to Know** in this chapter by locating the word and its definition in the **Glossary**. Allow time for your child to complete the **We Respond** and **Your Turn** activities. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**.

Allow time for your child to complete the review activities on page 64 and discuss his or her responses.

Page 65 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 65. Say: *This passage from the Old Testament helps us understand that we are chosen by God. As a Chosen People, we are dearly beloved by God.*

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: *Through Baptism, we are named God's children and enter the Church. We are called out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the sentence and answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child complete the sentence and discuss what he or she thinks God's choice of an imperfect person to carry out his promise to Abraham can teach us. [ANSWER: reassured of God's blessing]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 65.

Page 66 Families in Mission**A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 66. Say: *Saint Elizabeth's symbol is a triple crown—as a member of royalty, as a mother, and as a saint crowned in heaven. She is the patroness of all Catholic charities.* Encourage your child to follow the example of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. Together, brainstorm one way your family can serve those who are poor and make a plan to act on it.

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 **Share Your Faith** directions and have your child complete the activity. Invite him or her to pray his or her prayer together with you.

Page 67 Chapter 8: The Israelites Journey to Egypt**Before You Begin**

1. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this 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. Familiarize yourself with the **Word to Know** for this chapter: *Divine Providence*.
4. Reflect on the Faith Focus for this lesson: God saved the ancient world from famine through Joseph, an upright, forgiving man. Through salvation history, we find God guiding events in a plan of love. The life of Joseph shows how Divine Providence even uses evil to bring about good. In the final story in Genesis, the life of Joseph bridges the study of Patriarchs and the drama of the Exodus. It also explains why the Israelites came to Egypt.

Page 67 Joseph, Son of Israel

Invite your child to turn to page 67. Have him or her read aloud the chapter title and **Joseph, Son of Israel**. Direct his or her attention to the boldfaced word and read aloud the definition for *Divine Providence* from the **Word to Know** feature box. Have your child underline the sentence that explains Divine Providence. (God provides for our needs and watches over us.) Explain that this does not mean that bad things will never happen to us, but that God is with us during difficult times, offering his guidance. Guide your child to understand that God can bring good even in the midst of evil.

A Story of Envy

Take turns with your child reading aloud **A Story of Envy** on page 67. Ask him or her to describe a time he or she felt envious of someone and talk about how that made him or her feel.

Page 68 A Brother Is Sold

Have your child read aloud **A Brother Is Sold** on page 68. Discuss how feelings of envy can make someone behave in ways other than they normally would. Ask your child if the feelings of envy in the example he or she offered led him or her do something that was contrary to the voice of his or her conscience.

Envy—A Deadly Sin

Read aloud **Envy—A Deadly Sin** on page 68. Say: *Most people experience feelings of envy at some point in their lives. An initial response of envy may not be sinful, but it can become sinful if we do not try to control it—if we allow it to direct our actions and thoughts.* Explain to him or her that we can try to control our envious feelings by avoiding comparing ourselves with others, understanding that each of us has abilities and limitations, recognizing that each person is important and loved by God, and remembering that all gifts come from God.

Have your child complete the activity **Selfless Virtue**. Invite him or her to share his or her answer and discuss ways you honor the Tenth Commandment.

Read aloud **A Moment with Jesus**. Pray the Lord’s Prayer aloud together, then allow time for your child to pray silently in his or her heart to God. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

Page 69 **Dreams and Wonders in Egypt**

Take turns with your child reading aloud **Dreams and Wonders in Egypt** on page 69. Discuss with your child the qualities that Joseph had that made him a good leader. (humble in the use of his power and talents; loyal; honest; hardworking; wise; intelligent; concerned about preparing for the future and helping the people; strong in the face of temptation; devoted to God and God’s laws) Talk about ways you, your child, and your family can show some of the same leadership qualities in helping those who are poor or who are in trouble.

Page 70 **Dreams and Hope**

Have your child read aloud **Dreams and Hope** at the bottom of page 70. Point out that Christian hope is not wishing. It is having confidence in God’s loving plan. Explain that hope gives us the ability to live lives that lead to union with God forever.

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

Solidarity

Read aloud **Solidarity** at the top of page 70. Ask your child to recall recent events in the news in which a tragedy or natural disaster resulted in a generous response from around the world. Point out that these are examples of people recognizing their solidarity with others.

Pages 70–71 **A Family Reunited**

Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph of **A Family Reunited** on page 70. Ask why he or she thinks Joseph’s brothers did not want to bring Benjamin to Egypt. (Possible answers: They felt guilty over what they had done to Joseph and did not want to hurt their father more by taking away Benjamin. They were afraid that Israel would not survive the loss of Benjamin.)

Alternate reading aloud the remainder of **A Family Reunited** on pages 70 and 71. Ask your child why he or she thinks Joseph first honored Benjamin, then framed him for stealing. Guide him or her to understand that after the loss of Joseph, Benjamin had become Israel's favorite son. Joseph was testing his brothers to see whether they would sacrifice Benjamin in the same way they sacrificed him. Then draw your child's attention to the verses from Genesis Chapter 50. Explain that this was a sign that Joseph had grown up and learned to trust in God's plan.

Page 71 **Caring for Our Family**

Have your child read aloud **Caring for Our Family** on page 71. Ask your child to share examples of what he or she can do to contribute to the well-being of your family. Explain that the story of Joseph in Genesis has two purposes. First, it demonstrates how God, in providential love, works all events into the plan of salvation. Joseph's response to his brothers' request for forgiveness shows his understanding of God's plan. Second, the story explains how the Chosen People came to live and prosper in the land of Egypt.

Page 72 **Providence in Our Lives**

Take turns with your child reading aloud **Providence in Our Lives** on page 72. Ask at what times he or she thinks Joseph may have had a difficult time understanding what was happening in his life. (Examples: when his brothers attacked him; when he was unjustly accused by Potiphar's wife; when he was put in prison) Explain that as Joseph saw how God protected him, he gradually grew in trust. Then discuss the three steps for growing in trust presented in this section. (Think about the things that happen to us and others. Remember that God loves us and that no matter what happens, God can bring good from it. In prayer, ask God to help us trust in his plan for our lives.) Invite your child to describe a time when he or she felt God taking care of him or her in a special way. Discuss your child's response and tell about a time you felt God acting in your life.

Together, complete the activity **Thy Will Be Done**. When you finish, emphasize that heaven is not a place but a way of being in relation with God. Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer aloud.

Pages 73–74 **Chapter Review**

Direct your child to the Chapter 8 Review on pages 73 and 74. Lead him or her through the **We Remember** questions and review the **Word to Know** in this chapter by locating the word and its definition in the **Glossary**. Say: **Look at the We Respond section. Let's pray this aloud together.** Then have your child complete the **Your Turn** activity. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**.

Work together with your child to complete the review activity **Joseph's Journey** on page 74.

Page 75 Families in Mission

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

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and Scripture in the sidebar on page 75. Say: *Divine Providence is God's care for all our needs. This psalm relates to God's Divine Providence.*

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: *As Catholics, we hope for good things because we trust God's plan for our salvation and well-being. This hope encourages us to do what is good and right.*

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question and say: *We are not alone when things go wrong. God is always with us.* [ANSWER: God's care over all creation and his guidance of all people.]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 75.

Page 76 Families in Mission**A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 76. Explain to your child that while the Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell us a great deal about Jesus' lineage, we learn very little about Mary's family. Tell him or her that Tradition tells us the names of Mary's parents and that they have been honored by the Church since the time of the earliest Christians. If you choose, scan the QR code at the top of the page and watch the video about Saint Joachim and Saint Anne together.

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 **Share Your Faith** directions and have your child complete the activity. Then discuss with him or her times that God has worked in the life of your family.

Page 77 Chapter 9: Unit 2 Review**Before You Begin**

1. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this 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. If you choose to make a memorial stone, collect a large smooth, clean stone and art supplies.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: God formed the people, gradually revealing himself to them. The Patriarchs were the heirs of the promise of redemption, a promise fulfilled through Jesus Christ. We gain courage and hope by recognizing God's providence in our lives, and that knowledge frees us to be trusting people.

Pages 77–79 Reviewing

Relate to your child the importance of sacramentals to Catholic worship. Explain that in addition to sacred signs instituted by the Church that prepare us to receive the sacraments, sacramentals are also objects that remind us of God's presence in our everyday lives. They help create a worshipful atmosphere. Show him or her any sacramentals, such as rosaries, scapulars, or statues, you have.

Explain to your child that it is good for each of us to have a special place to meet the Lord, a favorite place for prayer. Going to this place is a sign to God that we are ready to listen. Share your own favorite place to pray. Tell him or her that you will both make a sacramental stone marker for your special places of prayer.

Together, make memorial stones. Decorate smooth, clean stones using paint, markers, tissue paper, and glue. Instruct your child to include a word or words that are meaningful to him or her on the stone. Allow time for the stones to dry and gently coat them with liquid white glue to seal their designs.

Relate to your child that this chapter is a unit review. Tell him or her that you are going to recall what he or she has learned about God's promise to Abraham and how that promise was passed on through the other Patriarchs.

Invite your child to turn to page 77. Read aloud the directions for the activity **Then and Now** and complete it together, discussing each answer.

Have your child complete **A Scroll Puzzle** on page 78. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page for your child to undertake the **Interactive Chapter Review**.

Take turns reading aloud the descriptions for **Family Tree** on page 79. Have your child write the name he or she thinks is correct for each. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and listen to the audio together.

Pages 80–81 We Celebrate God’s Presence

With your child, select two songs you would like to use in the celebration. The chosen songs should have the theme of meeting with God, prayer, or celebrating God’s presence. Practice the chosen songs together. Decide which parts each of you will read aloud during the celebration. Then bookmark your Bible to Genesis 12:7 and Genesis 28:10–22 for the readings.

Prepare to present your designated memorial stones during the celebration by explaining the gesture of extending your symbols during prayer. Explain to your child that the altar and the Bible are sacred. God is present there. When you extend your symbols toward the altar and the Bible, you show a desire to have the symbols share in the holiness of God. Guide your child through **We Celebrate God’s Presence** on pages 80 and 81.

Page 82 Unit 2 Review

Take turns reading aloud **Looking Back at Unit 2** on page 82. Have your child complete **An Encouraging Letter** and invite him or her to share his or her letter with you. Ask your child to complete the activities **Living the Message** and **Planning Ahead**. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page for your child to undertake the **Stump the Shepherd** unit review game.

Have your child dramatize an interview with one of the Patriarchs. Let your child choose a Patriarch to represent in the interview and allow time for him or her to prepare answers to these questions that you will ask: ***When did God call you? Where and in what way did God call you? Why did God call you? How did you respond at first? Later? What advice would you give to present-day Christians?***

Page 83 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 83. Ask: ***What does it say about God to refer to him as an eternal rock?*** (He is our foundation; he is solid and unchanging.)

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Point out to your child that sacramentals can be prayers and blessings as well as objects.

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud the question and answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question and say: ***God made a covenant with us at Baptism. Our Baptism gives us a new identity—that of a child of God.*** [ANSWER: because God made a new covenant with Abram.]

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

Page 84 Families in Mission, continued**A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 84. Explain to your child that Justin's written defense of Christianity gives us insight into the early Church. Around the year 160, Justin described the Rite of Baptism, which is similar to our rite today.

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 **Share Your Faith** directions and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to reflect on the faith of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph and how they showed their faith in God. Discuss with your child ways your family can witness to your faith.