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 quiet learning space free from distractions 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: We Come to Know God

Before You Begin

1. 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.
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: God reveals himself in many ways but most especially through his Son, Jesus. Our good God reveals himself to us so that we can come to know and love him. In this lesson, your child will learn that God helps us know him through his words and deeds. You will consider the works of creation and realize that from them we can learn something about God. Most importantly, God reveals himself perfectly in his Son, Jesus.

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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, with deep respect.*** Invite your child to demonstrate how to treat something with reverence.

Then look through the book together. Say: ***The title of our book is* God Guides Us. *In Unit 1, we will learn about how God reaches out to us through his creation; his written Word in the Bible; his Son, Jesus; and the Church.***

Invite your child to turn to page 1. Read aloud the unit title, **We Come to Know God.** Have your child identify 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. Ask your child what he or she thinks it means to be a child of God, and share your thoughts too.

Discuss how we can see God's presence in each scene illustrated on the page (in the world he's created, the animals, the flowers, and especially people; in the way the child shares a balloon; in how the family brings the baby to be baptized; in the way Saint Francis cares for all of creation). Explain to your child that he or she will learn the ways God reveals himself to us and how we can respond.

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

Page 3

Chapter 1: God Reveals Himself to Us Through His Son

Invite your child to describe the photo at the top of the page. (two smiling friends at school) Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on the page. Prompt your child to recall a time he or she was excited to tell a friend something. Discuss how it feels when you share important news and when you hear special news.

God Calls Us to Be His Friends

Share that God calls us to be his friends. God wants to share wonderful things with us. He calls to us through Scripture, creation, the Church, our families, and most of all in his Son, Jesus.

Have your child think of words that begin with prefix *tri-*. (*tricycle, triangle, triplet*) Ask what the prefix *tri-* means. (three)

Read aloud the next two paragraphs. Say: **Trinity *refers to the one God in Three Persons.*** Invite your child to name the Three Persons. (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) Share some prayers we pray that address the Trinity. (Sign of the Cross, the Glory Be to the Father)

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Have your child read aloud the last paragraph on page 3. Talk about the picture on the bottom of the page. Stress that Jesus calls us to be his friends so that we can be happy with him forever in heaven.

Page 4 God Reveals Himself in Creation

Have your child silently read the first three paragraphs on the page. Explain that one way we respond to God's gift is by praising and blessing him. Have your child point out the orange text on the page and ask what makes this text special. (It's from the Bible.) Then take turns praying aloud each stanza of Psalm 104.

Read aloud the directions for the **Share God's Creation with Others** activity. While your child completes it in the Student Book, you do so as well on a separate sheet of paper. Share your responses when you are done. If your child needs help answering the question, provide an example. (Trees are big like God's power; the sounds make me feel happy, as if hearing God's voice.)

Have your child circle three words on page 4 that tell what God's creation reveals about him. (*great, good,* and *loving*)

Page 5 Jesus Reveals the Father's Love

Have your child silently read the first paragraph. Ask: ***What are some things Jesus reveals about God our Father?*** (how good and great God is; God's kindness, forgiveness, and love for people who are in need)

Take turns reading aloud sentences in the second paragraph and the Scripture verse at the end of it. Call your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature; have your child read aloud the definition of *Incarnation.*

Explain that Jesus wanted his followers to understand his unique relationship to God the Father. Jesus told them that he is in the Father and the Father is in him; whoever believes in him believes in the Father. Prompt your child to read aloud the rest of the page. Note that all disciples are called to reveal the love of God the Father by showing care and concern for those who are in need. Discuss some ways you do this as a family or share an experience of your reaching out to others.

Page 6 Jesus Invites Us to Believe

Read aloud the story of Doubting Thomas, paragraphs 1–4, ending with the Scripture verse from John.

Talk about why Thomas didn't believe the other Apostles when they told him that Jesus was risen. (Thomas didn't see Jesus himself.) Have your child describe the scene depicted in the stained-glass art on the page.

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Ask: ***Why did Jesus invite Thomas to put his hand into Jesus' side?*** (He wanted Thomas to believe.) Explain that Thomas's prayer showed that he believed Jesus is God. Ask your child whom Jesus called blessed. (those who believe in him and the Father without seeing)

Call your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature and invite him or her to read aloud the definition of *faith*. You can have your child go to the **Glossary** to learn more about faith or go to page 252 of the **What Catholics Should Know** section to learn about the Theological Virtues. Then direct your child to read silently the remaining paragraphs on the page. Ask your child to share one way he or she has grown in faith since Baptism. Share with your child an experience when you grew in faith.

Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature on page 6. Invite your child to sit quietly and spend time with Jesus as you read aloud the text.

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

Page 7 Knowing Jesus in Our Homes

Discuss the **Knowing Jesus in Our Homes** activity, then have your child complete it and the **How We Come to Know Jesus Today** activity at the bottom of the page.

Page 8 Chapter Review

Have your child read the **We Remember** statements.

Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by locating the words and their definitions in the **Glossary.** Consider bookmarking the first page of the **Glossary** so it will be easy to access the next time.

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

Discuss the directions for the **Your Turn** activity. Help your child with the puzzle, as needed. [ANSWERS: 1. Life; 2. Share; 3. Believe; 4. Gift; 5. Holy]

Direct your child's attention to the **We Respond** section and explain that you will pray the Act of Faith at the end of the lesson.

Page 9 Families in Mission

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

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar.

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 proclaim our faith with our words and our actions. We share God's love when we serve those who are vulnerable or in need.***

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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: Incarnation]

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

Page 10 Families in Mission, continued

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 10. Say: ***Saint Joan of Arc was an unlikely soldier. By putting her faith in God and putting her trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance, she acted as a witness for Christ.*** Discuss ways you can be witnesses for Christ.

WITNESS AND SHARE

Ask your child what a witness does. (speaks the truth about what he or she has seen or heard) Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then have your child 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 complete the activity together. Invite your child to share his or her example, and then share yours. Discuss how your examples can inspire others.

Pray the Act of Faith from page 8 to bring the lesson to a close.

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Page 11

Chapter 2: God Speaks to Us in Scripture

Before You Begin

1. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, the Scripture Prayer Booklet Walking with Jesus, writing supplies, and a stapler.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit and chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
3. Select a special place of honor for your family Bible, if you don't have one already. This space would be well suited for prayer during the lesson.
4. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: God's written Word reveals his love. Scripture is the written Word of God. Scripture was written by people of great faith who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write down the truths of faith. The human authors of the Bible—many of whom are unknown—used poetry, history, speeches, letters, and stories to express what God wanted us to know about his love and our salvation.

God's Written Word

As you begin the lesson, help your child transition into this special time of faith formation. Model this for your child: close your eyes, take a deep breath in and out, and quietly instruct your child to do the same. Open your eyes and begin by praying the Sign of the Cross together.

Ask your child to recall two main ways we come to know God. (through creation and Jesus) Share that today you will study a third way God reveals himself.

Describe a time you got closer to a friend through a letter, card, or email. Point out how you learned something about the person by what was said. Ask your child to share a time he or she learned something new about a friend through a letter, card, email, or other message.

Explain that God tells us about himself through his written Word. Ask your child what is happening at the top of the page. (An adult and child are reading the Bible.)

Read aloud the first paragraph. Discuss how Scripture came to be. Explain that long before there were any books, God was among the Chosen People. He revealed himself through words and deeds. God gave the people laws to live by. Stories of God's love and action in the lives of the people were shared. This went on for hundreds of years. Say: ***Once people knew how to write, God called people to write some of the stories to tell us about his love and important truths people needed to know for our salvation. God the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors—worked in their minds and hearts—as they wrote.***

Call your child's attention to the **Words to Know** feature; have your child read aloud the definitions for *Scripture* and *salvation*.

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Ask your child to name times the Church reads Scripture when it gathers together. (at Mass, in the sacraments, in faith formation) Have your child read aloud the second paragraph. Review how the readings are introduced during Mass and our responses.

Read aloud the third paragraph. Point out the stained-glass window on the page and have your child describe it. (The Bible is on top of a cross and green leaves; the title is Holy Bible.) Say: ***This stained-glass reminds us that God's Word is sacred, or holy. God reveals himself to us in Scripture, which means "holy writing." Because God inspired Scripture, he is the author of it.***

Have your child read silently the last paragraph. Summarize that the Bible is many books written over 2,000 years ago and divided into two parts. Ask your child to name the two parts. (the Old Testament and the New Testament)

Page 12 Scripture Tells God's Message of Love

Have your child read aloud the first sentence on the page and the first paragraph under **The Old Testament.**

Direct your child's attention to the scroll art at the top of the page. Have your child describe the scenes and help him or her identify stories of the Old Testament that the scenes relate to. (from left to right: Israelites leaving Egypt, Adam and Eve and the Fall, Moses receiving the Ten Commandments, Noah's Ark, Abraham's sacrifice)

Read aloud the second paragraph of the **Old Testament.** Point out the word *prophet.* Have your child read aloud the definition in the **Words to Know** feature on page 13.

Have your child silently read the last paragraph about the psalms. Discuss who the small picture at the bottom of the page is. (David) Ask: ***How do the books in the Old Testament help us?*** (They tell how God wants his people to live.) ***What are the psalms?*** (song-prayers of love, praise, thanksgiving, petition, and sorrow) ***When do we pray or sing the psalms?*** (at Mass and in other celebrations and prayer services of the Church)

Page 13 The New Testament

Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs on the page. As you read the second paragraph, direct your child's attention to the **Words to Know** box to review the definition of *Gospel.* As your child reads aloud the third paragraph, pause to look at the symbols of the four Evangelists on the page. Take turns reading aloud the rest of the page. Say: ***The Bible is the Word of God. We know that God is with us, speaking to us through the Holy Bible.***

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

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Page 14 Messages from the Bible

Have your child read aloud the directions on the page. Then take turns reading aloud the Bible messages. As your child reflects on each verse and records what God is saying to him or her right now, you do the same on a separate sheet of paper. Share one of your connections and invite your child to share one. Ask: ***Why does the Church want us to read Scripture with our families?*** (to know God better; to learn what God wants us to do; to help us show love in our families)

Lead your child in prayer using **A Moment with Jesus.**

Page 15 We Enthrone the Bible

If you have a family Bible, consider going to the place in your home where it's kept or to quiet space you can set aside for prayer each week. Discuss what *enthrone* means; you might want to start with *throne* since your child will likely be familiar with that word. (*Throne* means "place of honor," so *enthrone* means "to put in a place of honor.")

Decide where you wish to enthrone your family Bible. Then hold the enthronement ceremony following the guide on page 15. Take turns praying aloud the parts of the celebration.

Page 16 Chapter Review

Have your child complete the **Knowing the Bible** activity. Review each question after your child finishes it.

Discuss the **We Remember** questions and answers.

Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by locating the words and their definitions in the **Glossary.** If you did not have time last lesson, consider bookmarking the first page of the **Glossary** so it will be easy to access the next time.

Have your child assemble the Scripture Prayer Booklet **Walking with Jesus** found at the back of his or her book. Have him or her work on page 2. Say: ***This Scripture Prayer Booklet can help you come closer to God.*** Instruct your child to keep it in a place he or she can enjoy reading it often.

Invite your child to read aloud the **We Respond** statement. Together complete the **Your Turn** activity. Help your child locate the Gospels at the beginning of the New Testament and select a passage to read.

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

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Page 17 Families in Mission

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

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Say: ***God speaks to us through the Bible. Reading, studying, and praying with Scripture helps us see God's love for us. Then we can share this love with others.***

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Have your child read aloud the sentence above the chart. Have your child read aloud the first bullet under **We Know Our Faith,** and then you 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: the Old Testament] Point out that just as your child studies and read books to learn a subject in school, he or she can study and learn more about God by reading the Bible.

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

Page 18 Families in Mission

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know.** Say: ***Saint John Bosco saw the good in people. His example reminds us that everyone deserves to know God's love. Remember that being an example to others, especially younger children, is sharing your faith.*** Discuss situations at school, in sports or clubs, and in your neighborhood in which you can be an example to others that everyone deserves God's love.

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 one for reflection.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and complete the activity together. Invite your child to share his or her story, and then share yours. You may want to do the same story.

Encourage your child to let the Gospels guide him or her to live how God wants us to live. Pray with your child the Prayer to the Holy Spirit on the inside front cover of the Student Book. To conclude the lesson, say: ***Pray for guidance and strength to live the gospel message each day.***

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Page 19

Chapter 3: God Speaks to Us Through the Church

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 recent parish bulletin, and the names of the pope, the bishop of your diocese, your pastor, other priests in your parish, and deacons who serve in your parish. You can find this in your parish bulletin or parish and diocesan websites.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit and chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: The pope and bishops guide the Church in following Christ. The Apostle Peter called Jesus the Messiah, the Savior promised by God. Jesus, in reply, told Peter that he would build his Church upon Peter. Jesus appointed the Apostles, and their successors the bishops, authentic teachers in the Church. Jesus and the Holy Spirit have given them the authority to teach in Christ's name. Jesus continues to call the pope and bishops to lead his people to faithfully live the Gospel.

We Spread the Good News

As you begin the lesson, help your child transition into this special time of faith formation. Model this for your child: close your eyes, take a deep breath in and out, and quietly instruct your child to do the same. Open your eyes and pray the Sign of the Cross together.

Have your child recall three main ways we come to know God. (through creation, Jesus, and Scripture) Share that today you will see how God speaks to us in his Church.

Prompt your child to look at the pictures at the top and bottom of page 19. Ask who the person at the top of the page represents. (the priests who lead us in Mass) Ask what the bottom picture is showing. (People are coming together for Mass on a Sunday or holy day.)

Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on the page.

Call your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature and review the definition of *Church*. Ask your child who is mentioned multiple times in these paragraphs. (Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church) Ask: ***Who builds up and guides the Church?*** (the Holy Spirit) ***What is the Church a sign of?*** (salvation)

Point out that everyone in the Church helps share Jesus' message and continue his work. Use the three bullets in the last paragraph on page 19 to summarize the role of bishops, priests, and deacons.

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Page 20 God's People Love and Serve

Read aloud the first paragraph on the page. Direct your child to the **Word to Know** feature on the page and have him or her read aloud the definition of *grace.* Stress that grace is a gift. We can't earn it. Jesus earned it for us. But it's the greatest gift that continues to bless us our whole lives.

Have your child read aloud the rest of the page, circling who is described in paragraphs 2–5. Discuss how each group shares God's love. Ask: ***What sorts of actions can make our world more like God's kingdom?*** (peace; love; willingness to share) ***How do married men and women serve as a sign of how Jesus loves the Church?*** (by their love for one another and faithfulness to their sacred vows) ***How do parents, catechists, and teachers serve as a sign of Jesus' love?*** (by caring for children and helping them become loving and caring adults) ***Men and women who take religious vows?*** (by their commitment to their community and by serving the people of God) ***Single people?*** (by their family life, friendships, work, and parish and community involvement)

Have your child complete the **Ways to Serve God's Kingdom** activity on page 20.

Look at a copy of your parish bulletin together. Discuss how your parish spreads the Good News and helps people in need through its different ministries.

Page 21 Jesus Gave Special Authority to Peter

Ask your child to think about what it means when someone has the keys for a safe, chest, or locker? (The contents belong to the person who has the keys.) Say: ***The one with the keys has authority over the contents. Authority is the right to make decisions and to command. Giving someone a key to a lock that belongs to you shows great trust. You would only give a key to someone you trust, to someone whom you knew would treat your possessions well.***

Explain that now you'll read about Jesus giving the keys to the Church to someone. Have your child share who they think this person is. (Peter)

Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs on page 21. Say: ***Peter called Jesus the Messiah, the Son of the living God. When Peter called Jesus the Messiah, he meant that Jesus was the Savior, the Promised One who would bring salvation.***

Lead your child in prayer using **A Moment with Jesus.** Read Matthew 16:13–19 referred to in the feature, slowly and reverently pausing to allow your child to think about what Jesus was asking Peter and the other Apostles. Then read aloud the questions in the feature on page 21.

Ask: ***Why did Jesus give Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven?*** (to give Peter authority) Say: ***Jesus gave Peter the power "to bind and to loose." That meant Peter had the power to make decisions that those in the Church would obey.*** Ask: ***What promise did Jesus make about his Church?*** (that nothing, not even the powers of hell, could overcome it)

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Help your child understand that when we listen to the Catholic Church, we listen to Jesus. And when we listen to Jesus, we are listening to God our Father. Discuss whom we are really obeying when we do what the Church asks. (Jesus)

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

Page 22 The Pope and Bishops Continue Jesus' Work

Have your child read aloud the two paragraphs on the page. Ask your child why every pope has the same authority to govern and lead God's Church. (Christ gave this power to every pope who would come after Peter.)

Explain that since Saint Peter, there have been more than 200 popes. Each has received special authority to teach in the name of Jesus. Say: ***Guided by the Holy Spirit, the pope and the bishops help us understand how to live as Jesus taught. And the teachings of Jesus have been handed on by the popes and bishops ever since Peter and the Apostles.***

Guide your child to complete the activity **Our Church Leaders.** Use the parish bulletin if needed; you may need to look on your diocesan website for the name of your bishop.

Take turns reading aloud **Messages from the Pope** on page 22. Pause for reflection and/or discussion after each quote is read.

Page 23 Shepherds Care for God's Flock

Have your child silently read about the risen Jesus meeting his Apostles on the beach. If you prefer, you can read this from the Bible in John 21:1–17.

Invite your child to identify the most important thing Jesus did when he appeared to the Apostles. (He confirmed Peter as the Head of the Church on earth.) Discuss who has Christ's authority in the Church today. (the Holy Father and the bishops)

Invite your child to read aloud the **God's Word** feature on page 23. Ask: ***Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him?*** (Jesus had to be sure Peter was ready for the responsibility; Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times before Jesus was crucified.) Point out the Prayer for Vocations on the page and tell your child you will pray it together at the end of the lesson.

Page 24 Chapter Review

Have your child complete the **Check It Out** activity. Review it once your child has finished it.

Discuss the **We Remember** questions and answers. Have your child read aloud the **We Respond** statement.

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

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As your child completes the **Your Turn** activity in his or her book, personally reflect on someone who has shown you God's love, bringing you the Good News and teaching you about Jesus. Share your thoughts with your child and invite him or her to do the same.

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

Page 25 Families in Mission

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

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Say: ***Jesus wants us to know him so that we can introduce others to his great plan of salvation.***

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Have your child read aloud the sentence above the chart, then silently read the chart. Say: ***Just as we celebrate important events in the history of our families, we celebrate important events in the history of the Church.***

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: the pope]

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.** Say: ***Saint Andrew was filled with excitement when Jesus called him to be a disciple and then chose him to be an Apostle.*** Ask your child to name what excites him or her about his or her faith, and then share some of things that excite you.

WITNESS AND SHARE

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

SHARE YOUR FAITH

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

Remind your child that God calls us to serve others in big and small ways. Sometimes a simple word or gesture brings great comfort to someone in need. Conclude by praying the **Prayer for Vocations** on page 23.

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Page 27

Chapter 4: God Offers Us Eternal Life

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, your child's Scripture Prayer Booklet **Walking with Jesus** used in previous lessons, and candles or flowers for the prayer celebration.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit and chapter using a web-enabled smartphone or tablet.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: Knowing and loving God leads to eternal life. As Christians, we have within us the greatest power in the created world, but Original Sin often weighs heavily on us, and we give up the struggle to let the risen, victorious life of Christ effect its change in us. Only by turning to the risen Lord will we receive the help we need to experience the full power of his life within us so we can be led to life forever with him in heaven.

Created to Be with God Forever

Begin by praying the Sign of the Cross together. Connect to the previous lesson. Ask your child to recall different ways God is with us. (in his creation, the Bible, Jesus, and the Church) Tell your child that you will be looking at the wonderful change God is longing to bring about in us.

Explain the changes that faith brings. Say: ***When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it looks different and acts differently. When Paul began to believe in Jesus, he looked the same, but he didn't act as he had before. When Baptism and faith change us into God's children, we do not look different, but we are different. We are more than human beings. We are new creatures: children of God.***

Discuss what should happen to our actions if our lives are changed by faith. (They should change.) Explain that people should see by our actions that Jesus is within us. If our faith in Jesus is strong, our actions won't be selfish, mean, or hurtful. And we continue to change as we grow in faith, becoming more like him. Our actions will show the goodness and love of Jesus.

Have your child read silently the first paragraph. Review what we are created for (happiness with God) and what God created us with (a soul). Call your child's attention to the **Words to Know** feature; have your child read the definitions of *soul* and *heaven*.

Read aloud the Scripture passage from John 14 and discuss what Jesus told us he would do for us. (prepare a place for us in his Father's house; come back for us; always be with us)

Have your child silently read the last paragraph on the page. Ask your child what our true home is. (heaven) Ask: ***When and only when can we be perfectly happy?*** (when we're in heaven) ***Why will we be happy in heaven?*** (We will be with God forever. Heaven is beautiful and wonderful.) Share that Saint Paul wrote that we can't even imagine how great heaven is.

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

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Pages 28–29 Unit 1 Review

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

Help your child complete the **Ways to Know God** and **Truths of Faith to Remember** activities on page 28. Then have your child work independently to complete **Names to Remember** and **My Gifts to God** activities on page 29. As your child works, get ready for the prayer celebration.

Pages 30–31 We Celebrate Our Faith

Have your child open the Scripture Prayer Booklet **Walking with Jesus** to page 3. Direct your child to choose a verse and pray it slowly and silently three times, thinking about its meaning. Then encourage your child to thank God for his Word and ask for courage to live according to it.

Ask your child to help you select two songs for the celebration. Then decide which parts you and your child will read aloud on pages 30 and 31.

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

Page 32 Looking Back at Unit 1

Take turns reading the page. Complete the **Living the Message** activity on a separate sheet of paper as your child completes it in the Student Book.

Read the directions for the **Planning to Grow** 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 33 Families in Mission

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

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Say: ***God wants us to live with him forever. He sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Jesus also shows us how we can have eternal life.***

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Have your child read aloud the sentence above the chart. Have your child read aloud the first bullet under **We Know Our Faith,** and then you read aloud the corresponding bullet under **We Proclaim Our Faith.** Repeat this for the remaining points. Summarize with a reminder that God sent the Holy Spirit to help us live our calling. The Spirit is alive and works through us as we serve others.

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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: leads us to heaven]

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

Page 34 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: ***Saint Catherine's example reminds us that we are serving God when we help those in need. Sometimes our actions are enough to make others desire to know God better.***

WITNESS AND SHARE

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

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and complete the activity together. If other family members are at home, have them join in the discussion.

Conclude by praying the Morning Offering found on the inside front cover of the Student Book. While it might not be morning, you can still offer everything you have done and will do today to God.

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Chapter 20: We Live God's Laws

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, candles, and a houseplant or flowers for the prayer celebration.
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: We show our commitment to God and others by following his laws. This lesson helps your child become more aware that our actions have consequences and impact others around us.

God's Laws Bring Happiness

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.

Explain that this chapter will help your child show how well he or she has learned God's Laws. Say: ***Let us sing a song about being happy living by God's Laws.*** Review the tune of "She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain" if your child does not remember it. Sing the song together. Say: ***Let's think about which commandment is expressed in each verse of the song.*** Have your child write the number of the commandment next to the verse that refers to it. First verse: prayerful (1), honor (2); Second verse: Mass (3); Third verse: loving (4), kind (5), truthful (8); Fourth verse: faithful (6, 9); Fifth verse: honest (7, 10).

Say: ***Sometimes we do things without thinking about the results. Now that you know God's commandments and are trying to live them, you should think carefully about how your actions will affect others and yourself and whether they will please God.***

Page 166

A Path for Life

Have your child complete the activity and read his or her answers to you. [ANSWERS: 1. first, 2. name, 3. holy, 4. obey, 5. respect, 6. faithful, 7. honest, 8. truth]

Page 167

Climb the Mountain

Remind your child that the Great Commandment is to love God above all else and your neighbor as yourself. It sums up the Ten Commandments. Discuss which commandments fall under love of God (First–Third) and which ones fall under love of neighbor (Fourth–Tenth).

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Direct your child's attention to the activity **Climb the Mountain.** Explain the activity directions to your child. Read the phrase or sentence on each stone and discuss the commandment that corresponds to the sentences written on the stones. Some sentences will have two commandments. Have your child write the number(s) on the stone. [ANSWERS: first row: 3, 4; second row: 7, 5, 1; third row: 8, 2, 9, 4; fourth row: 8, 1, 7, 2, 10; fifth row: 2, 6 & 9, 3, 10, 5, 6 & 9]

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

Pages 168–169 We Celebrate God's Laws

Ask your child to help you select two songs for the celebration.

Determine which parts you and your child will read aloud during the celebration. Have other family members participate if possible. Prepare the space where you will hold the celebration by placing a houseplant or flowers and a candle on a table along with the Bible.

Follow the order of the celebration, pausing before and after each reading and prayer. To begin Reflection, say: ***Keeping the commandments will take us to heaven and lead us to eternal happiness. Let us be like good runners who try hard to reach the finish line. Let us ask God to help us keep his commandments.*** Pause for silent prayer, then continue following the order of the celebration.

Page 170 Unit 4 Review

Take turns reading **Looking Back at Unit 4.** Have your child complete the **Living the Message** activity.

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 171 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: ***Something that is refreshing makes us feel revitalized, energized, and comforted. This is what it's like when we follow God's Laws. Our souls are nourished, and we are happy and at peace.***

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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: ***Every action we take tells others who we are. We show the world what we believe by the way we treat people and God's world.***

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: love ourselves and others.] Say: ***We learn the facts of our faith so we can live our faith. By living our faith, we act as witnesses for Christ.***

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

Page 172 Families in Mission, continued

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know.** Say: ***Saint Irenaeus pointed people to Scripture to help them know God better. He wanted people to know they were invited and welcomed to the truth of God's love for them.***

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 by praying together the Act of Love. The prayer can be found on the inside back cover of the Student Book.

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