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Chapter 6: Jesus Invites Us to Receive God's Mercy

Before You Begin

1. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, and writing supplies.
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: God forgives us in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We are all sinners and in need of God's mercy. Sometimes we see the faults of others and judge and condemn them without looking into our own hearts. In this lesson, you will read the story of Jesus and the woman who had sinned and consider the importance of looking into your own heart to see how you are responding to God's love.

Forgiveness and Compassion

As you begin the lesson, help your child transition into this special time of faith formation. Close your eyes, take a deep breath in and out, and quietly instruct your child to do the same. Begin with the Sign of the Cross and a brief prayer, "Jesus, help us to follow your example and live by God's laws. Amen."

Have your child name some ways we follow Jesus. (by praying and trusting in God the Father's plan, showing love and concern for others, forgiving others) Point out that we don't always succeed in being like Jesus, but that doesn't stop him or the Father from loving and forgiving us.

Discuss how sometimes we expect people to act in a certain way because of how they look or dress or talk. However, our assumptions are wrong, and they don't act the way we expect them to. Explain that Jesus often interacted with people in unexpected ways.

Open the Student Book to page 45. Read aloud the first three paragraphs (the two in black, and the first in teal). Help your child pronounce words they may not know, such as *Pharisees* [feh·ruh·sees].

Ask: ***What do you think the people in the crowd expected? Why?*** Invite your child to describe what he or she might have done if he or she were in the crowd. Share what you might have done. Then discuss how Jesus responded. (He didn't focus on the woman's sin; he made the crowd think about their own sinfulness.)

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Read aloud the remaining text. Discuss why the people didn't stone the woman. (They also had sinned.) Ask: ***In this story, who needed Jesus' mercy and forgiveness?*** (everyone) Say: ***When people are mean, dishonest, or disrespectful, it is easy to see that they need God's mercy. They will probably recognize that. But what might happen to people who think they are better than others or judge others?*** (They might not recognize their sins and never ask for forgiveness.) Ask: ***How do we ask God for forgiveness?*** (Tell God we are sorry as soon as we realize we've sinned. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and tell the sin to the priest.)

Draw your child's attention to the image at the top of the page. Discuss what is happening in the image. (a girl is in being forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation) Prompt your child to describe the elements of the image that tell us this. (The priest is wearing a purple stole around his shoulders; the priest has his hand raised in blessing; the girl is praying the Sign of the Cross.)

Assure your child that Jesus wants to forgive us. Nothing we can say or do will keep Jesus from wanting to forgive us. But we need to come to him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Page 46 Called to Forgiveness

Have your child read silently the first paragraph. Discuss why Jesus forgave people's sins and treated them with compassion. (He wanted them to be reconciled with his Father.)

Read aloud the second paragraph. Ask your child how Jesus forgives us today. (in the Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation)

Guide your child in describing what happens in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Your child can use general descriptions to walk through what happens. It's OK if your child doesn't remember everything; you can focus on how the child felt during or after it and share some of your own experiences when receiving the grace of the sacrament.

Work together on the **Meeting Jesus in the Sacrament** activity. Use the words in the word bank to fill in the blanks and complete the steps of the sacrament. [ANSWERS: 1. Holy Spirit; 2. priest; 3. forgiveness; 4. confess; 5. promise; 6. sorry; 7. Jesus'; 8. penance]

Make sure your child understands absolution (the words of forgiveness the priest says in the name of Jesus) and penance (prayers or acts the priest tells us to do to make up for our sins).

Look at the picture at the bottom of the page. Discuss what part of the sacrament is being shown. (#2, priest's greeting or #4, confession) Remind your child that we can celebrate the sacrament face-to-face or with a screen between the priest and us.

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Page 47 I Make My Journey to Reconciliation

Discuss what the children in the picture are doing. (They are on the path to meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.)

Explain to your child that he or she will put the steps of the sacrament in order. Read aloud the directions and have your child work independently on the **Reconciliation Road** activity. [ANSWERS for first column: 10, 7, 4, 2, 5, 3; second column: 1, 11, 8, 6, 9]

Page 48 We Use Guides to Make Decisions

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph. Direct your child to the **Word to Know** feature on the page to review the definition of *conscience*.

Share that our conscience can give us a pit-in-the-stomach feeling that makes us worried about something we are about to do or have done. Explain that we can become confused when people make the wrong things look good. So, it's important to make our consciences strong, and we need help learning what is right according to God's law.

Read aloud the second and third paragraphs. Have your child underline or put check marks next to things we can do to form our consciences. Explain that it is God the Holy Spirit who calls to us through our consciences and encourages us to choose what is good and right. Ask: ***Does knowing what is right force us to choose to do what is right?*** (No, we are free to choose what is right or what is wrong.) Say: ***We sin when we think, say, or do what we know offends God and goes against his law.***

Read aloud the next three paragraphs. Call your child's attention to the **Words to Know** feature and invite him or her to read aloud the definitions for *mortal sin* and *venial sin*. Emphasize that our consciences help us after we sin. Through our consciences, the Holy Spirit calls us to be sorry for our sins and seek his forgiveness.

Have your child read aloud the last paragraph on page 48. Then ask your child to sit comfortably and quietly, reminding him or her Jesus is always present. Ask your child to close his or her eyes and relax. Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature. Read the reflection slowly and thoughtfully, pausing so you and your child have time to speak with Jesus.

Page 49 My Conscience Helps Me Every Day

Tell your child you will pray the Prayer of the Penitent together at the end of the lesson. Explain the activity using the directions on the page. Have your child read silently an action and then discuss it with you. [ANSWERS: Sharing the umbrella with Carlos and making a present for Gabrielle lead to God; cheating and skipping Sunday Mass lead away, and would have Xs]

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page to experience the media.

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Page 50 Chapter Review

Have your child complete the **Who or What Am I?** activity. [ANSWERS: 1. C, 2. E, 3. A, 4. B, 5. D]

Ask your child the **We Remember** question and discuss the answers. Together pray aloud the **We Respond.**

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.**

Give your child a moment to think about God's guides in his or her life as instructed in the **Your Turn** activity. You can consider the same questions. Have your child share his or her thoughts about how this person guides and helps. If it will help your child think more deeply about this, model by sharing your own thoughts first. Hearing stories of those who guide you helps your child see the importance of relationships that build us up.

Page 51 Families in Mission

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

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Point out that God's mercy is limitless. He wants us to use our gifts and talents to live the best possible life.

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. Reiterate that an examination of conscience can prepare us to make a good confession and help us prepare our hearts to be forgiven.

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: a priest] Emphasize that when we take our faith to heart, we are better able to share it with others.

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 51.

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Page 52 Families in Mission, continued

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know.** Say: ***Even though Peter Claver witnessed many sad and painful things in his work with slaves, he looked for God in every situation. He is a great example for us to look for the good and, when it's really hard to see, to look for the helpers. They are a sign of God's goodness.***

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. You may want to write the prayer together.

Wrap up the lesson by praying together the **Prayer of the Penitent** on page 49 and then the prayer your child has written.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.***

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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."

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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.*

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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.

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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.]

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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.

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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.

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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]

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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.

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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.***

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Page 133

Chapter 16: We Are Faithful to Ourselves and Others

Before You Begin

1. Prepare or collect any materials that you will need, such as a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, and writing supplies.
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 Sixth and Ninth Commandments tell us to be true to ourselves and others. We each have an inherent dignity because we have been created in God's own image and likeness. We reflect this dignity when we respect our own bodies, minds, and souls, as well as those of others. Our bodies came from the creative hands of God and are good and holy. God designed our bodies so that each part performs a specific function. When we use our bodies according to God's design, we remain true to ourselves.

Made in God's Image

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 calm instrumental music for a minute. Invite your child to take a deep breath in and out, as you do the same. Then pray the Act of Love on the inside back cover of your child's book.

Recall that the Fifth Commandment tells us to respect and protect all life (not harming others; taking care of ourselves; not fighting or arguing; being kind). Share that the Sixth and Ninth Commandments tell us to respect our bodies. These commandments also tell us how best to love others, both in friendship and in marriage.

Read aloud the first two paragraphs including the Scripture passage. Say: ***We should use the wonderful abilities God has given us according to his plan.*** Have your child read aloud the third paragraph and underline what God wants for us. (to accept and love ourselves for whom he made us to be; to be proud to be male or female and happy with the wonderful body God has given us)

Read aloud the last paragraph on the page. Ask your child to underline a unique human ability. (to form friendships) Discuss what God asks us to accept in our friendships. (who we are and others for who they are) Point out that when we do this, we treat our bodies with respect.

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Page 134 We Are Temples of the Holy Spirit

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 134. Say: ***Let's read Saint Paul's message about our bodies.*** Read aloud the second paragraph and the Scripture passage. Say: ***Saint Paul knew that God made our bodies to be wonderful and that God wants us to keep our bodies holy by showing respect for ourselves and others.***

Have your child read aloud the last paragraph. Discuss ways to show respect for our bodies. (We keep our bodies clean; wash our hands and face, especially before going to Mass; we wear appropriate clothing that fits well.)

Ask your child to find the **Words to Know** feature (on page 135) and read aloud the definition for *modesty.* This is an ideal time to discuss any family expectations regarding suitable or acceptable clothing, speech, and actions.

Acknowledge that sometimes people may not respect the bodies of others. Other people can disrespect our bodies' boundaries by inappropriate touching or unwelcome physical closeness. No one has the right to touch our bodies in ways that make us feel uncomfortable, and we do not have the right to make others uncomfortable.

Point out that movies, shows, and videos that show people being immodest and not treating themselves or others with respect can make us feel embarrassed and uncomfortable. They can also make us confused as to what is appropriate behavior. Explain that this is one reason parents set rules on what children can watch and discuss shows and music lyrics with their children.

Have your child complete the **How Can We Keep Ourselves Holy?** activity at the bottom of the page. Review responses and discuss specific ways your family encourages these efforts to be holy.

Page 135 We Are Faithful to Others

Say: ***God wants us to be faithful to those we love.*** Share ways friends show they care about each other. (spend time together, listen to each other, stick up for each other, etc.) Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs. Point out the definition of *faithful* in the **Words to Know** feature. Discuss what the Scripture verse from Sirach means to you.

Read aloud the Sixth and Ninth Commandments and the last paragraph. Say: ***God wants us to be careful in choosing our friends. Good friends encourage us to do the right thing. They lead us toward God, not away from him.***

Lead your child in a prayerful reflection using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature, inviting your child to sit quietly and spend time with Jesus. Read the text slowly and respectfully, pausing as needed for your child to think about each part.

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Page 136 Marriage Is a Special Friendship

Have your child read silently **Marriage Is a Special Friendship** on page 136, then direct him or her to the art on the page.

Say: ***When a man and woman marry, they promise to love and care for each other always and to welcome, love, and care for children. The Holy Spirit gives them the grace to keep their promises.***

Explain that in the Sixth and Ninth Commandments, God requires husbands and wives to share married love only with each other and to not break the vows they make. The commandment "You shall not commit adultery" means married people are faithful only to each other. "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife" means that a person may not desire another's husband or wife.

Say: ***A promise to love someone always is beautiful and special.*** Discuss why such a promise could be hard to keep. (Sometimes people disagree. Sometimes people hurt each other unintentionally.) Explain that husbands and wives must be willing to work hard on their marriage. The Holy Spirit is with them, and they have the Church's support too.

Point out that these commandments are for everyone. Children are not too young to be faithful to their friends. They are not too young to understand how beautiful and holy it is to be faithful in love.

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page to experience the media.

Have your child complete the **Marriage Vows** activity. [ANSWERS: promises, other, God, love, care]

Page 137 Giving Glory to God and His Creation

Say: ***As Temples of the Holy Spirit, we are like God's house. Just like we show respect and reverence in church, we show our respect and reverence to our bodies. When we respect our bodies, we respect God.***

Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs on page 137. Discuss ways we give God glory in church. (by praying and singing; by celebrating the Eucharist and other sacraments; by adoring Jesus, who is present in the Blessed Sacrament)

Read aloud the verse in **God's Word** and discuss how we can give God glory with our bodies. (by praying; by enjoying his creation; by being grateful for our skills and abilities; by using our bodies to sing, dance, exercise; by acting with modesty)

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Page 138 Chapter Review

Have your child complete the **Respecting Our Bodies** activity. [ANSWERS: raise, Christ, Temples]

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

Have your child put the Sixth and Ninth Commandments in his or her own words. Then have your child read the **We Remember** questions and responses. Lead your child through **We Respond** by reading the statement in unison.

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

Read aloud the directions for the **Your Turn** activity. As your child completes the activity in the Student Book, you do so as well on a separate sheet of paper. Take turns sharing your responses.

Page 139 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: ***God has given us the gift of life. When we make the right choices, love ourselves, and show self-control, we show him how grateful we are.***

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 eating well and exercising are important. It is also important to choose friends who make good choices and keep a positive attitude.

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: Sacrament of Holy Matrimony]

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Page 140 Families in Mission, continued

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know.** Share that Saint Monica's example shows that staying strong, loving God, and modeling self-control for others is a path to holiness.

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 ways to be a good and faithful friend and family member.

End the lesson by praying the Glory Be to the Father prayer on the inside front cover of the Student Book.

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