Unit 2: God Strengthens Us to Be Holy

Before You Begin

1. Read **A Letter Home,** found on page 36 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: Jesus shows us how to love God and others. He showed concern for others by relieving their suffering. As Christians we are also called to show concern for others and relieve their suffering.

Page 35

Unit Opener

Begin by praying the Sign of the Cross together. Invite your child to turn to page 35. Read aloud the unit title, **God Strengthens Us to Be Holy.** Connect to prior lessons with the following points. Say: ***God created us to be happy with him forever in heaven. We need to live in his friendship and grace to have eternal life with God. Being holy is a key part of being happy. In this unit we'll learn more about how God helps us live as his children.***

Direct your child's attention to the scenes depicted on the page. Have your child describe each one. (top left: the angel Gabriel coming to Mary in the Annunciation, saying she will be the mother of the Son of God; top right: people going to church in the city; bottom: praying outside by a statue)

Ask: ***What do Mary saying yes to God, participating in Mass, and praying have in common?*** (They have something to do with holiness; Mary is the perfect model of holiness, and she helps us be holy; prayer and the sacraments strengthen us to be holy.)

Have your child slowly read aloud the Scripture verse at the bottom of page 35. Read it together a second time. Emphasize that it is important for us to accept Jesus into our hearts so we can stay close to God and become more like him.

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

Page 37

Chapter 5: We Are Called to Follow Jesus

Point out the picture at the top of the page. Ask your child to describe the photo. (a mother and son laughing and running on the beach) Talk about how Jesus wants us to take care of each other. When we do this, we bring the life and love of Jesus into the world.

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Jesus Teaches Us How to Live

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph and Scripture quote on the page. Explain that *abundantly* means "in large quantities."

Say: ***The Son of God came so we could have the life for which we were created, restoring our relationship with the Father. But not just that, he came so we could have more than the largest amount of goodness we can imagine.***

Read aloud the last paragraph on the page, keeping the book between you and your child. Have your child underline or put a check mark next to specific things Jesus teaches us by his own life. (obedience, to forgive and take care of others, to serve others, to make prayer a part of everything we do, set aside time to talk and listen to God)

Call your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature and invite him or her to read aloud the definition for *prayer.* Discuss some of the ways you pray as a family and individually. Share stories of grandparents or other family members who were models of prayer for you when you were growing up.

Talk about kind words we can say to help people feel happy. (Hello. Thank you. Please. I'm sorry. You did well. May I help you? I'm proud of you. I love you.) Then discuss kind deeds we can do for others. (run errands; carry things; put things away at home; ask another child to play; listen to someone who is sad or confused; help someone who got hurt; send a card or gift to a sick person)

Look at what your child marked in the last paragraph. Share which ones might come more naturally to you and which ones might be more difficult. Affirm your child's responses with a reminder that it's OK that we sometimes struggle to follow Jesus. He knows that we need help. His grace and prayer are two ways he strengthens us to be his followers.

Page 38

Jesus Showed Love and Concern

Introduce your child to the people in the illustration on the page: Jesus, Jairus [JIE ruhs], Jarius's wife, and Jairus's daughter. Have your child read aloud the story. Explain that Jairus knew that Jesus would help him. Even though his little girl was dead, Jairus still went to Jesus.

Say: ***Responding to the needs of others brings them and us comfort and hope. We give our love and concern first to our families. However, we must be concerned about everyone. We are all family.*** If your family, friends, or community are currently going through difficult times, discuss how you can support them, or discuss how you have been supported. Assure your child that no matter what is happening, you are there for him or her. Ask: ***What can we do when we hear about disasters and tragedies?*** (pray for the people concerned; if possible, help with supplies, meals, spending time together)

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

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Page 39 Jesus Forgave and Healed People

Introduce another Scripture account that teaches us a way to give life. Explain it's about a man who is paralyzed. Make sure your child understands what *paralyzed* means. (not able to move, either partially or totally)

Call your child's attention to the stained-glass art on the top right of the page. Have your child predict what the story is going to be about based on the scene. Help your child point out as many details as possible (who is in the art, what's happening, why certain colors may be used, etc.).

Take turns reading aloud the story, ending with the quotation from Scripture. Ask: ***Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins before he healed him?*** (to show that God forgives, that being forgiving is more important than walking, that forgiveness is a kind of healing) Say: ***We can't work a miracle as Jesus did, but we can help people in need and forgive those who hurt or anger us. Think about what Jesus wants you to do when people need help.***

Have your child look at the stained-glass image at the bottom of the page. Discuss who is in the image (Jesus) and what he's doing (praying). Have your child describe Jesus' expression and then discuss what he might be feeling. Discuss his attitude toward prayer in this image.

Have your child read aloud **Jesus Prayed to His Father.** Discuss what the Apostles wanted to do when they saw Jesus praying. (They wanted to pray like Jesus.) What did they ask Jesus? (for him to teach them to pray) Explain that Jesus wanted his Apostles to know his Father and speak to him freely and easily. What prayer did Jesus teach them? (the Lord's Prayer)

Call out the **Word to Know** feature; have your child read aloud the definition of *Lord's Prayer.*

Page 40 We Pray the Lord's Prayer

Read aloud the paragraph before the activity. Discuss the directions for the **Understanding the Lord's Prayer** activity. The text of the prayer is in the **What Catholics Should Know** section at the back of the Student Book, if your child needs a reference. After your child completes the activity, discuss it.

Ask: ***What does "hallowed be thy name" mean?*** (We want God's name to be kept holy.) ***What are "trespasses"?*** (sins) Say: **Trespass** ***also can mean any hurtful or mean action.*** Ask: ***What must we do if we want God to forgive us?*** (forgive those who trespass against us) ***What else do we ask of God?*** ("Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.") Say: ***We can be tempted, but God gives us the strength not to give in. We ask God to keep us from evil and help us be holy.***

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Page 41 People Who Act Like Jesus

Have your child read silently **People Who Act Like Jesus** and complete the activity. Point out that these people cared about others but showed their concern in different ways.

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

Page 42 Chapter Review

Use the **Add an Ending** activity to discuss appropriate responses in different situations and your hopes and expectations for your child's behavior.

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.**

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 **Your Turn** activity. Forgiveness can be a sensitive topic, particularly at this age level. You can stress that forgiving someone doesn't mean you believe their actions were okay, but it's important for finding peace and feeling better. You may wish to share an experience of a time that you forgave someone, how you let go of your disappointment or anger, and how you felt when you had forgiven the person.

Page 43 Families in Mission

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

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Point out that this Scripture teaches us that we must treat others the way we want to be treated.

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. Ask: ***How do you follow the Great Commandment?*** (Possible answers: going to Mass; praying; treating others fairly; being polite; respecting my parents)

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: Lord's Prayer]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 43.

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Page 44 Families in Mission, continued

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know.** Say: ***Jesus worked through Saint Margaret Mary to help people know his love for them. He works through each of us too. When we pray and participate in the sacraments, we proclaim our love of Christ.***

WITNESS AND SHARE

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

SHARE YOUR FAITH

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

Pray one of your favorite or composed prayers, then pray the Lord's Prayer and give each other a sign of peace and love.

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Chapter 7: We Worship God

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 images of the galaxy.
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: We worship God through prayer, most especially the Eucharist, and through service. Worship is our acknowledgment that God is God. We admit the truth of God's sovereignty and goodness. We experience God's presence within and around us. We respond with thanksgiving and express our dependence on him. Overwhelmed by God's empowering love, we seek to share that love by serving others. The saints have shown us how we can foster virtues that favor growth in the Lord's love. In this lesson, we make the intention to do everything during the day for God, to offer our words and actions to him.

God Alone Is Worthy

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, "We praise you, God, for the greatness and mystery of the vastness of your creation."

Share about a time your family looked at the stars on a dark night or maybe visited a planetarium or watched a live feed from a telescope in space. If you haven't been able to experience God's greatness in creation lately, show a short clip or some images of the galaxy.

Discuss what thoughts you have when you are looking at the sky. Prompt your child to share first.

Say: ***We sense the presence of someone much greater than ourselves when we behold the wonders of nature. God uses creation to draw us to himself. We feel our smallness and respond with awe. We recognize the presence of the one true God and are led to worship him rather than the stars.***

Read aloud **God Alone Is Worthy.** Discuss ways your family responds to God's greatness. Then call your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature and invite him or her to read aloud the definition for *worship.* Have your child describe what is happening at the top of the page. (families are at Mass singing, giving worship to God)

Have your child read aloud **Prayer Is Worship.** Explain that adoring God is a deep kind of worship in which we are aware of God's holiness and greatness and our smallness and dependence upon him. We are moved to praise him.

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Point out that this paragraph summarizes the different kinds of prayer. Ask your child what we might say when we pray. (tell God we love him, thank God for his goodness, say we are sorry, ask to help someone else, ask for what we need)

Read aloud **Service Is Worship.** Talk about ways we serve God. (obeying the commandments and doing good for others; telling others about God; helping those in need)

Page 54 The Israelites Honored God for His Gifts

Have your child read silently the first paragraph. Call your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature and the definition for *sacrifice.*

Point out that a sacrifice is also something we give up for the good of others. It is a gift of love. Discuss some of the sacrifices your family members make for one another. Help your child see that when a sacrifice takes a lot of effort or material goods from the giver, it helps to remember the person is doing it out of love for others. And when we receive the benefits of someone else's sacrifices, it is important to show we appreciate them.

Read aloud the second paragraph about the Israelites' sacrifices. Discuss why the Israelites offered sacrifices. (to show that all good things they have come from God, to thank God for his gifts) Have your child complete the **Israelites' Sacrifices to God** activity. [ANSWERS: best animals, best fruit, best grain]

Page 55 True Worship Comes from the Heart

Explain to your child that sometimes prayer or service is not true worship. Have your child read silently the first paragraph to find out why. (The people's hearts, our hearts, are far from God.)

Read aloud the Scripture passage in the **God's Word** feature. Ask your child what God wants when we worship. (loyalty) Talk about what God is asking us to do. (to get to know him and to love him)

Complete the **Offering Our Love to God** activity together. If your child has difficulty thinking of ways to offer love to God, suggest these: giving a compliment, setting the dinner table without being asked, making time to pray, reading the Bible, choosing to play with a younger sibling instead of playing video games with friends, sitting with a classmate who is upset or sad.

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 on page 54. Encourage your child to spend time with Jesus. Read the reflection slowly and thoughtfully, pausing so you and your child have time to speak with Jesus.

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Page 56 Jesus' Perfect Offering

Take turns reading aloud the first three paragraphs. Ask: ***What perfect sacrifice did Jesus give us to offer to God?*** (the Eucharist) ***What does Jesus do in every Mass?*** (He offers himself with perfect love to his Father.)

Discuss how we can offer ourselves when the priest offers the sacrifice of Jesus. (by asking Jesus to take all we think, say, and do and offer it to God with his own gift)

Read aloud **Our Daily Gift.** Tell your child you will pray the Morning Offering at the end of the lesson. Spend some time now discussing the second line of the prayer: "I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day."

Talk about times you pray as a family and individually (in the morning, at night, at meals, or at Mass). When we pray, we should so with love and attention.

Ask your child what work—jobs and duties—he or she can offer. (completing schoolwork, taking care of pets, putting away clothes and toys, going on errands, helping with a little brother or sister, doing chores) Share some of the works you offer to God. Remind your child to offer these with love for God and others, a happy heart, and care.

Discuss the joys, or happy times, you can offer. (having the things we need, having loving parents, having a good friend, doing well in school, celebrating important life events, visiting with family)

Point out that we all have sad times, or sufferings, and we offer those to Jesus too. Discuss sufferings we can offer to Jesus. (having a headache, experiencing a disappointment, losing a game, making a sacrifice) Your family might be going through difficult times of suffering right now. Instead of referencing the possible responses noted above, you can acknowledge that what your family is going through is a suffering that can be offered to Jesus. Assure your child that Jesus understands our sufferings because he suffered too, and he sends the grace for us to get through things even if we don't understand them.

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

Page 57 How Are They Worshiping God?

Have your child look at the pictures on the bottom of pages 53, 54, and 56. Discuss the different ways the children appear to be praying. This is a reminder that we can worship in all forms of prayer.

Read the directions with your child, then have your child complete the activity. Review the answers with your child. [ANSWERS: 1. A or C, 2. C, 3. B or C, 4. B, 5. A, 6. Responses will vary.] Discuss what your child drew and wrote.

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Page 58 Chapter Review

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

Point out the image of Saint Teresa of Calcutta and have your child read aloud her quote. Explain that she and her sisters served the people in most need in countries all over the world. Encourage your child to find out more about Saint Teresa.

Have your child complete the **Your Turn** activity. Share some ways you personally and your family can make daily life beautiful for God.

Page 59 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 we know God is with us, and this is especially true when we come together to celebrate Mass.

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Have your child read aloud the sentence above the chart. Read aloud the first bullet under **We Know Our Faith** and the corresponding bullet under **We Proclaim Our Faith.** Have your child read the second bullet in both columns, and you read the third. Say that beginning each day with the Morning Offering can help you put your mind on God.

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: Eucharist]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 59.

Page 60 Families in Mission

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know.** Say: ***Saint Matthew was inspired by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of Jesus through his writing. The Holy Spirit helps us to share the Good News too.***

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.

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SHARE YOUR FAITH

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

Conclude the lesson by praying the Morning Offering on page 56 together.

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Page 61

Chapter 8: God Gave Us Laws for Living

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 gave us laws to be happy in this world and the next. In this lesson, you will teach your child about the account of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments and the covenant between God and his people. This covenant foreshadowed the perfect covenant Christ made between God and his new people, the Church, when he gave up his life on the Cross. God gave the commandments in love as a means of uniting the people of Israel with himself and with one another. As Christians, we also accept the commandments as a sign of our covenant with God. In keeping them, we unite ourselves in love to God and others.

Help on the Journey

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, "Almighty Father, thank you for giving us the commandments and sending your Son to show us the way to live and love. Amen."

Talk to your child about what it's like to go on a hike or bike ride in your neighborhood. (We know what to expect and where we are going; we have fun; we see people we know.) Talk about a time your family got lost driving somewhere. You can also ask what would be different if you were in another state, and not your neighborhood. (We wouldn't know where we were; nothing would be familiar; we would need someone who knew the area so we wouldn't get lost.) How would a compass or GPS help you? (It could show the direction to go.)

Take turns reading aloud all but the last paragraph on the page. Ask your child why Michael wasn't worried about going on the hike. (His dad was a good hiker who had done the trail before.) Discuss why Michael's dad insisted on taking the compass and map. (He knew they could get lost, even if he knew the trail.) Ask: ***If you were Michael, why would you still want the compass and map if you were hiking with an experienced partner?*** (because we all can get lost; we all can benefit from some guidance)

Read aloud the last paragraph on the page.

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Page 62 God Gave Moses the Ten Commandments

If your child is not familiar with or doesn't remember the story of Moses and the Israelites, use the following as background.

A long time ago, God's people, the Israelites, were enslaved in Egypt. God saw how they were suffering and chose a man named Moses to lead them out of Egypt. The art on page 62 is of Moses a short time after the Israelites had left Egypt; they came to the Sinai desert where they made camp. There the Lord called to Moses from a mountain and spoke to him.

Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Explain that keeping God's laws would make the Israelites God's own people, and they would be his holy people by keeping these laws.

Call your child's attention to the **Words to Know** feature on page 63 and invite him or her to read aloud the definition for *Ten Commandments.*

Explain that God loved his people and knew that they would need to work together and help and trust one another. He wanted them to have a guide for living.

Return to page 62 and have your child read aloud the last paragraph. Have your child review the definition of *covenant* in the **Words to Know** feature on page 63.

Have your child complete the **Receiving the Ten Commandments** activity and review their responses. [ANSWERS: 1. Moses, 2. Egypt and people, 3. everything, 4. sacrifice, 5. stone]

Page 63 God's Covenant with His People

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph. Ask him or her to pause and underline or highlight the word *law* whenever it appears. Discuss the difference between natural law and revealed law. Say: ***Natural law is what we know in our hearts is the right thing to do. Revealed law is what God has given us. The Ten Commandments are both. We know them in our hearts, and God has revealed them to us.***

Take turns reading aloud the remaining paragraphs.

Page 64 God's People Love His Commandments

Have your child read silently the first paragraph.

Recall with your child what a psalm is. (a prayer-song in the Old Testament) People who wrote the psalms were called psalmists. Explain that God's people sang the psalms when they worshiped. Ask your child to identify what psalm the verses on the page are from. (Psalm 119)

Guide your child in looking for the meaning in the words of the verses.

Read aloud the first and second verses. Use your voice to communicate the spirit of love and joy in which the psalm was written. Talk about how we can keep our way. (by observing God's words) Ask: ***What does the psalmist say he tries to do with all his heart?*** (seek God) ***What do we ask God to do for us?*** (help us not stray or go away from his commandments)

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Read aloud the third and fourth verses with a reverent tone. Discuss what we treasure. (God's promise to be our God and to care for and protect us) Ask: ***What do we ask God to do for us?*** (to teach us his commandments)

Read aloud the fifth and sixth verses. Point out that once we learn the commandments, we will be able to recite them, meaning we'll know them by heart and take them to heart. Ask: ***How valuable are God's laws?*** (as valuable as all riches) Explain that this doesn't just mean money but things that are valuable and important to us.

Tell your child to listen carefully to find out what we need to do to learn God's commandments. Read aloud the last two verses. Have your child name two things we need to do. (ponder his precepts and consider his paths). Because we love God, we are happy in keeping his laws. Discuss what we promise God in the last line. (that we will not forget his words)

Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature, inviting your child to sit quietly and spend time with Jesus. Have your child close his or her eyes and imagine as you read.

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

Page 65 The Ten Commandments Are Laws of Love

Have your child read silently the paragraph at the top of the page. Discuss why God's commandments might be called laws of love. (God gave them to us with love. They show us how to love God and others.) Explain that the Ten Commandments help us be happy here on earth. Because God created us, he knows what really makes us happy.

Have your child recall as many commandments as they can. They don't need to be exact words or commandment numbers. Then have your child turn to page 249 in the **What Catholics Should Know** section of his or her book.

Read the Ten Commandments together. Point out that the first three laws tell how to love God. Have your child read aloud these commandments. Point out that the other seven laws tell us how to love others. Take turns reading aloud the last seven commandments, discussing each as you go. If needed, explain that *to bear false witness* is "to lie," and *to covet* is "to desire what someone else has." It means to want someone else's things so much we can't stop wishing their things were ours. We grow jealous of people and their belongings. Your child will spend several lessons on the commandments.

Have your child complete the **Ten Commandments** activity, referencing page 249 as needed.

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Page 66 Chapter Review

Have your child complete the **Decoding God's Message** activity. [ANSWER: Laws of Love]

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

Read aloud the **We Remember** statement and have your child answer the question. Together say aloud the **We Respond.**

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

Talk through the **Your Turn** activity with your child.

Page 67 Families in Mission

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

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the blue sidebar. Discuss the instructions we are given in this Scripture. (to learn God's laws and follow them)

KNOW AND PROCLAIM

Have your child read aloud the sentence above the chart. Read aloud the first bullet under **We Know Our Faith** and the corresponding bullet under **We Proclaim Our Faith.** Have your child read the second bullet in both columns, and you read the third. Say: ***When we follow the commandments, we are living signs of God in the world. We lead others to God and grow closer to him.***

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: be God's people and follow his laws]

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 67.

Page 68 Families in Mission

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know.** Discuss some ways your family can follow Saint Thérèse of Lisieux's example of offering small actions or sacrifices.

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.

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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 two prayers. The first is adapted from Psalm 119, which you studied earlier in the lesson. Have your child read aloud each statement, and you respond with "Teach me to do your will, O God."

Happy are those who live by your laws. *Response.*

Happy are those who obey your commands with all their hearts. *Response.*

You have given us your laws and told us to obey them faithfully. *Response.*

Please help me keep your laws. *Response.*

Now together pray the prayer you composed.

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Page 69

Chapter 9: We Honor Mary

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 small handheld bell or a recording of *Angelus* bells from a music or video streaming service, 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: Mary shows us how to follow Jesus. In this lesson, your child will be learning about an important prayer known as the *Angelus.* As early as the thirteenth century, when only the castles, the town hall, and the church had clocks, the people began praying the Hail Mary at the ringing of the bells. By the sixteenth century, the present form of the *Angelus* had developed. The *Angelus* prayer centers on Mary, but it also recalls for us the mystery of the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery.

Mary Is the Best Disciple

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and a moment of silence to help your child transition into faith formation. If you have found a sound clip of the *Angelus* bells, play it now.

Discuss where bells are usually rung. (at schools, churches, firehouses) Point out that bells are signals or signs. Wedding bells are a sign of happiness. Funeral bells are a sign of sadness, marking someone's death. Sunday church bells are a call to worship.

Every day, church bells ring at six o'clock in the morning, at noon, and at six o'clock in the evening. Ring a bell three strokes and pause, three strokes and pause, three strokes and pause, and then nine strokes. Explain that the bells are struck three times at each invocation—the short prayer that ends with the Hail Mary—and nine strokes for the final prayer.

Tell your child that today he or she will learn about a prayer called the *Angelus* that is said three times a day, each time the church bells are rung like this. Say: ***The word* angelus *is a Latin word that means "angel." The prayer reminds us of the time the angel Gabriel visited Mary and announced that God the Father had chosen her to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus.***

Have your child read silently the first paragraph of page 69. Then read aloud the second paragraph and **The Annunciation.** Review key points of this Scripture account. What did the angel say the baby would be called? (holy, the Son of God) Explain that when Mary said, "May it be done to me according to your word," she was saying yes to God's request. She was willing to do whatever God wanted. If we pray to Mary, she will help us to do what God calls us to do and to obey him.

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

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Page 70 Mary Intercedes for Us

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph. Discuss the titles of Mary mentioned in the reading. (Mother of the Church, Queen of All Saints, Help of Christians) Direct your child's attention to the bottom of the page for more titles of Mary. Have your child choose one that he or she likes and share what it says about Mary. You do the same.

Point out that Mary has many titles we use to show her honor. The Church also has prayers that honor Mary and recognize her holiness, such as the Hail Mary. Read aloud the second paragraph.

Call your child's attention to the **Word to Know** feature on page 71 and invite him or her to read aloud the definition for *Angelus.*

Have your child read aloud the last paragraph on the page, highlighting or underlining other titles for Mary. (Mother of God, Queen of Heaven) Say: ***Because Mary is also our mother, we can go to her with our problems, needs, and requests. She will listen and help us. She will take our concerns to her Son, Jesus.***

Page 71 We Honor Mary in Prayer

Have your child read silently **We Honor Mary in Prayer** on page 71. Explain that because Mary said yes to the angel, we have a Savior. That is why we honor Mary by praying the *Angelus.* Have your child find the *Angelus* on page 238.

Ask: ***What great mystery does the* Angelus *tell us about?*** (the Incarnation) ***What is the mystery of the Incarnation?*** (the mystery of the Son of God becoming man while remaining fully God) Share that when we pray the *Angelus,* we think about Mary's saying yes to God and how we should say yes to God.

Read aloud the directions for the stained-glass activity at the bottom of the page and have your child complete it.

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 72–73 Unit 2 Review

Have your child work independently to complete the **A Faith Puzzle** activity on page 72. Then together discuss each situation in the **Meet the Needs of Others** activity on page 73 and have your child mark the appropriate box or boxes.

Pages 74–75 We Pray the *Angelus*

Ask your child to help you select songs for the celebration. Then decide which parts you and your child will read aloud on pages 74 and 75. If possible, have other family members join you for the celebration; you can assign roles to them as well.
You may wish to use candles or flowers to decorate the space where you will hold the prayer celebration.

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

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Page 76 Looking Back at Unit 2

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

Read the directions for the **Being a Sign of Jesus' Love** 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 77 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: ***Today's Scripture comes from a prayer called the* Magnificat. *Mary prayed these words praising God during her visit to her cousin Elizabeth.***

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 this section by saying that we can learn how to be a true disciple through Mary's example.

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

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

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 77.

Page 78 Families in Mission

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on the page.

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and watch the video together. Say: ***Saint Francis of Assisi is often shown surrounded by animals. He loved all of God's creation.***

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 Hail Mary found on the inside front cover of the Student Book.

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Unit 3: We Love God

Before You Begin

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

Page 79

Unit Opener

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

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

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

Page 81

Chapter 10: We Show Our Love for God

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

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God Gives Us Gifts

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

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

Page 82 God Asks for Our Love

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

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

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

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

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

Page 83 We Give God Our Love in Prayer

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

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

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

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

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Page 84 We Honor Those in Heaven with Prayer

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

Have your child read aloud the second paragraph. Discuss what it means to imitate Mary and the saints. (to try to be like them, to love God and others the way they did) Ask: ***Why do we seek assistance from those in heaven with prayer?*** (They bring God's messages to us; they take our prayers to God; they love us and want us to be with Jesus one day as they are.)

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

Page 85 We Pray the Psalms

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

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

Page 86 Chapter Review

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

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

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

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

Page 87 Families in Mission

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

SCRIPTURE

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

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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. Point out that the saints lived through difficulties and problems. We can face our daily struggles by learning from their example.

TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE

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

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

Page 88 Families in Mission, continued

A CATHOLIC TO KNOW

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know.**

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

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

WITNESS AND SHARE

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

SHARE YOUR FAITH

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

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

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