

The Impact of Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 1*.

❖ We were made in God's image with the powers of intellect and free will. Because of these powers, we are responsible for what we do. Jesus' life on earth gives us an example of how to use these powers to serve God the Father.

PAGE 4

❖ You cannot change your heredity or choose the physical environment you grow up in. But you can control your personal environment, which includes the friends you choose, the books you read, and the TV shows you watch. These things also affect whom you become.

PAGE 4

❖ Jesus, the Son of God, appeared on earth 2,000 years ago as a Jewish craftsman who became a traveling preacher and was executed for causing trouble. His life was filled with remarkable miracles and teaching. His death, Resurrection, and Ascension led to what we know today as Christianity. By his life, Jesus showed us what God is like.

PAGE 4

❖ The Messiah, or the Christ, was foretold by many of the prophets in the Old Testament. He was the one the Jewish people awaited. People who practice the Jewish religion today are still waiting for the Messiah.

PAGE 5

❖ Jesus often referred to God as "my Father." He even called God *Abba*, a Hebrew word that best translates as "Dad."

PAGE 5

❖ Christians believe in the mystery of the Trinity, which is three Persons in one God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Our belief in the Trinity is what makes us different from Muslim and Jewish people, who also believe in one God.

PAGE 5

❖ *Emmanuel* is expressing the mystery of God becoming one of us. This title is used for Jesus most often at Christmas. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, because he shared our human life.

PAGE 5

❖ The Incarnation is the mystery of God becoming human, becoming one of us. It began with Jesus' birth. The word *Incarnation* means "in the flesh."

PAGE 5

❖ Jesus' very name tells us he came to save us. The name *Jesus* means "God saves." He is our Savior, but more importantly, he is your personal Savior.

PAGE 5

❖ Jesus took our sins upon him and by dying and rising, opened the gates of heaven for us. By his Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus Christ gave us the gift of eternal life. We celebrate and proclaim the Paschal Mystery at every Mass.

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Friendship with Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 2*.

❖ God lived as a real man named Jesus, who learned things, made decisions, suffered, and died. But Jesus, who is God, is perfect and has no evil in him. Jesus never committed sin. Instead, he gave us a model for living.

PAGE 9

❖ That Jesus lived is a fact. To believe that Jesus is God is a challenge that requires faith. Faith is a gift from God to believe and trust when we do not understand. We live and grow in faith all our lives.

PAGE 9

❖ Faith in Jesus is based on Scripture and Tradition. In these two ways, God reveals himself to us. Scripture is the Word of God, the written testimony of the faith of the early Church. Tradition is the truths handed down by the Church from the time of the apostles.

PAGE 9

❖ The sacraments are gifts that help us remain strong in the Christian faith. In them, we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit that keeps us in a close relationship with Jesus.

PAGE 9

❖ True friendships make you better. They help you overcome temptations and avoid evil. True friendships take work to remain healthy. We all sin, and we all behave badly and damage our friendships sometimes. If you work at it, you can repair damage to your friendships.

PAGE 10

❖ Jesus is called the Son of Man in part because he became human. The title “Son of Man” is also used in the Old Testament book of Daniel to describe someone who comes in glory at the end of time.

PAGE 11

❖ There are many ways to show love and friendship with Jesus. The most important, though, is to love one another as he loves us. See John 15:12–17.

PAGE 11

❖ When Jesus visited his friends Mary and Martha, Martha complained that Mary was too busy listening to Jesus and not helping her to serve him. Jesus said that Mary had chosen the better part. Jesus wants us to serve him, but he also wants us to spend time with him. You can find this story in Luke 10:38–42.

PAGE 12

❖ A reflection notebook is a good way to learn about yourself. You can spend time talking with Jesus by writing in it.

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Scripture: A Portrait of Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 3*.

❖ The 27 books of the New Testament include the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the epistles (or letters), and the Book of Revelation.

PAGES 16–18

❖ The first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell us the Good News that Jesus’ life, death, and Resurrection have freed us from the power of sin and death.

PAGES 16–17

❖ Jesus told his apostles and all Christians to evangelize, or proclaim the Good News. The men who wrote the Gospels are called Evangelists.

PAGE 17

❖ The Gospel of Matthew quotes heavily from Hebrew Scriptures, showing Jesus to be the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament. This Gospel was written for the Jews who converted to Christianity. It portrays Jesus as a teacher and the New Moses.

PAGE 17

❖ The Gospel of Mark is the shortest and was probably the first one written. Matthew and Luke draw from Mark’s Gospel. This Gospel’s symbol is the lion, representing John’s voice in the wilderness. It is the second book of the New Testament.

PAGE 17

❖ The Gospel of Luke has the warmest portraits of Jesus and includes the infancy stories. Luke portrays Jesus as a Savior for all people. This Gospel’s symbol is the ox. It is the third book of the New Testament.

PAGE 17

❖ The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell very similar stories, so they are called synoptic, which means “same view.”

PAGE 17

❖ John’s Gospel is very different from those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. It is written like a religious poem with long speeches and different stories.

PAGE 17

❖ God inspired the Scripture writers to communicate what he wanted known using their own background, culture, language, and style. This is why the same truths are revealed in the Gospels, for example, but each Gospel is written differently.

PAGE 18

❖ Luke, whose Gospel was written for non-Jewish readers (Gentiles), also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. The Acts of the Apostles begins with the Ascension, in which Jesus promises to send the Spirit to strengthen the apostles as they carry the Good News to all people by founding the Christian Church. The book also tells of the arrival of the Spirit on Pentecost and how the Church was formed. An important part of the book is the story of how Saul converted to Christianity and became Paul.

PAGE 18

❖ The epistles are letters written about the issues the early Christians faced. Paul wrote most of the epistles. They appear after the Gospels in the Bible, but most epistles were written in the earliest days of the Church, before the Gospels were written.

PAGE 18

❖ The Book of Revelation is the last book of the Bible. It uses imagery of the Apocalypse to encourage Christians to hope for Jesus’ return.

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The World Jesus Lived In

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 4*.

❖ Jesus chose to live in Palestine over 2,000 years ago. At the time, Palestine was made up of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea. Jesus was born and killed in Judea, but he grew up in Galilee, in the town of Nazareth. Samaria was the middle part of Palestine. Jewish people considered Samaritans heretics because they married foreigners and did not worship at the Temple. Judea was the southern part of Palestine, where the Temple and the holy city of Jerusalem were located.

PAGE 21

❖ The Palestinian kings lived in Jerusalem. It was a holy city because the Temple was there. Everyone who was able traveled to the Temple for the three major feasts. Jerusalem today is sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

PAGES 21, 23

❖ Rome conquered Palestine, but the Romans let the Jews practice their religion. Jewish men did not have to mix with Gentiles in the army, for example.

PAGE 22

❖ People who were not Jews were called Gentiles. Jews were forbidden by their religion to mix with Gentiles.

PAGES 22, 24

❖ The Pharisees were middle-class Jews who strictly interpreted the Law and added regulations to it. They also believed in our resurrection. They sought holiness through the Law, but Jesus scolded them for stressing external observances instead of a spirit of love.

PAGE 22

❖ The Sanhedrin was 71 Jewish men in Judea who served as a supreme council. The chief high priest was treated almost like a king. Caiaphas was the chief high priest when Jesus was arrested.

PAGE 22

❖ Zealots were freedom fighters who were willing to use violence to get Rome out of their country.

PAGE 22

❖ Jesus was a devoted Jew who prayed the important Jewish prayers. Christian faith, through Jesus, grows out of the Jewish faith.

PAGE 23

❖ The most important prayer of the Jewish people is the Shema, which is prayed every morning and evening. It reminds Jewish people to love God. The Shema is in Deuteronomy 6:4–5.

PAGE 23

❖ The Jews of Jesus' time were very strict about resting on the Sabbath. They had services at local synagogues and did not allow most kinds of work.

PAGE 23

❖ Jewish people gathered on the Sabbath to worship at synagogues. The Torah, the first five books of the Bible, was read and preached there.

PAGE 23

❖ In Jesus' time, wives and children were considered the property of the head of the family. Women were not allowed to learn to read or write. Marriages were arranged for children.

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The Early Life of Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 5*.

❖ Early Christians focused their attention on Jesus' recent death and Resurrection. Only later did they begin to wonder about his birth.

PAGE 27

❖ The Infancy Narratives are stories about the events leading up to Jesus' birth and what happened to him as a baby.

PAGE 27

❖ We do not know where the stories of the Infancy Narratives come from. The stories may be factually true or symbolic. Either way, we know these stories are the Word of God. The Infancy Narratives appear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. These Evangelists wrote the stories to show who Jesus was.

PAGE 27

❖ Inerrancy is the idea that the Scriptures contain the truth that is necessary for us to know for our salvation.

PAGE 27

❖ The Infancy Narratives are known as the "Gospels in miniature" because they tell the same Good News as the Gospels—Jesus is Lord, the Son of God who saved us.

PAGE 27

❖ Mary conceived Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit in the Annunciation. This story shows us how the Holy Spirit acts for our salvation. Read the story in Luke 1:26–28.

PAGE 28

❖ The Visitation is the event in which Jesus' presence was recognized by Elizabeth and John. Read this story in Luke 1:36,39–56.

PAGES 27–28

❖ Jesus' miraculous birth is known as the Nativity. You can read about the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:1–20.

PAGES 27–28

❖ The story in which the child Jesus is offered to God at the Temple is called the Presentation. You can read the story in Luke 2:22–28.

PAGES 27–28

❖ The Immaculate Conception is one of the special doctrines of Mary. According to this doctrine, Mary was never in the state of sin, either original sin or personal sin.

PAGE 29

❖ We believe that Mary was taken body and soul into heaven at the end of her life. This doctrine is called the Assumption.

PAGE 29

❖ Mary has appeared to many people in history. In Mexico in 1521, she appeared to Juan Diego. Today, she is honored in Mexico as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Thousands of people visit her church in Mexico to see the cloak with her image on display.

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The Mission of Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 6**.

❖ As God's Son, Jesus was anointed the Christ. In this role, he came to earth as prophet, priest, and king.

PAGE 33

❖ *Christ* is another name for *Messiah*. The Messiah is the Savior the Jewish people awaited and who was spoken of in Scripture. *Christ* means "anointed one." The Israelites anointed prophets, priests, and kings with oil. Jesus was God's anointed one.

PAGE 33

❖ In Jesus' time, most Jewish people were expecting a Messiah to overthrow Rome. Jesus' mission as Messiah was to proclaim and make present the reign of God.

PAGE 33

❖ God's kingdom is not a place. It is the rule of God over our hearts. Jesus came to earth to proclaim God's kingdom on earth.

PAGE 33

❖ Elizabeth's baby leaped for joy when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, came to help her. Elizabeth's baby was John the Baptist.

PAGE 34

❖ Jesus was sinless, but through his baptism, he took on the sins of the world. This act symbolized that he was ready to die for us.

PAGE 35

❖ The epiphany after Jesus' baptism was the revelation of the Trinity through Jesus, God's voice, and the Holy Spirit as a dove.

PAGE 35

❖ Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, praying and fasting to prepare for his mission. This time echoes the 40 years the Israelites spent in the desert. Satan appeared to Jesus when he was in the desert and tempted him. Jesus overcame Satan and refused to compromise with evil.

PAGE 35

❖ Temptations are people, circumstances, and things that entice us to do what is wrong or to omit doing what is good. Temptations are not sins. Sin is choosing to do what is wrong or to omit what is good.

PAGE 36

❖ Mortal sins are serious sins that completely break off our relationship with God. Venial sins are less serious sins. They weaken our relationship with God.

PAGE 36

❖ Original sin, the consequences of the sin of our first parents, leaves us weak and makes it a struggle sometimes for us to do what is right.

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The Apostles, Mary, and Others

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 7*.

❖ Disciples are those who follow great teachers, called masters, wanting to learn about the mysteries of life. Jesus had many disciples.

PAGE 39

❖ The apostles were 12 disciples chosen to share the ministry of Jesus and preach the Good News of the risen Lord. The number of apostles is the same as the 12 tribes of Israel. The 12 apostles symbolized the new People of God.

PAGE 40

❖ Before Jesus called him, Peter was a simple fisherman named Simon. The name *Peter* means “rock.” Jesus made him the head of his Church.

PAGE 40

❖ Andrew was Peter’s brother and was one of the first men Jesus called to follow him. Andrew was later killed on an X-shaped cross.

PAGE 41

❖ Two apostles were named James. James the Greater was the brother of the apostle John. James the Greater was present at the Transfiguration of Jesus and the raising of Jairus’s daughter. James the Less was the brother of the apostle Jude. James the Less is credited with writing one of the New Testament letters.

PAGES 41–42

❖ Matthew is best known for being the apostle who immediately left his job as a tax collector to follow Jesus. He is also credited with writing one of the Gospels.

PAGES 41–42

❖ Thomas is best known for his doubt. He missed Jesus’ first appearance after the Resurrection and claimed he would never believe until he touched Christ’s wounds. However, when he saw Jesus, he fell to his knees and exclaimed, “My Lord and my God!”

PAGE 42

❖ Jude was a brother of James the Less and possibly a cousin of Jesus. He is credited as the author of a letter in the New Testament, and he is popular as the patron of hopeless cases.

PAGE 42

❖ Simon was a Zealot. But to follow Jesus, he had to channel his zeal into the peaceful pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

PAGE 42

❖ Judas was the apostle who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Judas hanged himself instead of asking Jesus for forgiveness.

PAGE 42

❖ According to the Acts of the Apostles, Matthias replaced Judas as an apostle. Matthias had been a longtime follower of Jesus, and he had been a witness to the resurrected Lord.

PAGE 43

❖ Peter was appointed to be head of the Church. The pope is his successor. He is the pastor of the whole Church.

PAGE 43

❖ Mary was the first and best disciple. She devoted 30 years to Jesus before he began his public ministry, and she was with him when he died. One of her titles is Queen of the Apostles.

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Baptism and Confirmation

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 8*.

❖ The seven sacraments of the Church are special encounters we have with Jesus through signs and words at key times in our lives. The Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist—bring us into the community.

PAGE 47

❖ The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which people join the Catholic Church.

PAGE 47

❖ A person who begins the process of the RCIA needs to be sponsored by a Catholic. This sponsor will assist the catechumen through the process.

PAGES 47–48

❖ Those who are to become new members of Christ’s family celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil.

PAGE 48

❖ At Mass during Lent, catechumens leave after the homily to show that they do not yet belong fully to the community. After they are baptized, they will be full Christians and will stay for the whole Mass.

PAGE 48

❖ The names of catechumens are written in the book of the elect during a ceremony called the rite of election. During this ceremony, catechumens answer questions from the bishop, and he declares that they are called to the Sacraments of Initiation.

PAGE 48

❖ Scrutinies are petitions and exorcisms in the Rite of Christian Initiation. Exorcisms are prayers against the evil spirit. They teach repentance, the mystery of sin, and how Christ the Redeemer saved us. The scrutinies strengthen the elect in their decision to live for Christ.

PAGE 48

❖ After the scrutinies, the elect are given the presentations. They are given the Creed and Lord’s Prayer. Finally, they may celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation.

PAGE 48

❖ Mystagogy is the time to learn more about the faith and how to live it. Catechumens have months of mystagogy. During this time, members of the Church help the catechumens grow spiritually.

PAGE 49

❖ Jesus said you must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Water is the main physical sign of Baptism. When the water is poured over you, you are removed from the reign of evil and strengthened against it. You receive divine life.

PAGE 49

❖ In Confirmation, the catechumen is anointed with a special mixture of olive oil and balsam called chrism. With the words “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit,” a person is anointed and marked permanently as God’s possession.

PAGE 50

❖ The Eucharist completes and fulfills Christian Initiation. The community gathers to celebrate the Paschal Mystery and to receive nourishment. It is our greatest celebration.

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Parables: Stories Jesus Told

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 10*.

❖ Jesus is the source of all truth, and all his life was a teaching. We come to know what Jesus taught through Scripture, Tradition, and the teachings of the Church.

PAGE 61

❖ Jesus commissioned his apostles to evangelize, to spread his Good News to all. We all carry on this ministry through teaching and our good example.

PAGE 61

❖ Bishops are the successors of the apostles. They have the right and the duty to teach all that Jesus has revealed. The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church, at work primarily in the pope and in the bishops in union with the pope. It is present in liturgy and in the practice of the faith—whenever doctrines contained in Scripture and Tradition are taught.

PAGE 61

❖ A doctrine is a belief the Church holds and teaches. It is Church doctrine that Jesus is God and that Mary was sinless. Dogma is doctrine that the Church identifies as revealed by God. Dogma is a belief that is labeled as an article of faith.

PAGE 61

❖ While truth does not change, the Church's understanding of truth may change. The Holy Spirit continually leads the Church to deeper understanding.

PAGE 61

❖ Jesus used parables, stories of everyday life, to teach about God and the Kingdom of God so that the ordinary people of his time could understand. Parables usually included an unexpected twist that helped listeners see the Kingdom of God through everyday images.

PAGE 62

❖ The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard teaches that even if we repent at the last minute, God will forgive us. See Matthew 20:1–16.

PAGE 63

❖ The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector teaches that we should not judge others. The parable can be found in Luke 18:9–14.

PAGE 63

❖ The parable of the persistent friend teaches us that when God doesn't answer our prayers right away, we should keep praying. Read the parable in Luke 11:5–8.

PAGE 63

❖ Kingdom parables help us understand the Kingdom of God, which Jesus proclaimed. All the kingdom parables are found in the Gospel of Matthew.

PAGE 63

❖ The Parable of the Wedding Feast teaches us that the kingdom is open to all people. We are free to enter or not. The parable can be found in Matthew 22:2–14.

PAGE 63

❖ The Parable of the Sower illustrates how the Word of God lives or dies in the hearts of different people. Jesus uses farming to help people understand. You can read the parable in Matthew 13:3–9, 18–23.

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Miracles: Signs Jesus Worked

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 11*.

❖ A miracle is a phenomenon that seems to have no natural cause and can be explained only as a direct intervention of God. Jesus worked miracles in order to benefit those who were suffering, but the miracles were also signs that the kingdom he proclaimed is among us. He also used miracles as a way to teach truths about himself, the kingdom, and its members.

PAGE 67

❖ Pain, weakness, suffering, and death are the result of the original sin each person has carried throughout human history. Jesus, who has power over nature, sin, sickness, Satan, and death, came to earth to free us from bondage to sin.

PAGE 67

❖ Jesus used miracles to teach. By healing on the Sabbath and touching unclean people, he showed that God's law of love surpasses all human law.

PAGE 68

❖ Miracles teach the importance of faith, but where the people did not have faith already, Jesus did not work miracles.

PAGE 68

❖ Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at a wedding. Mary asked him to help. The story teaches us that providing in abundance is a sign of God's presence. You can read the story in John 2:1–12.

PAGE 68

❖ The paralyzed man's friends loved the man and had powerful faith in Jesus. They lowered their friend through the roof of a home where Jesus was teaching to a large crowd. Jesus healed the man by telling him his sins were forgiven. This act horrified religious leaders but showed Jesus has power over sin. Read the full story in Mark 2:1–12.

PAGE 69

❖ Jesus was asleep on a boat when a storm threatened to tip the boat. Jesus woke and stilled the storm, disappointed by his disciples' lack of faith. Read the full story in Mark 4:35–41.

PAGE 69

❖ Compassion is sympathy for people who are suffering and a desire to reduce or relieve their pain. Jesus showed limitless compassion for people who were poor, sick, sinners, or suffering. Compassion moved him to work many of his miracles.

PAGE 70

❖ The Gospel of Matthew tells us that faith the size of a mustard seed will allow us to move mountains. Faith is needed for miracles to happen. See Matthew 17:20.

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Penance and Anointing of the Sick

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 12*.

❖ Nearly one-fifth of the Gospels deals with healing. Christ's healing ministry continues today in a number of ways, especially in the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.

PAGE 73

❖ Jesus taught us that God wants very much to forgive us of our sin. The parables of The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, and The Lost Son illustrate this.

PAGE 74

❖ In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, God forgives sins committed after Baptism and reconciles a sinner with the community.

PAGE 74

❖ Contrition is the feeling of true sorrow for having sinned by failing to love. Contrition is necessary for God's forgiveness.

PAGE 74

❖ Conversion is turning away from sin and turning toward God. It is at the heart of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

PAGE 74

❖ Penance is an act that shows conversion of heart, often through prayer, self-denial, or a work of charity.

PAGE 74

❖ Absolution is the act of receiving forgiveness for your sins. You receive absolution from God through the Church and its priest.

PAGE 74

❖ The older brother in the parable of the lost son sinned by not forgiving his brother. The older brother too needed reconciliation. Jesus challenges us to forgive as he forgives—freely, completely, and lovingly.

PAGE 75

❖ Those who are sick and elderly can unite their sufferings with Christ and offer those sufferings for the Church.

PAGE 75

❖ The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick strengthens and sometimes heals the body. It is meant for anyone who is seriously ill or dying and may be celebrated anywhere. In the Anointing of the Sick, the sick person is splashed with water as a reminder of Baptism and anointed with oil, a sign of the Holy Spirit. The penitential rite is part of the sacrament, during which sins are forgiven.

PAGE 76

❖ Viaticum is Holy Communion given to someone who is dying. The word means "with you on the way."

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The Message of Jesus: Choose Life

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 13*.

❖ God made us who we are, and Jesus died to give us eternal life. He taught us that the secret to fullness of life is love. Read about the two new commandments Jesus gave us in Matthew 22:36–40.

PAGE 79

❖ Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate Christian love. Most Jews disliked Samaritans, yet a Samaritan stopped to help a Jew. You can read the full parable at Luke 10:29–37.

PAGE 80

❖ Jesus explained that Christian love is difficult, a whole new way of thinking. Few, he said, can follow this way of love. See Matthew 7:14.

PAGE 80

❖ In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us teachings that guide our decisions. He gave us a new understanding of the Law. Among the teachings found in this sermon is to love our enemies. Read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7.

PAGE 80

❖ Good laws protect the rights of people, protect the common good, and help all people reach goals and live with dignity. Jesus wants us to live by the spirit of the law, not the letter of the law. He wants us to cherish life and show love to others.

PAGE 80

❖ The Fifth Commandment tells us not to kill, but it also teaches us to cherish and respect all life, especially our own.

PAGE 81

❖ Anger often leads to sinful acts, but it is not sinful to feel angry. It is important to channel anger properly. Anger can lead to good acts too.

PAGE 81

❖ Scandal sets a bad example. It encourages other people to act sinfully and can cause damage.

PAGE 81

❖ Abortion is the killing of an embryo or a fetus, a developing baby, before birth. A baby has a right to know, love, and serve God in this world. We should protect and cherish a baby's right to life.

PAGES 81–82

❖ Euthanasia is direct intervention to end life for the purpose of ending suffering. It appears to be merciful, but it disrespects the gift of life God gives us. God alone has the right over life and death, and we cannot know what plans he has for those who are suffering. Allowing a person to die without artificial support is not wrong if continuing such treatment is overly burdensome in prolonging the life of a dying person.

PAGE 83

❖ The Church opposes using the death penalty to punish criminals. We should work instead to build a culture of life.

PAGE 83

❖ Prejudice is the unreasonable dislike of a particular group of people. Examples include racism, sexism, and ageism. Prejudice is wrong because it causes harm to people and denies them their rights.

PAGE 83

❖ The Corporal Works of Mercy are ways to show love for others by tending to their physical, or bodily, needs. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are ways to show love for others by tending to their spiritual needs.

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The Challenge of the Beatitudes

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 14*.

❖ The Beatitudes are guidelines for Christlike living that will make us happy and lead us to eternal life. They are part of the Sermon on the Mount. You can find them in Matthew 5:3–10.

PAGE 87

❖ When the rich young man asked for the secret to eternal life, Jesus told him to sell all he owned and follow him. The rich young man could not. See Mark 10:17–22.

PAGE 87

❖ Each beatitude pairs a value with a promise. Those who live these values are promised the Kingdom of Heaven.

PAGE 87

❖ Jesus praises those who are poor in spirit. The spiritual wealth of the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them. To be poor in spirit means to have the attitude of the poor. It means remembering that everything comes from God.

PAGE 88

❖ Jesus promised comfort to those who mourn.

PAGE 88

❖ It takes courage and strength to be gentle and humble. Jesus says that the meek will inherit the land.

PAGE 88

❖ People who hunger and thirst for righteousness act to make God's kingdom come to this world.

PAGE 89

❖ Jesus forgave sinners and the people who hurt him. He wants us to do the same. If we are merciful, we too will receive God's mercy.

PAGE 89

❖ Jesus says that those who are clean of heart will one day see God. These are Christians who put God at the center of all they do.

PAGE 89

❖ A peacemaker spreads peace as Jesus did. Sometimes a peacemaker may have to enter into conflict to stand up for what is right.

PAGE 89

❖ Those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness will receive the Kingdom of Heaven. People are still persecuted today for their beliefs.

PAGE 90

❖ Jesus' teaching conflicted with many of the world's values. It made people see things differently. Jesus' teaching is still revolutionary today.

PAGE 90

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Jesus' Kingdom of Justice and Truth

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 15*.

❖ Catholic Social Teaching is what we call the Church's body of teaching on social justice issues.

PAGE 93

❖ How we treat a person's property reflects how we treat that person. We are to respect what belongs to others.

PAGE 93

❖ The Seventh Commandment tells us not to steal. We are commanded to be honest and to respect the property of others.

PAGE 93

❖ The Tenth Commandment forbids coveting our neighbor's goods. We must be honest with ourselves and beware of envy.

PAGES 93-94

❖ Envy is feeling deprived or sad because of another's belongs, talents, or success. It can lead to unhealthy competition, negative feelings, and sin. The opposite of envy is feeling thankful for what God has given you and trusting in his providence.

PAGE 94

❖ Greed is the desire to possess and control things. It leads to a number of sins and does not respect the rights of others.

PAGE 94

❖ When we return or pay for stolen goods, we make restitution. When we repair damaged goods, we also make restitution. Restitution is essential in receiving forgiveness for violating the Seventh Commandment.

PAGE 94

❖ Social sin is a term for situations and institutions that harm people and are opposed to the will of Christ. We are called to change unjust systems.

PAGE 94

❖ The goods of the earth belong to everyone. Taking more than our fair share of the earth's goods is a sin.

PAGE 95

❖ The Eighth Commandment tells us that we should not bear false witness against our neighbor. We should be truthful in all we say.

PAGE 95

❖ James said that the tongue is like the rudder of a ship because it makes a big difference, just as small lies can cause great damage.

PAGE 95

❖ Fear is the number one reason people lie. Some are afraid of not being liked, so they lie and exaggerate. Some lie to be "on top." Lies work only for the moment, and in the end, lies lead to losses of friends, peace, and closeness with God.

PAGE 95

❖ The Eighth Commandment tells us to be truthful. Part of being truthful is keeping our word. When someone tells us a secret, he or she trusts us to keep it.

PAGE 96

❖ Speaking the truth builds God's kingdom, a better society, and your character. Jesus values the truth deeply.

PAGE 96

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❖ Our sexuality is our maleness or femaleness. Every cell in a man's or woman's body is marked as male or female. Sexuality affects every aspect of our being. Men and women are attracted to each other based in part on the differences in their sexuality.

PAGE 99

❖ In Ephesians 5:25–33, we find that the love of marriage is like Christ's love for his Church. Just as Jesus would never leave us, we are to remain committed to each other in marriage as long as we live.

PAGE 99

❖ God blesses the lifelong commitment in marriage of a Catholic man and woman through the Sacrament of Matrimony.

PAGE 99

❖ Experience of other people and of Christ's love will give you the knowledge, skills, and deep love you need for marriage.

PAGE 100

❖ Through the gift of sex, God lets us share in his own power to create life. This sacred gift is to be revered and protected in marriage. We are not ready for sex until we are free to take on the responsibilities of loving someone for life and being a parent.

PAGE 100

❖ The sexual drive is very powerful. This precious gift can cause serious consequences for those who do not treat it with reverence. Using sex for purposes for which it was not intended is like playing with dynamite. We must learn to control our sexual drive. Jesus understands how difficult it can be and gives us grace to help us.

PAGE 101

❖ The Sixth Commandment tells us not to commit adultery. Adultery is the act of being sexually unfaithful to one's marriage partner. While the Sixth Commandment explicitly forbids adultery, it also forbids anything that violates the sacredness of marriage. The Ninth Commandment tells us that we should not covet our neighbor's wife.

PAGE 101

❖ God wants us to respect sex not only in our words and actions, but also in our thoughts and desires.

PAGE 101

❖ The Sixth and Ninth Commandments call us to practice the virtue of chastity. Someone who is chaste shows reverence for sex. For married people, practicing chastity means being faithful to one's partner. For unmarried people, it means forgoing sex until marriage.

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Living Faith in Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 18*.

❖ Grace is given to all those who accept and believe God. Through our Baptism, we receive the gift of grace, a share in God's own life. Sanctifying grace is the special grace of God dwelling within us.

PAGE 113

❖ Our desire to do what is right comes from the Holy Spirit, who was sent to give us strength. This feeling is part of that strength.

PAGE 115

❖ Grace is given freely, not earned. You must be open to God's grace in order to share in God's life. The more you accept God's grace, the more influenced you are by him. But people are free to reject God's grace and friendship.

PAGE 115

❖ The Theological Virtues are faith, hope, and charity. These gifts are given by God and centered on God. Faith is the virtue by which we believe God and accept as true all he has revealed and teaches through the Church. Hope is trust and confidence that God will give us eternal life and the help we need along the way. Charity (love) is the virtue that helps us love God and give God first place in our lives.

PAGE 116

❖ Despair and presumption are sins against hope. Presumption is the sin of expecting God to give you all you hope for without cooperating with his grace or living as a Christian. Despair is to believe God cannot or will not help, so you give up trying to be saved.

PAGE 116

❖ The cardinal virtues are habits that allow us to do good acts and to give the best of ourselves. They are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. Justice is the virtue that guides us to respect the rights of others. Prudence is the virtue that directs us to decide what is good. Fortitude is the virtue that gives us the courage to do what is right even when it is very difficult. Temperance is the virtue that helps us control our desire for pleasure.

PAGE 116

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Opposition to Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 19*.

❖ Your faith can help you become aware of God's goodness and presence in moments of joy. In times of sorrow, your faith can help you to believe that God is with you and will bring good out of your troubles. **PAGE 119**

❖ Jesus' own path to glory was through suffering. He endured suffering and death for the sake of our salvation. He was the suffering servant prophesied by Isaiah. The apostles did not really understand why Jesus had to suffer and die until the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. **PAGE 119**

❖ Through the Transfiguration, the faith of the apostles was strengthened. This event teaches us that Jesus' glory comes through the cross. At the Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John saw Jesus in glory in the company of Elijah and Moses. **PAGE 119**

❖ Jesus faced great opposition on earth. Some people threatened violence, some told him to leave, and some accused him of blasphemy. Through it all, Jesus remained true to his goal—to do the will of his Father and proclaim the kingdom. **PAGE 120**

❖ When he heard about Lazarus's serious illness, Jesus said that Lazarus would not die but that the Son of God would be glorified. Jesus waited two days before he went. Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus arrived. Martha was worried about the body being in poor condition after that time. Jesus told Martha that he is the resurrection and the life and that those who believe in him will not really die. Read the story of the raising of Lazarus in John 11:1–53. **PAGE 121**

❖ As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowd waved palm branches, a sign of welcome for a conqueror. They praised him as the king of Israel. Though the Pharisees wanted to stop the crowds from praising Jesus, they were powerless. The Sanhedrin and the Pharisees worried that Jesus' growing popularity would attract attention from Rome and cause problems for the Jewish people. **PAGE 121**

❖ Death is the result of sin. It brings pain and suffering and leads us into the unknown. **PAGE 122**

❖ It is natural to fear death. Even Jesus was afraid of death. The night before he died, Jesus was overwhelmed by his fear of death in the garden of Gethsemane. **PAGE 122**

❖ Death can be our final yes to God. We can accept it and offer our lives to the Father as Jesus did. **PAGE 122**

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The Eucharist

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 20**.

❖ In every Mass, Jesus is present under the appearance of bread and wine. He nourishes us with his Body and Blood. The Eucharist is more than just a memory of a great event. It is the perfect act of worship and the heart of Christian life.

PAGE 125

❖ God prepared humankind for the gift of the Eucharist. The Eucharist, in part, recalls the great Jewish feast of Passover, which celebrates the Israelites' freedom from slavery in Egypt. The bread of the Eucharist recalls the bread broken at the Last Supper. It also reminds us of the manna in the desert and of the miracle of the bread and fish.

PAGE 125

❖ At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of the apostles to show them how to show love. By this important lesson, he taught us all the importance of serving one another.

PAGE 126

❖ Only a validly ordained priest can preside at Mass and consecrate the bread and wine.

PAGE 126

❖ The Eucharist is our great prayer of praise and thanksgiving. The word *Eucharist* means "thanksgiving." The two main parts of the celebration are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

PAGE 126

❖ During the Liturgy of the Word, God speaks to us in readings from the Old Testament, the Gospel, and the epistles.

PAGE 126

❖ The words and actions of the Last Supper are repeated at every Eucharist. By these words, Jesus Christ becomes present. The bread and wine are consecrated when the priest says the words Jesus spoke at the Last Supper. The change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is called transubstantiation. While the priest breaks the bread, we pray that Jesus, the Lamb of God, will have mercy on us and grant us his peace.

PAGE 127

❖ The official book of prayers and directions for the Mass is called the *Roman Missal*.

PAGE 127

❖ At the end of Mass, we are sent out to announce the Gospel to all.

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Jesus' Final Hours

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 21*.

❖ In order to enter into his glory, Jesus had to suffer and die. His obedience and love brought humankind back to God. Jesus offered himself to the Father as the perfect sacrifice in order to win for us forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

PAGE 131

❖ We use the word *passion* for Jesus' powerful expression of love for us from the Last Supper through his death.

PAGE 131

❖ While suffering is a mystery, we must learn to trust in the Father's love and accept suffering as Jesus did. Then our suffering has meaning.

PAGE 132

❖ Jesus was betrayed by his apostle Judas Iscariot, who brought the Roman soldiers to Jesus and pointed him out. After talking to him, the Roman governor Pontius Pilate found Jesus to be innocent. He offered to release Jesus to the crowds, but the people demanded that Barabbas be released instead. Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death on the charge that he claimed to be the king of the Jews, who were really ruled by Rome and by King Herod.

PAGE 132

❖ Jesus was crucified and suffered for a long time on the cross. He died at 3:00 P.M. on a Friday, which is why we remember Good Friday. Mary was present with Jesus when he died. A disciple named John and some other women were also present.

PAGE 132

❖ At death, the moment you see your hidden self and realize how you fit or do not fit into the Kingdom of God is called the particular judgment.

PAGE 133

❖ Heaven is the goal of our lives. It is seeing God face to face and living eternally in his boundless joy.

PAGE 133

❖ Purgatory is the name for the purification we undergo after death during which our remaining selfishness is removed. Then we can enter heaven.

PAGE 133

❖ Those who have refused in serious ways to follow God's command to love are separated from God for eternity. This eternal separation is called hell.

PAGE 133

❖ Jesus' Second Coming, or Parousia, will come at the end of time, when Jesus returns in glory to judge the living and the dead. The eternal destiny of the human race and of every person will be revealed in the Last Judgment.

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The Victory of Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 22*.

❖ No one witnessed the Resurrection, and the Gospel stories about it vary. They all agree, though, that the tomb was empty and that the apostles saw Jesus again. To recognize the risen Jesus required faith because the Resurrection is a mystery of faith.

PAGE 137

❖ Jesus was magnificently transformed by the Resurrection. The apostles saw him glorified. He was full of power, mystery, and glory. The disciples were astounded by seeing Jesus, but it was not until Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit that they were empowered for their mission.

PAGE 138

❖ In Luke's Gospel, the women visiting Jesus' tomb were surprised to find it empty. Two angels in dazzling clothes appeared and asked why the women looked for the living among the dead. They said that Jesus had been raised from the dead. When the women told the disciples about their experience at Jesus' tomb, the disciples accused them of speaking nonsense. Read the story in Luke 24:1–11.

PAGE 138

❖ One of Jesus' appearances occurred when he revealed himself to two disciples traveling on the road to Emmaus. The disciples traveled with a stranger to Emmaus. Only when they shared a meal and the stranger broke the bread did they see who he really was.

PAGE 138

❖ Today we encounter the risen Lord in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, in the Scriptures, and in the Christian community.

PAGE 139

❖ Sacramentals are objects, such as medals and palms, or actions, such as the Sign of the Cross, that prepare us for the sacraments.

PAGE 139

❖ At the Ascension, Jesus returned to his Father. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. He promised that Spirit to his disciples. Jesus told the apostles he wanted them to be witnesses. Today we too are witnesses to Christ. Read more about the Ascension in Acts of the Apostles 1:6–11.

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Alive with the Spirit

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 23*.

❖ The Spirit came to the disciples during the Jewish harvest feast of Pentecost. Mary and the disciples were gathered in a house in Jerusalem, waiting for the Spirit to come and strengthen them for their mission. **PAGE 143**

❖ The coming of the Spirit was accompanied by the sound of a powerful wind that filled the house where the disciples were waiting. The visible sign of the coming of the Spirit was tongues of fire that rested over the heads of the disciples. You can read the story of the coming of the Spirit in Acts of the Apostles 2:1–13. **PAGE 143**

❖ The Holy Spirit had been present before—when John baptized Jesus. This was the time Jesus was anointed for his mission. In the same way, the disciples were anointed for their mission by the Holy Spirit. **PAGE 144**

❖ The most important change that occurred with the coming of the Spirit was in the hearts of the disciples. With the continuing presence of the Spirit, they became enthusiastic, courageous witnesses to Christ. **PAGE 144**

❖ The disciples, empowered by the Spirit, began to teach in the crowded streets of Jerusalem. They were able to speak in other languages. The Spirit empowered Peter to address the crowd, and 3,000 were baptized as a result. The coming of the Spirit at Pentecost bound together the disciples of Jesus Christ. They formed the early Christian community, and the Church was born with the Spirit as its strength and guiding force. The story of what happened after the Spirit came can be found in Acts of the Apostles 2:5–41. **PAGE 145**

❖ The Holy Spirit empowers all Christians even today. Through our Baptism, all the faithful are gifted with the Spirit. **PAGE 145**

❖ The Spirit is present in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Church tradition has added modesty, goodness, and chastity. Read Galatians 5:22–23. **PAGE 146**

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Matrimony and Holy Orders

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 24*.

❖ All people are called to holiness. Christians receive their call to holiness at Baptism. God recognizes that all of us are different, and he calls us to different ways of living. All vocations are meant to lead us to holiness.

PAGE 149

❖ In a Catholic marriage, a man and woman make a binding covenant of love with each other before God. Jesus raised the natural reality of marriage to the level of a sacrament, the Sacrament of Matrimony.

PAGE 150

❖ The bride and groom act as ministers of the sacrament. They bestow and receive the sacrament during the exchange of vows. The marriage vows that men and women make are lifelong vows. The couple should be faithful to those vows all their lives. The faithfulness, or fidelity, of a married couple is symbolized by the rings they give each other.

PAGE 150

❖ Men who serve as bishops, priests, and deacons are ordained through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

PAGE 151

❖ Deacons are men who assist the bishops and priests in their work. Men must serve as deacons before they become priests. Deacons must be men over 35 years of age, but not all deacons become priests. Many are permanent deacons. Deacons may be married.

PAGE 151

❖ A priest administers the sacraments and has many important duties. His greatest responsibility and privilege is to preside at the Eucharist.

PAGE 151

❖ Bishops are the successors to the apostles and have the fullness of the priesthood. A bishop cares for a larger area called a diocese.

PAGE 151

❖ Religious make special vows to dedicate their lives to God's service as members of religious communities. Religious make three vows: chastity, poverty, and obedience.

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