Welcomes Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

When we welcome other people, we also welcome Jesus into our lives. In this chapter the children were encouraged to reach out to others and make them feel welcome. They learned that Jesus loves and welcomes children and that he wants them to know him.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Ask your child to tell you what he or she learned this week. Read with your child the pages that were sent home.

• Children learn hospitality by modeling the acts of welcoming they observe among adults. As parents, we teach these things because we wish to teach our children good manners. Hospitality is about manners, and it is also a Christian value. Take advantage of opportunities to teach your child to greet visitors politely and to offer simple gestures of hospitality, such as taking coats and inviting guests to be seated.

• Pray Psalm 73:28 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Names Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned
To pronounce the name of Jesus reverently is to show respect for him. In this chapter the children talked about the importance of names. They learned that Jesus’ name is holy.

Bringing the Lesson Home
- Read with your child the pages that were sent home.
- Share with your child the significance of his or her name—its meaning and why it was chosen. If the name was given to honor a family member or friend, tell the qualities of that person.
- Talk with your child about nicknames. Tell your child that nicknames are welcome and fun only if the person likes the name he or she is being called. Explain that calling someone a mean name is hurtful and wrong and can be seen as bullying.
- Consider bowing your head slightly when speaking Jesus’ name as a sign of respect.
- Pray Psalm 8:2 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.
- For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Stories Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

God reveals himself to us whenever the Bible is read. Listening or reading with faith leads us to see God’s action in our lives—calling us to commit ourselves to him. The children learned that the Bible, which contains Jesus’ story, is a holy book telling of God’s love for us. They also learned that God’s people hear readings from the Bible at Mass.

Bringing the Lesson Home

- Encourage your child to tell you about what he or she has learned. Read with your child the pages that were sent home.

- Together with your child, reverently place your family Bible in a special place in your home. Then talk about the message of God’s love that it tells.

- Begin reading the Bible (or Bible Stories for Children) to your child. You might choose Mark 10:13–16, Jeremiah 31:3, and parts of Genesis 1.

- Use Psalm 78:4 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you the gestures for this psalm, which the children prayed during this week.

- For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
God’s World Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned
All creation speaks of God’s glory and love for us. When we look around, we can see God’s handiwork. Everything that God created is good, and through the works of creation, we know God better. In this chapter the children were led to see God’s love in the wonderful works of creation and to respond to God’s love by caring for the world he made.

Bringing the Lesson Home
• Encourage your child to tell you about what he or she has learned this week. Read with your child the pages that were sent home.

• Create a family litany. Have each family member pick out something he or she observes and say, for example, “For that tall tree,” to which everyone else responds, “Praise the Lord.”

• Let your child participate in a recycling program in your area or work in your garden.

• Read aloud Genesis 1:31 and appropriate sections from Psalms 65, 66, and 104.

• Pray Psalm 33:5 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Quiet Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Silence helps us enter into our innermost selves and encounter God’s presence. In this chapter the children learned that good and beautiful things happen in quiet. Through a guided reflection, they learned how to meet God, who is present with us.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Encourage your child to tell you about his or her prayer experiences this week. Read with your child the pages that were sent home.

• Introduce a short time for quiet personal intentions during mealtime prayer. Model this form of prayer. Be assured that it becomes more comfortable with practice.

• Encourage your child to enjoy quiet time, either alone or with others. Short times of quiet and less stimulation can be calming for children. Be sure not to confuse this with punishment; it’s merely providing what the child needs at the time.

• Pray Psalm 131:2 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Talking to God Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned
Through prayer, we encounter God and talk with him as we do with a close friend. Modeling prayer for your child shows its importance in your life. In this chapter the children learned that prayer can include reflection, speech, gestures, music, song, and dance. They participated in a variety of prayer experiences.

Bringing the Lesson Home
• Encourage your child to tell you about the different ways the class prayed to God. Read with your child the pages that were sent home.

• Create a prayer jar. Write family members’ names on slips of paper and put them in the jar. Have everyone take a slip and pray for their person during the week.

• Consider designating a family prayer center. You may wish to set aside a regular time of day for family prayer, such as mealtimes or bedtime.

• Pray Psalm 90:14 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Families Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Jesus reveals that God is Father to us all and that we are brothers and sisters in his family. In this chapter the children learned that in God, they are brothers and sisters to people all over the world. Through their Baptism, they are members of God’s family, the Church, and call God “Father.” They were introduced to the first two lines of the Lord’s Prayer.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages that were sent home.

• Declare and celebrate a special Family Week. Honor a different family member each day. Take turns telling the honored member what makes him or her special and how important he or she is to your family.

• Keep in a special place of honor the Lord’s Prayer Card your child brought home. As a family, pray the Lord’s Prayer together each day.

• Pray Psalm 22:11 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm, and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
I Am Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

We are made in God’s image and are called to share eternal life with him. In this chapter the children learned that God made them and considers them precious. They engaged in activities designed to help them appreciate themselves as worthwhile individuals.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages that were sent home.

• Children learn by doing. Refrain from helping your child before it is needed. Trust in your child’s abilities and encourage independence. Provide age-appropriate responsibilities within the family to promote your child’s development.

• Encourage your child to make small but relevant choices, such as what clothes to wear. As your child grows, so will the importance of the decisions, and his or her ability to make wise choices.

• Pray Psalm 139:14 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Growing Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Our growth is a lifelong process. At Baptism, we begin a new way of life, and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can grow into the likeness of Christ. Choosing Baptism for your child indicates your commitment to fostering his or her Christian growth. In this chapter the children learned that at Baptism they became members of the Church.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages that were sent home.

• Take out your child’s baby book to recall together some growing-up stories. Then share old family pictures with your child to reinforce the idea that everyone grows and changes—even mommies, daddies, and grandparents.

• Tell your child why you chose to have him or her baptized. Share memories of the day. Talk about how we grow as Christians by being loving and kind.

• Pray Psalm 52:10 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Thanking Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

In giving thanks to God, we acknowledge that he creates all things, all things belong to him, and all things come to us through his goodness. In this chapter the children talked about special times when we thank God, and they learned thank-yous are for every day. They began to learn the Grace Before Meals prayer and thanked God for their blessings.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages that were sent home.

• Place the Grace Before Meals prayer card by a different person each day, indicating whose turn it is to lead the meal prayer. Occasionally end the prayer by taking turns thanking each person for his or her special contributions to the family.

• Encourage all family members to say please and thank you. Make it a family habit to thank God daily for blessings received, perhaps at mealtime or bedtime.

• Pray Psalm 136:1 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Preparing Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Advent is the season of waiting and preparing to celebrate the threefold coming of Christ: his coming long ago as a man, his daily comings in grace through the sacraments and the events of our daily lives, and his future coming in glory. The children learned that Christmas commemorates the birth of God’s Son, Jesus, who came for our salvation.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Make a point to keep the season of Advent distinct from the Christmas season. Add “Come, Lord Jesus” to your evening mealtime or bedtime prayers during the Advent season.

• Set up a stable with the animals. Place shepherds and sheep a short distance away. On Christmas Eve, place Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the stable. Read aloud the story of Jesus’ birth from the Bible and sing “Silent Night.”

• Pray Psalm 25:5 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Choosing Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Mary, the perfect follower of Jesus, shows us that we attain happiness and self-fulfillment by loving surrender in obedience to God’s will. In this chapter the children learned the importance of making good choices. They learned that Mary is their mother and will help them do what God wants. They also received a prayer card with the Hail Mary prayer.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Let your child make decisions and encourage him or her to stand by them. Point out that each family member’s actions have an impact on your family as a whole. Guide your child to take responsibility for his or her actions and model this behavior too.

• Let your child know what behaviors you expect at home and in public. Take the time early on to explain the reasons for what you ask your child to do.

• Pray Psalm 25:12 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Shepherds Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

The relationship of love and trust that can exist between the human person and Christ is exemplified in the parable of the Good Shepherd. In this chapter the children learned about the protective love Jesus has for each of them as they heard the parable. They received a Good Shepherd Cutout set that they may display at home as a reminder of Jesus' constant concern for them.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Find age-appropriate ways to let your child show care for others.

• Pray Psalm 23:1 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family. Have your child use the Good Shepherd Cutouts to tell the parable.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Hearts Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned
In this chapter the children heard again about God the Father’s great love for them as shown through his Son, Jesus, and through the loving people God places in their lives. They were invited to share in Jesus’ love by showing love for others. They heard about Jesus’ love for his friends in the story of the large catch of fish and cooking breakfast (John 21:1–14). Children also received a heart pendant as a reminder of Jesus’ love.

Bringing the Lesson Home
- Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.
- Encourage your child’s efforts to show love and care for others at home, in the neighborhood, and at school. Notice times your child acts with loving kindness and commend him or her. Be specific.
- Say or do something today to make every member of your family feel loved and appreciated.
- Pray Psalm 36:6 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.
- For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Hands Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Jesus made it known through his words and actions that he came not to be served, but to serve. When children witness this kind of generous service, they learn to deepen their love of God and others. In this chapter the children heard the story of Jesus helping two blind men with his healing touch. They learned that Jesus calls them to be helpers too.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Model a willingness to help those both inside and outside your family circle. Find ways to include your child, such as helping with daily household tasks.

• Participate with your child in volunteer opportunities organized through your parish. For example, visit shut-ins or work at food and clothing drives.

• Pray Psalm 90:17 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Forgiveness Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned
Children learn to accept God’s forgiveness when forgiving and being forgiven are part of their lives. In this chapter the children explored some of their feelings and became aware of others’ feelings. They learned that it is wrong to hurt themselves, to hurt others, or to damage property when angry. They learned how to say “I’m sorry” when they hurt someone’s feelings, and they heard Jesus tell them to forgive those who hurt them.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Make room in your family for one another’s feelings. Teach your child to welcome feelings and coach them on appropriate ways to express those feelings.

• Readily say “I’m sorry” when you have acted in ways that don’t live up to your values of respect and care for others.

• Pray Psalm 38:19 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Church Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Catholics first receive spiritual life at Baptism. This life is strengthened with Confirmation and nourished through the Eucharist. It is through their parents’ faith that children first learn what it is to be Catholic, witnessing to Jesus as members of his Church in the world today. In this chapter the children heard again that they were made members of the Church through Baptism. They learned about the role of the priest and the other members of the parish community.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Bring your child to Sunday Mass with you. Encourage your child to join in saying the Lord’s Prayer and other Mass prayers.

• Use the Lord’s Prayer as part of your family prayer.

• Pray Psalm 122:1 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Meals Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

In this chapter the children learned that meals are times for sharing love as well as for sharing food. They heard the story of Jesus’ Last Supper and learned that at Mass Jesus offers himself up for us and feeds us with the wheat bread and grape wine that are his Body and Blood. Through the love and friendship shared at family meals, children experience the human values found in the Eucharist.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.
• Have a family baking project. Give your child age-appropriate jobs such as measuring or mixing ingredients. Read recipes together. Then enjoy the results of your cooking.
• Begin each family meal with a prayer, such as the Grace Before Meals prayer, which children learned in Chapter 10. Let your child lead the prayer from time to time.
• Pray Psalm 104:14–15 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.
• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Seeds Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

The children were introduced to the mysteries of life and death through a poem about a seed that dies to give new life to a plant. They learned that, through Jesus’ Cross, they received new life in Baptism to enable them to live in love as Jesus did. Find a good place for the cross your child brought home to use when praying daily prayers.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.
• Let your child plant some seeds in a pot or make a small garden. Talk about the way a seed dies to give life to a plant.
• Teach your child how to pray the Sign of the Cross. Encourage your child to make the Sign of the Cross with holy water when entering a church. When we do this, we recall our Baptism.
• Pray John 3:17 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this prayer and pray it together as a family.
• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.chistourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Butterflies Are Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Jesus is risen. His victory over sin and death is our triumph as well. We believe our lives are transformed through the power of the Resurrection. In this chapter the children were led to wonder and delight in the various forms of new life evident in the spring. They compared the life cycle of a butterfly to Jesus’ Death and Resurrection. They heard that through Baptism, they participate in Jesus’ new life and can live his life of love.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Go for a walk to find signs of new life, such as spring flowers or robins. Consider buying a small plant for your home or letting your child pick spring flowers to put in a vase.

• Visit a church to see the baptismal font where your and/or your child’s new life began.

• Pray Psalm 149:1 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Light Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

In this chapter the children learned to appreciate light as a gift of God the Father. They heard God’s Son, Jesus, call himself the Light of the World and learned that the Easter candle is a symbol of the risen Jesus. The children were told about the candle they received at Baptism to show that they share in Jesus’ life. They made candles as reminders to let their light shine by being loving.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• At Mass, point out the tall Easter candle. It is a symbol of Jesus, risen and alive.

• Make or buy a family candle as a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World and is present in the midst of your family. Light the candle before family prayers. Younger children can blow it out.

• Pray Psalm 27:1 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Celebrating Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned
Habits of prayer are best learned by praying with others and joining in the celebration of the Mass. In this chapter the children discovered the meaning of gifts and were shown how to thank God at Mass for the gifts of his love. The children learned that they are invited, by reason of their Baptism, to join in the Sunday Mass celebration.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Take your child to church to celebrate Sunday Mass. Let your child see that singing, praying, and receiving Holy Communion at Mass are important to you. Continue with a special meal or activity that shows Sunday is special.

• Go through a family photo album and look at pictures of family celebrations, such as weddings, Baptisms, and reunions. Tell stories about these celebrations.

• Pray Psalm 89:2 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Air Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned
In this chapter after learning about air (wind), an invisible reality that is necessary for life, the children were introduced to the invisible reality of the Holy Spirit, whose help we need to live as Christians. The Holy Spirit invites us to live Jesus’ loving response to God, to love others, and to show responsible stewardship for the earth.

Bringing the Lesson Home
• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.
• Teach your child to be open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. Set aside time each day for your child to pray. When your child begins to make more and more decisions, encourage him or her to pray for guidance.
• Encourage your child’s growth in wonder by providing opportunities for silence, discovery, sharing, and surprise. Engage in healthy, fresh-air recreation.
• Pray Wisdom 1:7 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this prayer and pray it together as a family.
• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Joy Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Christians have every reason to rejoice. Through his glorious Resurrection, Jesus has assured us that we can live in endless joy. In this chapter the children learned that the risen Jesus is the source of Christian joy and that they are called to be joy-bringers. They were encouraged to go beyond self-centeredness, to reach out to others in self-sacrificing love, and to bring joy to those whom they meet.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Help your child realize that disappointments and hardships are part of everyone’s life and can take away our deep inner joy only if we let them. Tell your child that seeing him or her happy gives you joy and pleases Jesus. Being happy is one way to spread Jesus’ joy.

• Let your child be a child. Encourage age-appropriate activities and ways of dressing. Enjoying childhood provides a solid foundation for a more joyful life in years to come.

• Pray Psalm 16:11 as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the gestures for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.
Life Is Good

The Lesson Your Child Learned

In this chapter the children recalled that new life comes through death. The children learned that the greatest joy of heaven will be experiencing God’s overwhelming love. In heaven, they will also enjoy the company of the blessed—including family and other loved ones who have died in faith.

Bringing the Lesson Home

• Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.

• Teach your child to show reverence for life in all its forms. Visit grandparents and other elderly family members. Express joy at the birth of babies.

• When someone you care about dies, explain that you grieve because you miss the loved one, but you know the person has a new life with God. As a family, pray for those who have died.

• Pray Psalm 16:11 again as part of your family prayers this week. Ask your child to teach you and other family members the new gestures they learned for this psalm and pray it together as a family.

• For tips on how to live this chapter’s lesson and raise faith-filled kids, go to www.christourlife.com/family for Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath.