

Growing in God's Love

Together look at family photos and discuss how you are all related to each other. Say: **Today we will talk about our families and about God the Father's special family, the Church.**

Point to the unit title on page 39 and read it aloud. Have your child repeat it as you point to each word. Say: **In Unit 2 we will learn about how each of us is a special gift in the eyes of God.**

Chapter 7 Families Are Good

Centering

- Review the last session. Say: **In the last session, you learned the word for talking to God.** Ask: **What is it?** (prayer) Say: **Today you will learn a very special prayer about families that we can pray every day.**
- Provide your child with drawing materials and have him or her draw a picture of your family.

Sharing PAGE 39

- Read aloud the chapter title on page 39 and have your child identify the family members in the picture. Have your child show you his or her drawing of your family and discuss.
- Say: **Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus also belongs to a family like you and me.** Ask: **Who is in Jesus' family?** (Mary and Joseph)
- Read aloud the rest of the page. Help your child find the Word to Know *Holy Family* in the Glossary. Read and discuss the definition.
- Say: **Jesus' family is called the Holy Family.** Ask: **Why do you think we call it that?** (Jesus is the Son of God. Mary and Joseph loved and followed God.) Say: **The members of the Holy Family loved one another and took care of one another.** Ask: **How do you think Jesus might have helped Mary and Joseph?** (doing chores, obeying his parents)
- Remind your child about prayer posture. Then guide him or her in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 7 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 40

- Read aloud page 40. Help your child understand that he or she is a member of God the Father's family. Say: **The Church is our other family. You became a member of the Church on the day you were baptized with holy water. The pope, who lives in Rome, is the head of the Catholic Church. We are brothers and sisters to people all over the world.** Show your child a picture of the current pope.
- Read aloud the Scripture feature. Remind your child that these words come from God's special book, the Bible.

Sharing PAGE 41

- Say: **God is a loving father who takes care of us all the time. He gives us everything we need—good food, water, and most especially, people who love and care for us.**
- Read aloud the text at the top of page 41. Point out the Word to Know *Lord's Prayer*. Help your child find the term in the Glossary. Read and discuss the definition.
- Read aloud the directions on page 41 and have your child complete the activity.

Acting

- Show your child the Lord's Prayer Card punchout found in your child's book. Say: **Jesus taught us a special prayer called the *Lord's Prayer*, or the *Our Father*. Here is a punchout card. On one side of the card is our yes word, *Amen*. The other side says *Lord's Prayer*. The whole prayer is inside.**
- Direct your child to place the Lord's Prayer Card where it will remind him or her to pray to God our Father in heaven.
- Say: **Let's use words and gestures to pray the first two lines of the Lord's Prayer. Repeat after me:**
Our Father, [Join hands.]
who art in heaven, [Raise joined hands.]
hallowed [Fold hands, fingers pointing up.]
be thy name. [Bow head.]
- Say: **The word *hallowed* means "holy." When we say *hallowed be thy name*, we are telling God, "Holy be your name" or "We want everyone to keep your name holy."**

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 42–43

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 42. Discuss how God is our Father. Ask: **How does God show us love?** (He gives us a family to care for us.)

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **People in families share special times together. Our church family celebrates together every time we gather for the Mass.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **You become a member of the church family on the day you are baptized.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 43. Say: **All of us learn things from our parents.** Ask: **What do you think Mary learned from Saint Joachim and Saint Anne?** (Possible answer: She learned to be kind, obedient, and caring.)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Together identify the people in your church family. Say: **All of us the world over are brothers and sisters in God’s family. Our priest and members of our parish are part of our church family.** Allow time for your child to color the picture.

Transform

- Have your child point to a country on the picture of the globe. Ask: **How are the families who live here like our family?** (We are all brothers and sisters in God’s family.)
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **God, help us treat our church family with love and care. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 44

- Help your child complete the Chapter 7 Review on page 44.
- Read aloud the question in We Remember. Have your child answer it by identifying the members of the Holy Family in his or her drawing.
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer aloud with you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 7 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 8 | Am Good

Centering

- Say: **Today you will discover some great gifts that you received when God made you.**
- Say: **Let's play a game that uses our imagination and some of our God-given gifts.** Together pantomime these actions: walk like robots, pick flowers in a field, eat an ice-cream cone, wash dishes, climb stairs, melt like a snowman, throw a ball. Say: **Let's learn more about the wonderful things each of us can do.**

Sharing PAGE 45

- Read aloud the chapter title on page 45. Then read aloud the poem. Ask: **Why was the boy eager to wake up?** (He wanted to go for a walk.) **What were some things the boy did during the day?** (smelled a rose, played on a swing, ate a snack) **What does the boy think about himself?** (He is wonderful.) **Do you think he is wonderful? Why?**
- Say: **You are wonderful too! You also have ears and can hear wonderful and beautiful sounds.** Ask: **What do you like to listen to?** Say: **The boy has fun swinging.** Ask: **What do you have fun doing?** Say: **The boy likes snacks.** Ask: **What is your favorite food?** Say: **The boy likes hugs.** Ask: **How do you share love? Who made you so wonderful?** (God the Father)
- Say: **The boy loves his family. The boy's family thinks he is wonderful. They love him just because he is their child. You have people who think you are wonderful just because you are you.** Ask: **Who are they?** (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters)
- Guide your child in reflective prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 8 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 46

- Read aloud page 46. Point out the word *praise*. Help your child find the word in the Glossary. Read and discuss the definition.
- Say: **We praise God when we tell of the happiness we feel because God is so good.** Together read aloud the last two sentences: **God is great! Thank you, God!**
- Read aloud the Scripture feature on page 46. Say: **Our heavenly Father tells us we are precious to him. Precious means we are very special and important. We are precious because God our Father makes us like himself. He wants us to live with him forever in heaven.**
- Tell your child to prepare to listen to God's words as you read aloud Isaiah 43:1–4 from your family Bible. Then say: **The Lord God who created you says, "I have called you by name: you are mine....you are precious in my eyes,...and I love you." The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond, "Thanks be to God."

Sharing PAGE 47

- Read aloud the text at the top of page 47. Then guide your child in doing the activity.
- Play two games with your child to reinforce his or her understanding of senses (adjust games as necessary to accommodate any special needs). First, play a visual memory game. Place familiar items in front of your child (such as a mitten, a crayon, a key), then have her or him close their eyes. Remove one item and rearrange the others. Have your child open his or her eyes and recall which item is missing. Then play a game involving touch. Have your child close his or her eyes and then hand them something familiar such as a spoon or toy. Have your child identify the object by touch. Repeat two or three times with different objects.
- Have your child repeat after you: **Thank you God...for giving me eyes to see beautiful things. Thank you God...for making me wonderful.**

Acting

- Show your child the I'm Wonderful Pennant punchout found in his or her book. Say: **A pennant is a special kind of flag that is used to show that someone or something is special and wonderful.** Ask: **Can you read what is written on this pennant?** (I'm wonderful) Help your child make their own I'm Wonderful pennant. Have your child write his or her name on the back of the pennant and then staple the pennant to a straw. Suggest that your child display the pennant in your home.
- Say: **Everyone is precious to God. He made everyone wonderful. Let's take turns saying something special about each other. Then we will thank God for it with prayer and end each prayer with "Amen."** Take turns identifying characteristics, such as You: *God gave [child's name] brown eyes.* Child: *Thank you, God, for my brown eyes.* All: *Amen.*
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 139:14.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 48–49

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 48. Say: **God the Father made us to be like him. We are like God when we act in a way that is loving and giving.** Ask: **What are some ways that you show love and kindness to others?**

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Greet your child enthusiastically and say: **There is no one else like you! God made you special.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **God made all life to be precious. That means everyone is special in God's eyes.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 49. Say: **When Saint John Paul II was a child, his name was Karol. When Karol grew up, he worked for God.** Ask: **What do you think that means?** (Possible answer: He became a priest. He led the Church as pope.)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and have your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Have your child discuss the person he or she drew. Ask: **Why did you choose that person?** Say: **Everyone is special. It is nice to let them know!**
- Have your child show their picture to the special person they drew. Say: **Tell your special person why you are thankful he or she is part of your life.**

Acting PAGE 50

- Help your child complete the Chapter 8 Review on page 50.
- Read aloud the question in We Remember and have your child point to each word in the puzzle as you read them aloud together.
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer aloud with you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 8 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 9 Growing Is Good

Centering

- Have your child draw a “then and now” picture. Fold a sheet of paper in half. On one side, have him or her draw a picture of what he or she looked like as a baby. On the other half of the paper, have him or her draw a picture of what he or she looks like now.
- Say: **Babies are special signs of love. They show the mother and father’s love. Babies show God’s love.** Look at your child’s drawings. Ask: **Were you ever this small? What happened to you?** (I grew.) Say: **Growing is good. All living things grow and change.**

Sharing PAGE 51

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 51. Ask: **What helps pumpkins grow?** (water, sunlight, warmth) **What helps elephants grow?** (food, water, rest) **What helps seeds grow?** (water, sunlight, soil) **What helps children grow?** (food, rest, water, love)
- Say: **You will not always be a child. One day you will be grown up.** Ask: **Do you know any older people?** Say: **They are important. They have lived a long time and can teach us many things about loving God and other people. Even though they are grown up, they are still God’s children.**
- Invite your child to close his or her eyes and think about the pictures of him or her as a baby and as a child. Then lead your child in reflective prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 9 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 52

- Read aloud page 52. Have your child point to the words *sacrament* and *Baptism* and help them find these words in the Glossary. Read and discuss the definitions. Say: **Jesus gave us seven sacraments. Baptism is the first one we receive.**
- Say: **At your Baptism, holy water was poured on you. Then you were anointed with Chrism. The priest or deacon put blessed Chrism oil on the top, or crown, of your head. The anointing showed you belong to Jesus’ kingdom and to his family, the Church.**
- Help your child decorate the I Am a Christian crown punchout found in his or her book. Staple the crown to fit your child’s head. Say: **Your crown tells you that you belong to Jesus’ special royal family, the Church.**
- Teach your child the next two lines of the Lord’s Prayer: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Invite your child to pray these two lines of the Lord’s Prayer with you.
- Say: **We grow in many different ways. One special way we grow is in faith.** Ask: **How might we grow in our faith lives?** (learn more about God, go to Mass, pray) Say: **We can grow to be more like God’s Son, Jesus, when we act in kind and loving ways.**

Sharing PAGE 53

- Say: **You know that you grow by eating good food. Your body grows. Your mind grows. You grow as a Christian too. All your life you keep growing in Jesus' love.**
- Guide your child in doing the activity on page 53.
- Read aloud the Scripture feature on page 53. Ask: **Where can you find these words?** (in the Bible)

Acting

- Say: **Let us pray all the parts of the Lord's Prayer that you know.** Pray the first four lines of the Lord's Prayer together.
- Say: **At your Baptism, you were anointed with Chrism, which is a special oil made from olive oil and perfume. Long ago, perfumed oil was very precious because it was hard to make. It was used to anoint kings! It showed that they were holy.**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 52:10.
- Say: **This psalm mentions an olive tree. An olive tree grows the olives used to make Chrism. When you pray that psalm, you are telling God that you are precious and growing, just like the olive tree that helps us make Chrism.**

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 54–55

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 54. Talk about how roots help a plant grow. Then ask: **How does being “rooted” in Jesus help us grow as loving Christians?** (We follow Jesus’ example and love others as Jesus does.)

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Baptism connects us to God our Father, to each other, and to members of our church family.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **When we are baptized, our church family helps us understand how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 55. Say: **Saint Mary and Saint Martha were sisters. They showed their love for Jesus in different ways.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and help your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Discuss the people your child named in the Witness and Share activity. Ask: **What are different ways to show love to the people you named? What does it mean to grow in Jesus’ love? How will you feel as your love grows bigger and deeper?**
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **Jesus, Son of God, help us share your love with everyone we meet. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 56

- Help your child complete the Chapter 9 Review on page 56.
- Read aloud the Words to Know and ask your child to use them in a sentence.
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer aloud with you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 9 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 10 Thanking Is Good

Centering

- Say: **There is an important way that we can show that we are growing more like Jesus. It is a way that we can show love to other people every day just by saying two simple words. See if you can figure out what these two words are.**
- Say: **If someone gives you something, what do you say?** (Thank you.) **If someone helps you with something, what do you say?** (Thank you.)
- **What is something that we can do every day to be more like Jesus?** (Say thank you.)

Sharing PAGE 57

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 57. Help your child find the word *Thanksgiving* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: **Our celebration of Thanksgiving Day lasts just one day. But, as Christians, we believe that every day is really a thank-you day. Why?** (There are reasons to say thank you every day.)
- Say: **God gives us food to eat and other things we need to stay alive. He cares for us every day.** Ask: **What do you think we should do every day?** (Pray our thanks to God.)
- Display the Grace Before Meals Prayer Card punchout. Say: **As Christians, we can thank God for our food every day before we eat it. Listen as I pray grace.** Read aloud the prayer on the card. Then help your child pray the prayer with you. Point out this prayer on the inside back cover of the book. Say: **This is an important prayer for us to know so that we can say thank you to God our Father for the food we eat. When you know this prayer by heart, you can color the cross next to it.**
- Teach your child the next line of the Lord's Prayer. Say: **In one part of the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Let's say this together.** Say the line. Then say: **When we say these words, we ask God our Father for food and for all the things we need. Let's say the words again, with our hands held open to show God we are asking for something: "Give us this day our daily bread."**
- Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 10 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 58

- Together take a short thank-you walk around the room, your home, or outdoors. As you walk, spontaneously thank God for the things you see.
- When you return, lead the prayer on page 58. Say: **We ask God for many things, and God, in his goodness, gives us many good things.**

Sharing PAGE 59

- Read aloud the text and the directions on page 59. Then have your child complete the activity. After the drawing is complete, discuss what your child drew and why.
- Read aloud the Scripture feature and have your child repeat it. Say: **When we pray grace before meals, we thank God for our food. We can also thank God for the many other good gifts that he gives to us.**

Acting

- Give your child some drawing materials. Say: **Think of a gift or blessing from God for which you are especially grateful—parents, pets, food, nature, or anything.** Invite your child to draw a picture of the gift they thought of. Complete your own drawing while your child works and share what you drew and why with her or him. When you're both done, lead your child in prayer thanking God for that gift.
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 136:1.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 60–61

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 60. Say: **We feel good when we thank God for his many gifts.** Ask: **How can we show our thanks to God in the things that we do?** (by treating others with kindness, by taking care of God’s creations, by sharing God’s love)

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What do you think it means to have a “thankful heart”?**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **How does our family say grace before a meal?**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 61. Say: **Bernadette’s family was very poor, and Bernadette was sick as a child.** Ask: **Why might it be difficult to be thankful in hard or unhappy times?** (Possible answer: You may feel sad.) Say: **Remember that God is always with us. Bernadette remembered this, so she was always very thankful.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Encourage your child to think about family members, friends, teachers, or others at school or home. Assist your child with spelling as needed.

Transform

- Ask: **Why is it important to say thank you?** (Possible answer: because it shows people we love them)
- Help your child practice saying thank you by role-playing situations. Role-play scenarios could include someone helping another put on a coat, or sharing a toy.

Chapter Review PAGE 62

- Help your child complete the Chapter 10 Review on page 62.
- Read aloud the question in We Remember and have your child answer it. Say: **Complete this sentence about the person you are thankful for: Thank you _____ for _____.**
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer aloud with you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 10 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 11 Preparing Is Good

Centering

- Say: **Today we will talk about God's greatest gift. His name starts with a J.** Ask: **Who do you think this is?** (Jesus)
- Ask: **What are some things we do to prepare for a birthday party?** (Possible answers: get decorations, paper plates, a cake, a gift, make goody bags) Say: **On Christmas we celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus. The four weeks before Christmas are a special time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. This time is called the season of Advent. During Advent, we light candles on an Advent wreath to remind us that we are preparing to celebrate Christmas.**
- Discuss ways that your family prepares for the birth of Jesus Christ. (Possible answers: light an Advent wreath, send Christmas cards, make good things to eat, prepare gifts to give each other) Say: **Christians all over the world get ready to celebrate Christmas. We prepare to give gifts because God our Father gave us Jesus, the first and most wonderful Christmas gift.**

Sharing PAGE 63

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text at the top of page 63. Help your child find the term *Son of God* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Say: **Waiting can be very difficult. During Advent, we remember how God's people waited for Jesus, the Son of God. Our prayer during Advent helps us while we wait.**
- Read aloud the Scripture feature and remind your child that these words come from God's special book, the Bible. Then say: **Many stories in the Bible teach us that God the Father helped the world prepare for Jesus' birth.** Ask: **Do you think it was easy for God's people to wait for Jesus' birth?**

Sharing PAGE 64

- Read aloud page 64. Help your child find the word *Advent* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 11 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.
- Say: **As we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we prepare one very important thing. We prepare our hearts.** Show the Heart punchout. Say: **God made our hearts to love. The best gift we can give his Son, Jesus, on the day of his birth is the gift of our love. During Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus by being loving toward our families and others.**
- Reread the last sentence on the page. Say: **These words are a prayer you can pray to make your heart ready for Jesus.** Pray aloud the prayer together: **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- Role-play loving responses with your child. Let him or her suggest ways of being loving at home and at school when the following things happen: the babysitter asks you to pick up your toys; a friend wants to play with one of your toys; a family member wants to watch a different TV program than you do; your teacher asks you to wear your coat when you go out to play; your parent asks you to sit quietly in church.

Sharing PAGE 65

- Read aloud the sentence at the top of page 65. Say: **We light candles on an Advent wreath because Jesus is our joy and light.** Then have your child complete the activity.
- Pray together the Advent prayer from page 64. Say: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Acting

- If possible, show the family Nativity set, removing all figures and props. Say: **This empty manger reminds us that during Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.** Put your child in charge of adding one piece of the nativity to the manger each day until Christmas as they do a loving deed or say a prayer to prepare their hearts for Jesus. If your Nativity set will not accommodate this activity, draw an empty manger and have your child draw one figure or piece of the Nativity each day until Christmas.
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 25:5.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 66–67

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 66. Ask: **How does our family get our hearts ready to welcome God’s Son, Jesus, during Advent?** (Possible answers: We pray. We try to make good choices. We do good deeds.)

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What makes waiting so hard?** (Possible answer: We are excited for what is coming.) Say: **Jesus’ birth fills us with excitement as we prepare.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Each candle represents one of the four Sundays of Advent.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 67. Say: **Saint Elizabeth was also blessed with a baby named John. He grew up to be John the Baptist.**
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions and allow time for your child to choose the correct responses.

Transform

- Discuss your child’s choices in Witness and Share. Ask: **How does showing love help you get ready to welcome Jesus’ love into your heart?** (Possible answer: It makes you closer to Jesus.)
- Pray aloud as your child prays silently: **God, help us prepare to welcome Jesus’ love into our hearts. Amen.**

Chapter Review PAGE 68

- Help your child complete the Chapter 11 Review on page 68.
- After your child finishes drawing a gift for Jesus, ask: **Why do you think this is a good gift to give to Jesus?**
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer aloud with you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.
- Read the Chapter 11 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.

Chapter 12 Choosing Is Good

Centering

- Say: **In the last chapter, we talked about preparing. You can choose to prepare or not to prepare your heart. Today we will talk about choosing.**
- Give your child the option of two snacks to choose from. Then ask: **Was it easy to choose the snack you wanted? Why did you choose one snack over the other?**

Sharing PAGE 69

- Read aloud the chapter title and the text on page 69. Help your child find the words *choice* and *grace* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions.
- Ask: **What are some choices you make every day?** (what to eat, what to wear, which toys to play with) Say: **God's grace helps us make good choices. Grace is a gift from God freely given to us because he loves us so much. We receive grace in the Sacrament of Baptism. We are filled with God's love and grace.**
- Say: **Every day we have opportunities to make choices. Some choices are easy to make. Some choices are more difficult.** Ask: **What kinds of choices are easy for you to make? What are choices that are more difficult for you to make?**
- Say: **Let's take a few minutes to talk to Jesus about some of our choices.** Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Distribute the Chapter 12 A Moment with Jesus prayer card and repeat the prayer together. Remind your child to save the card with the others and encourage him or her to use them at any time.

Sharing PAGE 70

- Tell your child the story of the Annunciation. Say: **God sent an angel to ask Mary to be Jesus' mother. The angel Gabriel came to Mary and said, "Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you! God wants you to be the Mother of his Son. You will have a baby boy. You are to name him Jesus." The angel waited. [Pause.] God let Mary choose if she would be Jesus' mother. She could say yes or no to God. Mary said, "Yes. I will be Jesus' mother. I will do whatever God wants me to do."**
- Give your child the Yes Card punchout. Tell him or her to raise the yes card when the answer to the question is yes. Ask: **What did God ask Mary to choose?** (whether or not to be the mother of Jesus) **Why did Mary say yes?** (She wanted to do what God wanted.) **Did Mary choose what was good?** (Yes.) **Do you think Mary was happy saying yes to God?** (Yes.)
- Read aloud page 70, including the Scripture feature. Say: **These words come from God's special book, the Bible.**

Sharing PAGE 71

- Read aloud page 71. Help your child find the Word to Know *Hail Mary* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition.
- Introduce the Hail Mary. Say: **There is a special prayer that the Church prays to Mary. Say each line of the prayer after me: “Hail Mary, full of grace.”** [Pause.] **“The Lord is with thee.”** [Pause.]
- Say: **We say *Hail Mary*, like Gabriel did, to honor Mary because she is a very special person. *Full of grace* means “full of goodness or full of God’s life and love.” *The Lord is with thee* means “God is with Mary.”**
- Pray the Hail Mary together. Then say: **When we honor Mary, we also honor her Son, Jesus.**

Acting

- Dramatize the story of the Annunciation from page 70. Play Gabriel and have your child play Mary. Let him or her respond spontaneously, but whisper line prompts as needed.
- Give your child the Hail Mary Prayer Card punchout. Say: **The prayer card has the Hail Mary prayer that we are learning. When you learn it by heart, you may color the cross by the Hail Mary on the inside front cover of your book.**
- Say: **Take time each day to remember that you are a special gift from God.**
- Using your family Bible, lead your child in prayer using Psalm 25:12.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 72–73

Inspire

- Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 72. Say: **Mary made a good choice when she said yes to God.** Ask: **What are some times when you have said yes to God?** (by following rules, showing love, cooperating, and treating others with kindness)

Proclaim

- Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Show your child examples of rosaries. Say: **We honor Mary when we pray the Rosary.**
- Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **When we make good choices, we are acting like Mary.**
- Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 73. Say: **Saint Joan of Arc went into battle in the name of God to fight for France.** Ask: **What words could you use to describe Saint Joan?** (Possible answers: brave, strong, faithful)
- Read aloud the Witness and Share directions. Remind your child that we say a special prayer to honor Mary. Read aloud the words that your child will trace and point out that this is only the beginning of the Hail Mary prayer. Have your child complete the activity.

Transform

- Ask your child to pray the beginning of the Hail Mary prayer he or she wrote in Witness and Share. Say: **Mary shows us how to make good choices by saying yes to God.**
- Have your child think about the good choices he or she makes and finish this sentence: *God asks me to _____ and I say yes!*

Chapter Review PAGE 74

- Help your child complete the Chapter 12 Review on page 74.
- Pray aloud the prayer in We Respond. Then have your child repeat the prayer aloud with you.
- Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith and Growing Faith sections with other members of your family, or together read aloud the sections to review.
- Read the Chapter 12 Living the Lesson by Tom McGrath, found at www.christourlife.com/family.
- Conclude the unit by holding the Unit 2 Celebration found at www.christourlife.com/family.