

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 11

❖ 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 11

❖ 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 11

❖ 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 11

❖ 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 12

❖ 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 13

❖ 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 13

❖ 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 14

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

PAGE 14

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