

# What's My Child Learning?

This is a review of the information your child is learning in Christ Our Life, Grade 3.

## **Unit 1: God Calls Us to Faith**

### Goals

The children will realize they are called to be one of God's holy people.  
They will desire to live like Jesus.

### **Chapter 1: God Calls Us**

God calls each of us to take part in the plan of salvation. God promises to help and bless us if we trustingly respond. In this chapter the children learn that Abraham and Ruth are models of fidelity to God's call. They learn that faith means a willingness to do what God asks, knowing that God always brings us to a fuller, richer life.

### **Chapter 2: God Gives Us Gifts**

Each person fulfills God's plan in a different way. God gives us the gifts and talents we need to do this. In this chapter the children learn that God expects us to be responsible for our talents. We should develop them to the best of our ability and use them to improve ourselves, to help others, and to praise and glorify God. They meet David, who used his gifts this way.

### **Chapter 3: We Are God's Holy People**

God calls us to be a holy people and gives us his Son to be our Way, our Truth, and our Life. In this chapter the children learn that Jesus became man to show us how to live a holy life and to teach us the way to the Father. Through his Church and the saints, God continues to guide us. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are strengthened and brought closer to God as God's holy people.

### **Chapter 4: God Called Mary**

At the Annunciation Mary was asked to be the mother of Jesus, God's Son. By saying yes she became the Mother of God, our spiritual mother, and the Mother of the Church. In this chapter the children learn from Mary's example to answer the call of God willingly and promptly. They also become familiar with the Joyful Mysteries, as they are taught how to pray the rosary.

### **Chapter 5: Jesus Calls Us to Follow**

True disciples of Jesus listen to his Word and walk in his way. In this chapter the children hear how Jesus called the Apostles, the disciples, and Paul. They learn that Jesus calls them, too, to follow his way of love and to share in his mission of leading all people to God.

# What's My Child Learning?

## **Unit 2: God Is Great and Good**

### Goals

The children will understand some of the characteristics of God.

The children will respond to God with love and respect and desire to be with God.

### **Chapter 6: We Believe in God**

God promised to free the Israelites, who were held as slaves by the Egyptians. In this chapter the children learn that God kept this promise through Moses. Realizing that God is always faithful to promises, the children are led to trust God and to pray with confidence for God's help. They become aware that just as the Israelites celebrated God's faithfulness during the Passover, so we celebrate it in the Eucharist.

### **Chapter 7: God Is Powerful and Loving**

God manifested his promise throughout the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land. Considering the incident at the Red Sea, the children learn the wisdom of relying on God, the all-powerful one. They recognize God's love in feeding his people with manna, and compare it to the Holy Eucharist. Realizing that God calls them to enter into a covenant of love, they are encouraged to respond as the Israelites did: "Everything the LORD has said, we will do." (Exodus 19:8)

### **Chapter 8: God Is Holy and Great**

God revealed himself as the holy one when speaking to Moses in the burning bush. The children come to know God as holy, great, all-knowing, and all-present. They grow in reverence for God and for God's name, as well as for other holy things as they review the Second Commandment. As their faith in the living God deepens, the children should strive to reflect God's holiness by acting more like Jesus.

### **Chapter 9: God Is Just and Merciful**

Justice and mercy are both characteristics of God's everlasting love for us. In this chapter the children learn that God is always as just and merciful with us as God was with the Israelites. They become aware of the Father's justice and mercy as revealed by Jesus and as practiced by the saints. They review the unit.

## **Unit 3: God's Plan Is a Plan of Love**

### Goals

The children will realize what God's kingdom is like.

They will appreciate God's plan that enables us to belong to the kingdom.

They will be familiar with some of Jesus' parables and miracles and their meanings.

## What's My Child Learning?

### Chapter 10: God Created People to Share His Life

This chapter deepens the children's awareness that God created human beings to share in his divine life. God gave us the gift of grace so that we might be with him forever. They learn that the first human beings fell from grace when they sinned and that, through sin, evil entered the world. The children gain a deeper appreciation of both God's goodness and the evil of sin, and they become more aware of Jesus' presence with them at all times, helping them live his life.

### Chapter 11: God Sent His Son to Live Among Us

God chose Mary as the mother of his Son and Joseph as his foster father. The children relate the Annunciation to the Incarnation—the great mystery of our faith. They read the story of the Nativity and realize anew that Jesus came to save them and show them the way to heaven. They are motivated to respond to God's love by following Jesus and living as he did. The children hear the story of Simeon and Anna and realize that Jesus wants them to bring his light to the people of the world.

### Chapter 12: Jesus Revealed the Kingdom of God

John the Baptist prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. In this chapter the children learn that Jesus was baptized by John and that he was tempted by Satan, who wished to see him reject his Father's plan. As the children hear how Jesus overcame the temptations of the devil, they come to realize that God allows them to be tempted but always gives them the grace necessary to resist the temptation. They understand that Jesus drove out evil spirits and worked other miracles to show that God's kingdom triumphs over all. They pray for the reign of God in their own hearts and in the hearts of all people. The children learn the meaning of Jesus' parables about the Kingdom of God and begin to appreciate that kingdom as a priceless pearl. They are encouraged to imitate the saints by using their gifts to honor God and help others, thereby spreading the Kingdom of God.

### Chapter 13: Jesus Came to Give Life

Jesus showed his power over sin and death when he restored life and health—natural or supernatural—to those who needed and desired it. In this chapter the children come to realize that Jesus worked miracles to reveal his love and power and to strengthen our faith in him. They become more aware of the social effects of sin and recognize more fully the healing power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They deepen their appreciation of Jesus' love and learn to respond by acting as his instruments of healing power, manifesting his love in words and deeds.

### Chapter 14: God's Kingdom Is a Kingdom of Love

The children deepen their understanding of God's kingdom as they review this unit. Realizing that true service of God includes keeping the commandments, they are inspired to live the spirit of God's kingdom by loving others as Jesus has loved them.

# What's My Child Learning?

## Unit 4: Jesus Brings Us to the Kingdom of God

### Goals

The children will deepen their understanding of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. They will appreciate being members of the Church and will try to be good members.

### **Chapter 15: Jesus Suffered and Died for Us**

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem for the feast of Passover was honored with palms and hosannas. Still, Jesus was saddened by many people's refusal to accept him as the promised Messiah. The children learn that Jesus offered himself as the sacrifice of the new covenant, which we celebrate at every Mass. They consider the sufferings of Jesus during his agony in the garden, his arrest and trial, and his Crucifixion and Death. They learn that by submitting to these sufferings in obedience to his Father's will, Jesus conquered sin and death. The children are encouraged to model Jesus when they face trials and to be inspired by the hope of enjoying a share in Christ's glory.

### **Chapter 16: Jesus Is Risen**

Jesus rose, glorious and immortal, the third day after his Death. The children learn that by his Resurrection, Jesus destroyed death and restored the life of grace. They celebrate Jesus' victory, realizing that he frees them from their fears and gives them his peace. They are made aware that death is the gateway to eternal life, and they are given guidance in coping with the death of a loved one. They are encouraged to observe Sunday in a spirit of celebration as a commemoration of the Resurrection.

### Chapter 17: Jesus Christ Is Lord and King

After a farewell message, Jesus ascended into heaven. The children learn that Jesus returned in glory to his Father and is King. They learn that Jesus will come again in glory to judge all people on how well they have observed his law of love. The children are able to appreciate more fully both the promise of future glory and the hope it inspires in them to do what is right, as well as to be of loving service to others, regardless of the difficulty. They explore ways to use daily opportunities to show their faithfulness to Christ their King.

### **Chapter 18: Jesus Gives the Spirit to the Church**

In this chapter the children learn that Jesus' promise to send the Spirit was fulfilled on Pentecost. The children realize that the Holy Spirit, who came to protect and guide the Church then, is still with the Church today, enabling it to carry on the work of Jesus. The children see in Mary a model of one who always followed the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and they are inspired to follow her example. They are encouraged to pray for the help of the Holy Spirit, both for the Church and for themselves.

### **Chapter 19: We Belong to the Kingdom**

The children learn that the saints in heaven, the faithful on earth, and the souls in purgatory are united in the Communion of Saints. The children pray for the help of the saints in heaven and offer their prayers and good works for the people on earth and the souls in purgatory. The faithful on earth will one day become the saints in heaven. As the children review this unit and the year's work, they deepen their understanding of the

# What's My Child Learning?

mysteries of our faith. They plan how they can use everyday happenings to live their faith and to deepen their relationship with God and others in order to reach their final destiny—a glorious life with God for all eternity.

## **Unit 5: Jesus Is with Us on Our Way**

### Goals

The children will learn how Jesus helps us answer our call to be holy through the sacraments.

They will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and the Eucharist with greater understanding, eagerness, and love.

### **Chapter 20: God Shares the Wondrous Life of Grace**

In great love for us, God sent his only Son, who suffered and died so that we might share divine life. In this chapter the children learn about the life of grace, which we receive in Baptism. They learn that through this sacrament, God dwells within us and enables us to live as his children. They also learn that we can grow by praying, celebrating the sacraments, and leading a good Christian life. Even now we have begun to share in the risen life of the Lord.

### **Chapter 21: The Holy Spirit Lives Within Us**

The Holy Spirit guides us through his gifts to live as God's children, to do good and avoid evil. In this chapter the children learn that the Holy Spirit helps us reflect the image of the Lord, each according to his or her own gifts.

### **Chapter 22: God Blesses Contrite Hearts**

Jesus loves us with a forgiving love. In this chapter the children learn that if we are sorry for our sins, Jesus is always ready to forgive us as he forgave Saint Peter and others, and to reconcile us to himself, to the Father, and to one another. We need but trust in him and allow his love to change our lives.

### **Chapter 23: God Forgives Us**

God is a loving and forgiving Father. Though we reject his love when we sin, he is always ready to welcome us when we turn to him. In this chapter the children review what they have already learned about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, increase their knowledge by learning the steps to a good confession, and enrich their appreciation of the sacrament by carefully preparing for it and reverently celebrating it.

### **Chapter 24: God's Family Celebrates the Eucharist**

Jesus' great love is shown by his institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper. Through this gift, he enabled God's people for all time to share in the sacrifice of the Cross. In this chapter the children learn that God invites us to come together as a family to the eucharistic celebration when Jesus offers himself to the Father. During Mass God speaks to us in the readings and feeds us in Holy Communion. Through Holy Communion God's children become more like Jesus so that they can share his peace and love with others.



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# What's My Child Learning?

## **Chapter 25: The Eucharist Is a Gift**

Gifts are given to express love. In this chapter the children learn of the great gifts that constitute the eucharistic celebration. We take the gifts of the earth, which God has given, and through our human labor change them into bread and wine to be brought as gifts to the Eucharist. When these gifts have been transformed into Jesus Christ's Body and Blood, with him we offer his sacrifice of love and the gifts of ourselves to our heavenly Father. Through the gift of Holy Communion we are drawn closer to God's people everywhere. The children's understanding and appreciation of the gift of the Eucharist grow as they participate in the planning of a eucharistic celebration.