

Jesus Calls Us to Give Ourselves in Love

- ◆ Before beginning Unit 2, read A Letter Home, found on page 36 of your child's book. Then begin the next paragraph with your child.
- ◆ Say: **In Unit 2 we will learn more about the Ten Commandments, God's rules that help us live as his children.**

CHAPTER 5 Jesus Shows Us How to Love God Our Father

Centering PAGE 35

- ◆ Read aloud the title and the Bible verse on page 35.
- ◆ Ask: **How do you like to celebrate your birthday?** Say: **When we celebrate, we show all the joy that is inside us. What do you do to show your joy at a celebration?** (smile, laugh, sing, dance, clap, play, cheer)

Sharing PAGE 37

- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 37 and point out the words *Ten Commandments*. Ask: **What did Jesus say would bring us joy?** (living in his love, keeping his commandments)
- ◆ Say: **Jesus knows that loving is the most important thing we can do. He wants us to love and celebrate God our Father. Why?** (God loves us.)
- ◆ Say: **Jesus' friends asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Ask: What prayer did Jesus teach them?** (the Lord's Prayer, or the Our Father) Say: **The Our Father is on the inside front cover of your book. Remember, when you know the Our Father by heart, you may color the cross by it.**

Sharing PAGE 38

- ◆ Read aloud page 38. Have your child point to the words *Lord's Day* and find the meaning in the Glossary. Ask: **What is Jesus doing in each of these pictures?** (praying, teaching, going to the Temple)
- ◆ Say: **We can learn from Jesus the importance of praying, speaking about God with love, and celebrating the Lord's Day.**

Sharing PAGE 39

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph on page 39 and complete the activity. Then read aloud the rest of the page. Say: **Commandments are like laws or rules. They are given to us by God to help us live good lives and be happy.**
- ✦ Say: **Turn to the front and back covers of your book.** Ask: **What do you see?** (prayers) **Which ones have you already prayed?** (Possible answers: Lord's Prayer, Sign of the Cross, Grace Before Meals)
- ✦ Say: **There are many different ways of praying.** Ask: **How do we pray during Mass?** (aloud in the responses, silently, in song)

Sharing PAGES 40–41

- ✦ Point to the picture on page 40. Ask: **What are some of the beautiful things in this picture? Wouldn't it be nice to be there?** Say: **Draw yourself into the picture. Remember that you are also part of God's beautiful creation.** Read aloud the adaptation to Psalm 139 on page 40 as your child works.
- ✦ Say: **God our Father is so good to us. No matter where we go or what we do, God is there, watching over us. When you think about God and when you love God, you are praying. It is good to think quietly about God in the morning, during the day, and at night.**
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.
- ✦ Say: **Jesus wanted everyone to say God's name with love.** Ask: **How would you feel if someone made fun of your name?** (sad, angry) Say: **It is wrong to use a person's name this way. It is even worse to use God's name without love. Why?** (because God loves me more than anyone else does) Say: **When we pray, we use God's name with love.**
- ✦ Say: **God's people have always kept a day holy for the Lord.** Ask: **What day do we keep holy?** (Sunday) Say: **We keep Sunday as the Lord's Day because Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday.** Ask: **What can you do to make every Sunday a holy and happy day, a day of rest?**
- ✦ Help your child complete the word banners on page 41.

Acting PAGE 42

- ✦ Help your child remove the God's Top Ten CDs punchouts, as well as the CD cover labeled God's Laws of Love. Say: **This CD will help you remember the key terms for the Ten Commandments. The first three key terms you have already learned are *pray, name, and Lord's Day.***
- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 5 Review on page 42.
- ✦ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 43–44**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 43.
Say: **Following God’s commandments helps us make room for the important things.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **If God hadn’t asked us to keep the Lord’s Day holy, what might happen on Sundays?** (People might not set aside time to worship God.)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **God wants us to share his commandments with others. When we share God’s commandments, we share our joy in following Jesus.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 44. Say: **In his Gospel, Saint Luke included many details about Jesus’ birth and childhood. These details help us know Jesus better.**
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Say: **God wants us to spend the Lord’s Day doing activities that nourish our souls, just like the ones you named in Share Your Faith.**
- ◆ Help your child use his or her idea from Share your Faith to make a billboard advertisement for keeping holy the Lord’s Day. Tell him or her to write *Keep the Lord’s Day Holy* at the top. Encourage your child to share the advertisement with others.

CHAPTER 6 Jesus Shows Us How to Love Others

Centering

- ◆ Show your child photographs of people he or she knows and have your child identify them. Then show them pictures of the same people when they were babies or children. Allow time for your child to guess who they are. Ask: **What is fun about sharing old photos?** (Sometimes you can't recognize people.) **When has someone had trouble recognizing you?**
- ◆ Say: **Today you will learn more about loving God and loving others.**

Sharing PAGES 45–46

- ◆ Use the family Bible to read aloud the story of the Last Judgment. (Matthew 25:34–40) Say: **Jesus told a story about times when he too wasn't recognized.** Ask: **Why did Jesus tell this story?** (to teach us to love his people) Say: **Jesus wants us to know that he is really the one we're being kind to when we are kind to people. He is alive in his people, and whatever we do to them, we do to Jesus.**
- ◆ Say: **Jesus taught us how to love people when he gave us his Great Commandment. Listen to the commandment as I read it. Find out how Jesus wants us to love others.** Read aloud the commandment in Mark 12:30–31 from the Bible.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Jesus' words at the top of page 45 and point out the words *Great Commandment*. Find the meaning of this term in the Glossary. Ask: **How does Jesus want us to love God?** (with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength) **How does Jesus want us to love others?** (as much as we love ourselves) Ask: **Why does Jesus want us to do good things to people who do mean things to us?** (Jesus wants us to love everyone like we love ourselves.)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the rest of the text. Ask: **How did Jesus show love in this story?** (He made Peter's mother-in-law well.)
- ◆ Read aloud the top of page 46. Say: **Look at the sentences that are inside the letters of the word *love*. Each sentence tells a way to show love for others. What are they?** (Obey. Be kind. Be respectful. Be honest. Be truthful.) Say: **In the next lessons, we will learn about the seven commandments that tell us how to love others.**
- ◆ Read aloud the directions at the bottom of the page and have your child complete the activity.

Sharing PAGES 47–49

- ◆ Use the family Bible to read aloud the story of Jesus' visit to the Temple as a boy. (Luke 2:41–52) Ask: **Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus?** (in the Temple in Jerusalem) **Why did Jesus stay in the Temple?** (to obey his Father)
- ◆ Say: **In Nazareth, Jesus listened to Mary and Joseph and helped them. When Jesus obeyed his parents, whom was he also obeying?** (his heavenly Father) Say: **We are following the Fourth Commandment when we obey our parents.**
- ◆ Say: **God tells you what he wants you to do through people who care for you.** Ask: **Who are some of these people?** (parents, teachers, priests, police officers, sitters, bus drivers, playground supervisors)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 47 to review the story of Jesus' first time in the Temple. Then have your child color the picture of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.
- ◆ Invite your child to pray A Moment with Jesus. Allow enough time for him or her to ask Jesus for help.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the directions on pages 48 and 49. Help your child complete the activities.

Acting PAGE 50

- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 6 Review on page 50.
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 51–52**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 51. Say: **We reflect God’s love for us through our actions.** Ask: **How can we show our love for God?** (by loving and being kind to one another; praying for others)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **When we love our neighbor, we are living God’s Law of Love.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **What are some ways you can live the Fourth Commandment?** (by listening to my parents; doing what my parents ask; being kind and respectful)
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 52. Say: **Jesus loved Matthew even though many people did not. Our neighbors are all people. This includes people we know and people we don’t know.**
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Invite your child to share what he or she wrote in the Share Your Faith activity. Praise your child for having a loving heart. Say: **The more we try to live like Jesus, the better we make our world.**
- ◆ Encourage your child to continue to act on his or her Share Your Faith idea.

CHAPTER 7 We Give Love to Others

Centering

- ✦ Show a precious possession of yours to your child and explain why it means so much to you. Let your child hold the article. Ask: **How did I show that the (name of object) was something precious to me?** (handled carefully, spoken about lovingly)
- ✦ Ask: **What four key terms have we discussed that tell how to show love?** (*pray, name, Lord's Day, obey*) Say: **These words are clues to the meanings of the first four commandments.**
- ✦ Say: **Today you will learn four more commandments, four more ways to show love.**

Sharing PAGE 53

- ✦ Ask: **What if you made a beautiful picture and gave it to someone? Then later you found your picture torn up. How would you feel?** Say: **Everything in the world is a precious gift from God our Father. When we treat each gift carefully, we show our love for God.**
- ✦ Let your child hold a live plant, an egg, or a small animal as you tell why we respect all living things. Say: **Living things are special because they have life from God. When we help things live, we're helping God, who gave them life.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the top section of page 53. Say: **We can thank God and be grateful for living things.** Ask: **What can we say?**
- ✦ Read aloud the bottom section of page 53. Ask: **How can we show that people are precious?** (treat them kindly; help them; do not hurt them) Say: **To treat people and all living things kindly is to follow the Fifth Commandment.**

Sharing PAGE 54

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the top section of page 54. Say: **We will not touch other people's bodies the wrong way. We will not make fun of our bodies or let anyone touch them in the wrong way. If they try, we will tell our parents at once. We will treat our bodies the way God meant them to be treated. We will be respectful of them.**
- ✦ Help your child find the CD for *respectful* in your set. It has the numbers 6 and 9 written on it because these two commandments tell us to be respectful.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the rest of the page. Point out that four commandments are mentioned on this page. Ask: **What is the keyword that explains each commandment?** (Sixth: *respectful*; Seventh and Tenth: *honest*; Eighth: *truthful*)

- ◆ Say: **Honest people don't steal or cheat. They are fair.** Discuss situations where it is important to be honest. Help your child find the CD for *honest*. Say: **This CD also has two numbers written on it because two commandments tell us to be honest.**
- ◆ Ask: **How do you feel when someone doesn't tell you the truth?** Say: **If you love someone, you will always try to tell that person the truth. You will not want to lie to that person. Lying to people hurts them.** Help your child find the CD for *truthful*.
- ◆ Have your child arrange the CDs into two columns. One column should have the three words that tell how to love God, and the other should have the words that tell how to love others.
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

Sharing PAGE 55

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the directions on page 55 and complete the activity.
- ◆ Invite your child to defend any alternate answers from the activity. The ideas behind the commandments overlap. Correct as needed.

Acting PAGE 56

- ◆ Help your child remove the finger puppets from the back of his or her book. You might want to mount the puppets on craft sticks. Then use the puppets to act out situations that require love. (Examples: a family member wants you to change the channel from a TV show you are watching; someone bumps into you as you walk down a hall; you come home late from a friend's house—the last time that happened your mother said you couldn't go to your friend's house for a week—and your mother asks what took you so long)
- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 7 Review on page 56. Say: **We read in the Bible why we are filled with joy when we love and respect others.**
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 57–58**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 57. Say: **A deed is an action. God wants our actions to match our words. It is our loving deeds that matter most to God.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Every day we can show respect for others, ourselves, and the world. Every action can be a sign of love.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Remember, when our words match our actions, we are living truthfully.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 58. Say: **From a young age, Catherine wanted to be close to God. It is never too early to say “Here I am!” to God.**
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Ask your child to share what he or she wrote in the Share Your Faith activity while you demonstrate active listening. Say: **Listening with love is an important action that the world is in great need of.**
- ◆ Discuss what made your listening respectful. Then encourage your child to listen to others kindly and respectfully.

CHAPTER 8 Jesus Calls Us to Live in Love

Centering

- ◆ Play a game of Follow the Leader with your child, taking turns being the leader. Say: **Following someone can mean trying to be like that person. In this unit, you learned how to live like Jesus. Today you will learn about how one of the saints lived like him. You will have a chance to decide to follow Jesus.**

Sharing PAGE 59

- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 59. Say: **Thérèse understood what Jesus meant when he said, “Live in my love. Keep my commandments. Then my joy will be in you and your joy will be full.”** (adapted from John 15:9–11)
- ◆ Say: **Thérèse called herself the Little Flower of Jesus. Ask: How did she show that she was God’s little flower?** (She tried to do many things for God each day, and she tried to make others happy.) **How did she show that she loved God?** (She tried not to say things to hurt others; she tried not to complain; she did what she was told; she made daily sacrifices.) **What do God’s commandments tell us to do?** (Love God and love one another.)

Sharing PAGE 60

- ◆ Read aloud the directions on page 60 and have your child complete the activity. Say: **Jesus lived his whole life pleasing his Father and doing good for others. Saint Thérèse tried to live as Jesus did. You can do the same.**
- ◆ Use one of the puppets from the last chapter to play this game. Say: **This little puppet always forgets what he wants to say and stops in the middle of sentences. Help him by finishing the sentence with the correct ending.** Use these sentences. Accept reasonable answers. Say: **Talking to God is called** (prayer). **We pray at** (Mass). **God’s name is** (holy). **We can pray always and everywhere because God is** (always with us). **We obey God when we do** (what God wants). **Jesus obeyed his Father because he** (loved him). **When we help others, we are** (kind). **We are honest when we respect things that belong** (to others). **We tell the truth when we tell** (what really happened).

Reviewing PAGES 61–62

- ◆ Have your child complete the crossword puzzle on page 61. You may wish to read aloud the clues and show your child where to print the answers. Check the answers together. Make sure your child understands why the words belong to either the *Love God* or *Love Others* side.
- ◆ Help your child complete the Unit 2 Review on page 62.

Celebrating PAGES 63–64

- ◆ Tell the story of how Jesus called Matthew (Matthew 9:9). Say: **Following Jesus meant more than just walking where Jesus walked.** Ask: **How did Jesus want Matthew to follow him?** (He wanted Matthew to love God and others the way he did.) **Would it be easy to try to love all people all the time as Jesus taught?** (No.) **Why not?**
- ◆ Help your child see his or her Baptism as a call to follow Jesus. Ask: **When did Jesus first call you?** (at Baptism) **How can you show that you are following Jesus in loving others?** (obey, be kind, share, be respectful, be honest, be truthful) Say: **This year, Jesus will invite you to share in his special meal, the Eucharist, and to receive him in Holy Communion. He wants to come to you to give you his love in this special way.**
- ◆ Help your child cut out a large construction-paper heart. Then have your child write this sentence on the heart and sign his or her name: *Yes, I will follow you.* Allow time for your child to decorate the heart. Say: **Jesus loved people, so he called them to follow him by living in love. He called us for the first time in Baptism. Today he calls us again. You have signed your name on your heart card to show that you love Jesus and want to follow him. Slowly raise your heart card to show that you are giving your heart to God.**
- ◆ Lead your child through the prayer on pages 63 and 64. Then say: **Now close your eyes and think quietly about your love for Jesus and your promise to follow him. Ask Jesus to help you love him and others.** [Pause.] **Now let's pray together the Sign of the Cross.**

Acting

- ◆ Have your child show his or her heart card to other family members. Say: **Tell them how you are following Jesus by being loving.**
- ◆ When you've completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 66a–66d and encourage him or her to share it with other family members, or read and complete the section together.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 65–66**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 65. Say: **When we make a loving sacrifice, we might feel joyful and uncomfortable at the same time. But you may not notice your discomfort because you've just done something good.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **We remember Jesus' sacrifice when we go to Mass and receive the Eucharist. We can also remember Jesus' sacrifice when we make sacrifices of our own.**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **How can following the Ten Commandments help us be more like Jesus?**
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 66. Say: **Saint Thérèse said, "Everything is God's garden." When we do small acts of love, we are spreading the Good News all over God's garden.**
- ✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ✦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ✦ Say: **A way to make following Jesus' example a habit is to give yourself kind and loving deeds to perform each day.**
- ✦ Together write kind and loving acts on slips of paper and put them in an envelope. (Examples: clean my room; wash the dishes; feed my pet) Encourage your child to choose one kind act from the envelope each day and perform the act.