

God Forms a Family of Faith

- ✦ Say: Before we start the second unit of your book, let's take turns reading aloud page 48. You have learned that God promised to have mercy on human beings after the first sin. Today you will meet the person who began the fulfillment of this promise and what it means to trust God.

CHAPTER 6 Abraham Is Our Father in Faith

Centering PAGE 47

- ✦ Say: I would like you to take a trust walk with me. You will be blindfolded, but I promise I will lead you carefully and make sure no harm comes to you. You must believe what I say and trust that I will keep you safe. Blindfold your child and gently lead him or her around your home. Then remove the blindfold and discuss how your child felt. Emphasize how important it was for your child to believe and trust.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the unit title and the Scripture quote on page 47.

Sharing PAGE 49

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title. Then have your child read silently the section God's Call and Abram's Response on page 49. Ask: **What did God ask Abram to do?** (leave his father's home and his country and travel to Canaan)
- ✦ Say: **Until this time, Abram didn't know much about God, who was just beginning to reveal himself. Moving was not easy because it meant traveling with a large family as well as flocks of animals, household goods, clothes, and weapons. Also, Abram was seventy-five years old.**
- ✦ Ask: **Why did Abram's move require faith?** (He didn't know the land to which God directed him or the people who lived there. The journey would be long and difficult.) **What would his spiritual journey lead him to?** (a deeper and clearer faith in the one true God)

Sharing PAGE 50

- ◆ Have your child complete Map Search on page 50. Ask: **What is the shaded area?** (the Fertile Crescent) **Why do you think it is called the Fertile Crescent?** (The soil is rich and crops grow well. It is a crescent shape like a quarter moon.)
- ◆ Say: **Judaism, Christianity, and Islam consider Abraham to be an important person. Islam was established by the prophet Muhammad, who founded the first Islamic community around A.D. 610 in Mecca, which is now Saudi Arabia. In addition to professing the faith of Abraham and adoring the one God, Muslims revere Jesus as a prophet and honor his mother, Mary.**
- ◆ Explain that Islam is a religion of peace and that people who claim to kill in the name of Islam distort the message of Islam for political reasons.

Sharing PAGE 51

- ◆ Have your child read aloud God's Covenant with Abram on page 51. Point out the boldface words and have your child find their meanings in the Glossary.
- ◆ Ask: **What were God's promises to Abram?** (a great reward, descendants as numerous as the stars, the land of Canaan, a son named Isaac) Say: **As the father and ruler of the Chosen People, Abraham has a special title.** Ask: **What is it?** (patriarch) Say: Isaac was the first of Abraham's descendants—those who descended from the family of Abraham.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud In God We Trust. Ask: **Which commandment calls us to believe in God and to place our trust in him alone?** (the First Commandment)

Sharing PAGE 52

- ◆ Have your child read silently Our Covenant with God on page 52. Ask: **How do we renew our covenant with God and grow in our relationship with him?** (by praying, celebrating the sacraments, and giving witness to our faith in Christlike words and actions)
- ◆ Have your child complete Keeping the Covenant. Say: **Think how you can witness your faith today. Write something you will do to live out your covenant with God. The answer is between you and God.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly.

Sharing PAGE 53

- ◆ Say: **Tell me about a time when you were asked to trust someone or to trust God in a difficult situation, and everything turned out all right.** Share your own experience.
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud A Challenge to Abraham's Faith on page 53. Say: **The main lesson of this chapter is that God looks for the sacrifice of our wills rather than for human sacrifice.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud A Story of Trust. Ask: **What are some examples of ways that we might sacrifice our wills?** (by saying no to things that would harm us and others; by saying yes to loving actions)

Sharing PAGE 54

- ◆ Decide which parts you and your child will read aloud in Abraham's Sacrifice on page 54. Read aloud the skit and ask: **How do we know that God was only testing Abraham's faith?** (An angel stopped Abraham before he killed his son.)
- ◆ Say: **At Mass, in the Eucharistic Prayer, we pray that God will accept our offerings as he accepted "the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith."** Ask: **Why was Abraham rewarded?** (because of his faith)

Acting PAGES 55–56

- ◆ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 55 and 56.
- ◆ Invite your child to pray the Lord's Prayer, emphasizing the words "thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven."
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Things to Do at Home 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: **In Baptism, God promises to give us eternal life if we have faith in him and live our faith.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **God called Abram to make a journey to a distant, unknown land. His journey led Abram to a deeper and clearer life of faith.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **God called Abram to make a journey to a distant, unknown land. His journey led Abram to a deeper and clearer life of faith.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 58. Say: **Dominic’s mission was to live a life of ministry, bringing salvation to people through the Word of 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

- ◆ Explain that Abraham lived in the Middle East, a region of the world that still suffers from political and religious conflict. Invite your child to include the people in the Middle East in his or her nightly prayers.
- ◆ Invite your child to pray the Rosary like Saint Dominic. If time allows, pray a decade of the Rosary for peace in the world.

CHAPTER 7 Jacob Is Chosen by God

Centering

- ✦ Say: Think about a time when you wanted to do something, but you had to be chosen in order to do it.
- ✦ Ask: What did you do to try to get chosen? How did you feel if you were chosen? How did you feel if you weren't chosen? What might you have done differently?
- ✦ Say: Today you will learn about Abraham's grandson, Jacob, and how he was chosen by God.

Sharing PAGE 59

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the section Sibling Rivalry on page 59. Ask: **What did Rebekah know about her sons even before they were born?** (The younger would play a special role in the life of his people. He was God's chosen one.)
- ✦ Ask: **Why was the birthright especially important in Isaac's family?** (because the one who would receive it would be the new patriarch of God's Chosen People) **How did Jacob get Esau's birthright?** (Esau traded it for some food Jacob had cooked. He even made an oath promising Jacob his birthright.)

Sharing PAGE 60

- ✦ Have your child complete A Stolen Blessing on page 60. Ask your child to share his or her answers and then read aloud the last paragraph of this section.
- ✦ Ask: **How did God feel about Jacob's deceitful ways?** (God was not pleased, but because he loved Jacob and had chosen him, God used the situation to bring about good.)
- ✦ Ask: **What good did God bring about?** (The promise of the Redeemer would be passed on through Jacob's family.)
- ✦ Say: **God still uses divine power in our lives to bring about good, even from bad situations.**
- ✦ Have your child read silently Jacob's Dream. Ask: **What is Jacob's ladder?** (a stairway Jacob saw in a dream, which went from the ground to heaven and had angels going up and down)
- ✦ Ask: **Why did Jacob set up a memorial stone in Bethel?** (It was the sacred place where he dreamed about the ladder and where God revered the promises made to Abraham.)

Sharing PAGE 61

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the section More Tricks on page 61. Ask: **What does Jacob's willingness to work so hard to earn the right to marry Rachel tell you about how Jacob changed from the beginning of the story?** (He was willing to earn what he wanted rather than to use tricks to steal what did not belong to him.)
- ◆ Say: **Because the custom was for the groom not to see the bride's face until after the marriage ceremony, Laban could trick Jacob into marrying his older, less attractive daughter, Leah.** Ask: **After all his hard work, how do you think that made Jacob feel?** (angry, betrayed) **What might you have done in Jacob's place?**
- ◆ Ask: **How do you think Jacob's experiences helped him become a better person?** (He grew strong through hard work. He learned patience.)
- ◆ Allow time for your child to read silently Genesis 29:15–30. Then ask: **If Jacob was still afraid of Esau's anger, why did he leave Laban?** (God told him to return to the land of his father, Isaac.) **What does this obedience to God's will tell you about Jacob?** (He had learned to trust in God.)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Jacob Wrestles with God. Check that he or she looks up Jacob's reply to the stranger. Ask: **What is meant by the 12 tribes of Israel?** (the descendants of each of Jacob's [Israel's] sons)
- ◆ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly.
- ◆ Have your child complete What's Your Name? and then read aloud the last two paragraphs.

Sharing PAGE 62

- ◆ Have your child complete Chosen for Mission on page 62 and share his or her answers.
- ◆ Have your child read silently A Chosen Race. Allow time for him or her to write the answers to the questions in this section. Check these answers and read aloud the final paragraph.

- ◆ Have your child read aloud *Chosen, Not Perfect*. Allow time for your child to answer the question. Ask: **How are we like Jacob?** (God chose Jacob; God chose us. Isaac's blessing was the sign that Jacob was chosen. Baptism is a sign that we've been chosen.)
- ◆ Say: **As baptized members of the Church, our mission is to walk with Jesus wherever we go, bringing his message to others. Walking with Jesus isn't always easy. However, God wants us to know that we are never alone. The Holy Spirit is always with us. We are called to be like Jacob, who knew that he needed God's blessing to fulfill his mission. We can pray and ask God to help us. We do God's work even when it is hard.**

Acting PAGES 63–64

- ◆ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 63 and 64.
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Things to Do at Home section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

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

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 65. Say: **This passage from the Old Testament helps us understand that we are chosen by God. As a Chosen People, we are dearly beloved by God.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Through Baptism, we are named God’s children and enter the Church. We are called out of darkness into his wonderful light.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **How did Jacob respond to his trials?** (He didn’t give up.)
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 66. Say: **Saint Elizabeth’s symbol is a triple crown—as a member of royalty, as a mother, and as a saint crowned in heaven. She is the patroness of all Catholic charities.**
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Encourage your child to follow the example of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. Together brainstorm ways you and your child can serve those who are poor. Encourage your child to solicit help from family members, teachers, and other volunteers.
- ◆ Choose one idea from the list to carry out. Together make a plan to serve the poor. For example, have a food drive in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving.

CHAPTER 8 The Israelites Journey to Egypt

Centering

- ♦ Introduce the concept of Divine Providence. Say: **“If you’re in a shipwreck, hold on to the wreckage.”** Ask: **What do you think this saying means?** (Even though the boat is broken into pieces, one of those pieces may save your life.)
- ♦ Say: **Sometimes tragic events can occur in our lives. When something bad happens, it may seem as if all hope is lost. However, if we trust in Divine Providence, we can learn to hold on and allow God to lead us to safety and new life.**
- ♦ Say: **God’s protection and guidance in all that happens in our lives is called Divine Providence. This does not mean that bad things will never happen to us but that God is with us during difficult times, offering his guidance. We believe that God can bring good even in the midst of evil.**
- ♦ Say: **Today you will see signs of Divine Providence in the life of Joseph, one of Israel’s youngest sons.**

Sharing PAGE 67

- ♦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and both sections on page 67. Then ask your child to underline the sentence that explains Divine Providence. (God provides for our needs and watches over us.)

Sharing PAGES 68–69

- ♦ Have your child read aloud A Brother Is Sold on page 68. Discuss the Recall questions.
- ♦ Have your child read aloud Envy—A Deadly Sin. Say: **Most people experience feelings of envy at some point in their lives. An initial response of envy may not be sinful, but it can become sinful if we do not try to control it—if we allow it to direct our actions and thoughts.**
- ♦ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly.
- ♦ Take turns reading aloud Dreams and Wonders in Egypt on pages 68 and 69. Discuss the Recall questions following this section.

- ◆ Ask: **What special qualities did Joseph have that made him a good leader?** (humble in the use of his power and talents; loyal; honest; hardworking; devoted to God and God’s laws) **How can you show some of the same leadership qualities in helping those who are poor or who are in trouble?**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the Solidarity section on page 69. Ask your child to recall recent events in the news in which a tragedy or natural disaster resulted in a generous response from around the world. Point out that these are examples of people recognizing their solidarity with others.

Sharing PAGE 70

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the section Hopes and Dreams on page 70. Tell your child to reflect quietly on what he or she is hoping for most now in life. Remind your child that to have hope is to have confidence in God’s loving plan.
- ◆ Have your child read silently the first part of A Family Reunited. Ask: **Why do you think Joseph’s brothers did not want to bring Benjamin to Egypt?** (They felt guilty over what they had done to Joseph and did not want to hurt their father more by taking away Benjamin. They were afraid that Israel would not survive the loss of Benjamin.)
- ◆ Ask: **Why did Joseph first honor Benjamin, then frame him for stealing?** (to see whether his brothers would sacrifice Benjamin; to test his brothers’ loyalty)

Sharing PAGE 71

- ◆ Have your child finish reading silently A Family Reunited on page 71. Discuss the Recall questions at the end of the section.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Caring for Our Family. Ask your child to share examples of what he or she can do to contribute to the well-being of your family.
- ◆ Say: **The story of Joseph in Genesis has two purposes. First, it demonstrates how God, in providential love, works all events into the plan of salvation. When Joseph responded to his brothers’ request for forgiveness, there is one sentence that shows his understanding of God’s plan. Ask: Which is it?** (“Even though you meant to do evil, God planned that it would bring good.”) Say: **Second, the story explains how the Chosen People came to live and prosper in the land of Egypt.**

Sharing PAGE 72

- ◆ Have your child read aloud Providence in Our Lives on page 72. Say: **Look at the last paragraph.** Ask: **What are the three steps for growing in trust?** (Think about the things that happen to us and others. Remember that God loves us and that no matter what happens, God can bring good from it. In prayer, ask God to help us trust and believe in his plan for our lives.)
- ◆ Together complete Thy Will Be Done. Then have your child complete the question at the end of this section. Say: **Describe a time when you felt God taking care of you in a special way.**

Acting PAGES 73–74

- ◆ Say: **God brought good things out of the many sufferings and hardships Joseph endured. Think about a time when God brought good out of suffering or a difficult situation that you experienced.** [Pause.] **Thank God for his loving care.**
- ◆ Invite your child to pray aloud the Lord’s Prayer.
- ◆ Have your child add *Divine Providence* to the vocabulary section of his or her journey log.
- ◆ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 73 and 74.
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Things to Do at Home section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 75–76**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 75. Say: **Divine Providence is God’s caring for all our needs. This psalm relates to God’s Divine Providence.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **As Catholics, we hope for good things because we trust God’s plan for our salvation and well-being. This hope encourages us to do what is good and right.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **We are not alone when things go wrong. God is always with us.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 76. Say: **Tradition tells us the names of Mary’s parents and that they have been honored by the Church since the time of the early Christians.**
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Help your child connect with older generations. Encourage your child to spend time visiting a senior citizen and hearing stories about his or her life.
- ◆ Challenge your child to show his or her faith to older people during Mass. Tell your child to proclaim his or her faith by giving up his or her place in the pew if there is an older person standing.

CHAPTER 9 Unit 2 Review**Centering**

- ◆ **Say: In this unit, you have seen how the one true God reached out to us through certain people and made himself known. In this lesson, you will review some of these people and their stories.**
- ◆ **Ask: What is the story of Jacob’s ladder?** (One night Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching into heaven, with angels going up and down on it. The Lord stood beside him and renewed the promises made to Abraham.)
- ◆ **Ask: What did Jacob do to mark the place when he awoke?** (He set up as a monument the stone he had used for a pillow.) **Say: Because it was a holy place, we call it a sanctuary.** **Ask: Where is the sanctuary, the most sacred spot, in a church?** (the area around the altar)
- ◆ **Say: It is good for each of us to have a special place to meet the Lord, a favorite place for prayer. Going to this place is a sign to God that we are ready to listen. We know God is present in a special way there. Share your own favorite place to pray.**
- ◆ **Say: Today you will make a stone marker for your own place of prayer.** Together make memorial stones. Decorate smooth, clean stones using paint, markers, tissue paper, and glue. Instruct your child to include a word or words that are meaningful to him or her on the stone. Allow time for the stones to dry and gently coat them with liquid white glue to seal their designs.

Reviewing PAGES 77–79

- ◆ Have your child complete Then and Now on page 77. Review his or her answers.
- ◆ Write these words on note cards and have your child define each word: *faith*—a power to believe in God and all that God has revealed; *famine*—an extreme scarcity of food; *caravan*—a group of people, usually with their animals, traveling together for safety; *Israel*—name given to Jacob, the son of Isaac; *tunic*—a long, gown-like garment worn as a coat; *patriarch*—the father and ruler of a family, tribe, or race; *covenant*—a solemn agreement made between God and people; *providence*—God’s watching over us with loving care; *Canaan*—the land to which Abraham was called.
- ◆ Have your child complete A Scroll Puzzle on page 78.
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the descriptions for Family Tree on page 79. Have your child write the name they think is correct for each.

Celebrating PAGES 80–81

- ◆ Together select two songs you would like to use in the celebration. The chosen songs should have the theme of meeting with God, prayer, or celebrating God’s presence. Guide your child to practice the chosen songs.
- ◆ Decide which parts each of you will read aloud during the celebration.
- ◆ Prepare to present your designated memorial stones during the celebration.
- ◆ Explain the gesture of extending your symbols during prayer.
- ◆ Say: **The altar and the Bible are sacred. God is present there. When you extend your symbols toward the altar and the Bible, you show a desire to have the symbols share in the holiness of God.**
- ◆ Guide your child through Celebrating God’s Presence on pages 80 and 81.

Acting PAGE 82

- ◆ Have your child complete An Encouraging Letter on page 82. Invite your child to share his or her letter with you.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Looking Back at Unit 2.
- ◆ Have your child complete Living the Message and Planning Ahead.
- ◆ Begin or continue the Bible Picture Dictionary. Elicit from your child important words to remember from Unit 2. Ask your child to define and illustrate each word.
- ◆ Have your child dramatize an interview with one of the patriarchs. Let your child choose a patriarch to represent in the interview and prepare answers to these questions that you will ask: *When did God call you? Where and in what way did God call you? Why did God call you? How did you respond at first? later? What advice would you give to present-day Christians?*
- ◆ Have your child write a letter to a character from one of the biblical stories. As an alternative, he or she can write an imaginary letter from one character to another.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 83–84**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 83. Ask: **What does it say about God to refer to him as an eternal rock?** (He is our foundation; solid; unchanging.)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Sacramentals can be prayers and blessings as well as objects.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **God made a covenant with us at Baptism. Our Baptism gives us a new identity—that of a child of God.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 84. Say: **Justin’s written defense of Christianity gives us insight into the early Church. Around the year 160, Justin described the Rite of Baptism, which is similar to our rite today.**
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Encourage your child to help build community. Ask: **What can you do to help people feel part of your parish?** (I can greet them.)
- ◆ Invite your child to make a welcome poster for the parish.