

God Guides the Chosen People

- ◆ Say: Before we start the third unit of your book, let's take turns reading aloud page 86. The story of the Exodus is the defining moment for the Hebrew people. It is through this experience that they come to know who God is and who they are as a people.

CHAPTER 10 God Rescues the Chosen People from Slavery

Centering PAGE 85

- ◆ Ask: Do you think it is possible to predict what career or vocation a young person will have as an adult? What signs could lead people to think they might follow that calling?
- ◆ Ask: What do you think might become of a man who was born into slavery, was hunted from birth, had a speech problem, and killed a man?
Say: The man who is the greatest figure in the Old Testament did all these things. His name was Moses.
- ◆ Ask: Where were the Hebrews when we last read about them? (in Egypt) How did they get there? (They went there for food during a famine and stayed at Joseph's invitation.)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the unit title and the Scripture passage on page 85.

Sharing PAGE 87

- ◆ Say: Moses was born into a challenging and complicated situation. Have your child read silently Moses, a Man with a Mission on page 87.
- ◆ Say: God's providence was at work in the early life of Moses. Ask: How did God save Moses as a baby? (Pharaoh's daughter took him as her own child and had him educated at Pharaoh's court.)

Sharing PAGE 88

- ◆ Have your child read aloud God Calls on page 88. Ask: **What did God tell Moses to reply when the Israelites asked who sent him?** (“I am who am.”)
- ◆ Read aloud The Lord. Say: **The mysterious personal name of God has come down to us as *Yahweh*. *Yahweh* can also mean “I am there for you.” God would be there for Moses. *Yahweh* would deliver the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, but he would work through Moses.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Moses Responds. Ask: **Why did what God asked Moses to do seem impossible?** (It was unlikely the Pharaoh would set free all the slaves, who were the workforce of his country.)

Sharing PAGE 89

- ◆ Have your child read silently Ten Plagues on page 89. Ask: **Which of the first nine plagues do you think was the worst? What was the tenth and last plague?** (the death of the firstborn) Allow time for your child to answer the Recall questions. Discuss your child’s answers.
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity Your Mission. Discuss with your child how God strengthens us to serve faithfully.

Sharing PAGE 90

- ◆ Take turns reading aloud Exodus, A Night to Remember on page 90. Ask: **How did God help the Israelites on their way out of Egypt?** (God went before them as a column of cloud during the day and as a column of fire at night.)
- ◆ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph of A Moment with Jesus. Allow a few moments of silence for your child to thank Jesus for his or her Baptism. Then invite your child to pray aloud the words from the Easter Vigil blessing of water.

Sharing PAGE 91

- ◆ Have your child read silently Crossing the Red Sea on page 91 and then summarize this part of the story.
- ◆ Read aloud God Saves. Ask: **How can we share in Jesus’ saving ministry?** (by helping those in need)
- ◆ Have your child read silently The Jewish Passover. Say: **Unleavened bread is eaten at every Passover meal.** Ask: **What is it?** (bread made without yeast) **Why did the Israelites need to use unleavened bread?** (They had to leave Egypt in a hurry and couldn’t wait for bread with yeast to rise.)

Sharing PAGE 92

- ◆ Read aloud The Christian Passover on page 92. Ask: **Who is the Passover lamb whose blood saves us from sin?** (Jesus)
- ◆ Have your child read silently The Eucharist. Ask: **What happens in the Liturgy of the Eucharist?** (Jesus Christ makes present his saving acts, he offers himself to the Father for us, we join in his sacrifice, he feeds us with his Body and Blood, and we are united and strengthened as God's people.)
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud Becoming God's People.

Acting PAGES 93–94

- ◆ Say: **God has given each of us a mission in life, just as God gave Moses a special mission. Sometimes we may feel as Moses felt when he asked God to give the job to someone else. Let's listen to what Jesus tells us to remember.** (Read John 14:16–17. Pause and let your child share prayer, thanking God for the gift of constant presence.)
- ◆ Have your child enter the terms *matzoh*, *Red Sea*, *seder*, and *unleavened* into the vocabulary section of his or her journey log.
- ◆ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 93 and 94.
- ◆ 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 95–96**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 95. Ask: **Why did the Israelites revere the Lord?** (He led them out of slavery.) **Why do you revere the Lord?** (He saved me from sin.)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Every time we attend Mass and celebrate the Eucharist, we are celebrating the memorial of God’s saving action.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **At each Mass, we gather together as a community of faith to celebrate Jesus’ sacrifice. We celebrate his life, Death, and Resurrection.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 96. Ask: **What lesson can we learn from Anselm about being a witness for Christ?** (You have to be concerned for people in need; you have to make sacrifices.)
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Challenge your child to prepare for Mass. Encourage him or her to read the Scripture readings before attending Mass. Also, ask your child to be welcoming once he or she arrives at the church. Say: **Move to the center of the pew, so others can join you.**
- ◆ Suggest opportunities for your child to become involved in the Mass, such as becoming an altar server, usher, or joining the choir.

CHAPTER 11 God Gives Us the Law**Centering**

- ✦ **Say:** Imagine that our family had to move far away and that you could take only what was necessary. **Ask:** How would you feel? What do you think would be the hardest thing about moving away? Allow time for your child to think of different options and discuss his or her answers.
- ✦ **Ask:** What difficulties might a family face if they had always lived in a city and were now moving to the mountains?
- ✦ **Say:** Previously, you learned that God led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt. For many people, this move was extremely difficult.

Sharing PAGE 97

- ✦ Read aloud the chapter title and the first section of page 97. Discuss the answer to the question at the end of the section. **Say:** Today you will be learning about a very long trip that the Hebrew people went on.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud Struggles in the Wilderness. **Ask:** Why didn't Moses lead the people by the most direct route? (Their enemies lived along the most direct route. There were many people who might try to conquer the Israelites and make them slaves again.)
- ✦ Have your child trace the route of the Exodus, using the map. **Say:** Find Ramses, the city from which the Israelites set out. Now locate Canaan, northeast of Egypt. **Ask:** How did Moses lead the people? (along the coast of the Sinai Peninsula)
- ✦ **Say:** As you can see, the route to the Promised Land was indirect and through the wilderness. We are told that the journey took 40 years. The number 40 is being used symbolically here to indicate a generation of people whose faith was tested and who failed. Let's learn about why and how they failed.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the rest of the page. **Ask:** Can you find Marah on the map? **Ask:** What was wrong with the water at Marah? (It was very bitter.) **How did the water become fresh?** (God told Moses to throw wood into the water. When Moses obeyed, the water became fresh.)
- ✦ **Say:** The next part of the Israelites' journey took them through the Desert of Sin. **Ask:** Where is it on the map? (between Elim and Mount Sinai)

Sharing PAGE 98

- ◆ Have your child read silently The Water from the Rock on page 98 and summarize the section. Ask: **What did the people have to learn about God's care for them?** (that they could trust God to take care of them even in impossible situations)
- ◆ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly.
- ◆ Call on your child to read aloud the directions for the activity Our Journey to Heaven on page 98. Work together to complete the activity.
- ◆ Ask: **What three things did God give the Israelites during their journey?** (water, manna, quail) **What things in your own life represent God's care for you?** (food, clothing, shelter, school, parish, family, friends) Say: **Next, we're going to learn about how God guided the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness.**

Sharing PAGE 99

- ◆ Have your child read aloud Guides for the Journey at the top of page 99. Show your child a guidebook for a city or vacation spot. Then say: **The Israelites were wandering through new territory in their relationship with the Lord and with one another, and they needed guidance.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud A Covenant with the Lord. Ask: **When Moses told the people God's plan, what did they answer?** ("Everything the Lord has said, we will do!") **What were the commands God gave to the people?** (the Ten Commandments)
- ◆ Have your child read silently A Reminder of the Covenant. Ask: **What is the Ark of the Covenant?** (the laws of the Covenant, the tablets with the Ten Commandments) **Where was the Ark housed?** (in the Tent of Meeting)
- ◆ Ask: **What sin did the Israelites fall into while Moses was on the mountain?** (idolatry) **Why is idolatry wrong?** (The Covenant bound the Israelites to love and adore only the Lord.)

Sharing PAGE 100

- ◆ Have your child read aloud God's Covenant with You on page 100. Talk about the meaning of free will. Discuss ways that you and your child exercise free will in your daily lives.
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity Destination: Heaven. Invite your child to share his or her answers.

Acting PAGES 101–102

- ◆ Pray: **Dear Lord, we thank you for the covenant you made with us. Jesus himself sealed our covenant when he shed his blood for us on the cross. At every Mass, we renew the covenant. The Eucharist is our covenant meal. As we journey through life, help us be faithful to you. Help us do all Jesus tells us to do so that we can make a better world here and one day come to live with you forever. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
- ◆ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 101 and 102.
- ◆ 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 103–104**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 103. Say: **God spoke these words to the Israelites, and now he speaks to us. What is he asking us to do?** (learn the commandments; take care to observe them)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What were some challenges the Israelites faced?** (It was dangerous. They had no water or food.)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The Israelites kept the Ten Commandments in the Ark of the Covenant to remind them that God was with them.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 104. Say: **A tradition called “The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Home” acknowledges that Jesus is the center of a Christian family.**
- ◆ 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 celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Say: **Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a traditional practice of the Sacred Heart devotion.**
- ◆ Ask your child to celebrate his or her faith through the arts. Suggest that your child draw a picture of Jesus’ Sacred Heart or write a poem of adoration. Display your child’s work in your home.

CHAPTER 12 We Live the Commandments Today

Centering PAGE 105

- ◆ Say: **Name something that made you happy today.** Point out that people experience happiness in a variety of ways.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of A Sign of Love on page 105. Allow time for your child to write an answer to the question on a sheet of paper. Share your own answers with him or her.
- ◆ Say: **Today you will learn what the Covenant made on Mount Sinai meant for the Israelites.**

Sharing PAGE 105

- ◆ Have your child read silently the rest of A Sign of Love. Ask: **What three reasons explain why the Israelites loved the Law?** (1. The commandments showed them how to be free from ignorance and selfishness. 2. Their obedience would be a way to show their love and unite them to God. 3. The Israelites would be united and set apart from all others as the People of God.)
- ◆ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly, using his or her Bible to look up Psalm 119:47–48.

Sharing PAGE 106

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the top section of page 106. Talk with your child about his or her understanding of the Ten Commandments. Clarify any misconceptions he or she may have.
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity Jesus Summarizes the Commandments. Ask: **Can you summarize all the commandments in just one word?** (love)
- ◆ Ask your child to explain which of the following they would choose: cheese pizza or pepperoni? hot dog or hamburger? mild or spicy?
- ◆ Say: **When we make a choice, we are saying yes to something and no to something else. If you say yes to cheese pizza, you say no to pepperoni pizza. We are going to learn about how when we say yes to the Ten Commandments, we are saying yes to God and no to many other things.**

Sharing PAGE 107

- ◆ Have your child read silently I Say “Yes!” on page 107. Ask: **What do the Ten Commandments help us say yes to?** (love of God and love of neighbors) **How does the Church help us love God and one another?** (by organizing our efforts of charity and our work for justice)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Loving God. Ask: **What does it really mean to love God?** (respecting God, speaking to God, speaking reverently about God, listening to God, spending time with God, rejecting practices that show a lack of trust in God)

Sharing PAGE 108

- ◆ Have your child read aloud The Language of Love on page 108. You may wish to refer to page 5 of his or her Scripture prayer booklet “God’s Word Is Alive in _____” concerning the times and places Jesus chose for prayer.
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity Honoring God’s Name. Clarify terms that your child may be unfamiliar with. Ask: **Why do people use the name of God in the wrong way?** (to show anger; out of habit) **How can someone stop doing this?** (by trying not to say God’s name, by realizing how wrong it is, by substituting a word or phrase that is not God’s name and not disrespectful)

Sharing PAGE 109

- ◆ Have your child read aloud Keeping Holy the Sabbath Day on page 109. Guide your child to find online resources that will help him or her answer the question at the end of this section.
- ◆ Together create a list of at least three reasons why your family should attend Mass.
- ◆ Have your child read silently The Life of Christ—The Life of the Church. Ask: **What is the liturgical year?** (It is the Church’s celebration and remembrance of the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.) **When does the Church year, or the liturgical year, begin?** (the First Sunday of Advent) **When does it end?** (with the feast of Christ the King, the Sunday before Advent)
- ◆ Have your child add the boldface terms to his or her journey log.

Sharing PAGE 110

- ◆ Have your child read aloud A Heart for Others on page 110 and complete the activity.
- ◆ Read aloud A New Commandment. Have your child find the new commandment in John 13:34–35 and write it on the line. (“As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”) Ask: **How is this commandment different from the other Great Commandment?** (It sets Jesus’ love as a standard.) **How much does Jesus love us?** (to the point of giving his life)

Acting PAGES 111–112

- ◆ Have your child add the words *cursing*, *golden rule*, *liturgical year*, *oath*, *ouija board*, *profanity*, *statues*, and *swearing* to the vocabulary section of his or her journey log.
- ◆ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 111 and 112.
- ◆ Invite your child to write a prayer thanking God for the Ten Commandments. You might have your child use tablet-shaped paper, or have him or her draw a tablet on which to write the prayer.
- ◆ 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 113–114**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 113. Say: **Psalm 119 is the longest in the Bible. The author praises and thanks God for his Law.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **We can find joy and strength in worshiping God and attending Mass. It is our greatest form of communal prayer.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question. You may want to review the liturgical calendar with your child, found on page 226.
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 114. Say: **Saint Fabian led the Church as pope for 14 years before he died a martyr's death. Fabian's glory in death matched the holiness and purity of his life.**
- ◆ 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 love of neighbor. Remind your child that he or she can show love through simple acts of kindness.
- ◆ Challenge your child to live for social justice. Say: **Love and justice require you to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Human dignity comes from the fact that we are all created in God's image.**

CHAPTER 13 Learning God's Way

Centering

- ✦ Say: **We live in a society where waiting for anything is bad.** Ask: **Why do we hate to wait?** (We want immediate results and immediate gratification.)
Can you name real things that claim quick or immediate results? (stain removers, lending institutions, credit cards)
- ✦ Say: **Today we're going to see how the Israelites grew impatient waiting to enter the Promised Land. They wanted immediate gratification.**

Sharing PAGE 115

- ✦ Have your child read aloud Learning to Live as God's People on page 115.
Say: **As the Israelites were waiting for the Promised Land, they had to learn more about what it meant to keep the Covenant and to follow the Ten Commandments.**
- ✦ Have your child read silently A Fearful People. Ask: **How did the scouts describe the land of Canaan?** (The land was wonderful; the people were fierce.) **How would you have felt after hearing about Canaan?**
- ✦ Ask: **Why did God become angry when the Israelites decided not to march against Canaan?** (He was insulted by their lack of trust in him.)
How did God show his displeasure with the people? (God said that the people would be struck with sickness and disowned because they would not trust him even after all he had done for them.)
- ✦ Say: **Moses prayed for the people. When he prayed, he spoke familiarly with God, as though God had feelings like his. He treated God as a friend.** Ask: **What did the Israelites suffer because of their sins?** (They would wander in the wilderness for forty years.)

Sharing PAGE 116

- ✦ Have your child read aloud A Complaining People on page 116. Allow time for him or her to answer the question independently. Ask: **What did the Israelites do whenever anything went wrong?** (They complained to Moses and Aaron and blamed them for each problem. They wished they were back in Egypt, or even dead.)
- ✦ Ask: **How did Moses show a lack of faith at Meribah?** (Moses spoke as if he doubted the Lord's unfailing love, and then he struck the rock twice, perhaps because his faith was weak.) **How did God punish Moses?** (He would not be able to lead the people into the Promised Land.)

- ◆ Ask: **What does this story teach us about the importance of our decisions?** (We must be ready to accept the consequences of our actions and decisions.)
- ◆ Say: **Everyone acts without thought occasionally—it is part of being human. But when that happens, we are still responsible for the consequences of our actions and decisions.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly. Then lead your child in praying a spontaneous act of faith, or use the one on the inside back cover of your child's book. Conclude by having your child sing or listen to a song that expresses faith.

Sharing PAGE 117

- ◆ Have your child read aloud The Desire for Happiness on page 117. Direct your child to open the family Bible to Matthew 5:3–12 and have him or her read aloud the Beatitudes. Talk about ways in which your child can live the Beatitudes in his or her own life.
- ◆ Have your child read silently A Power to Judge. Ask: **Like in a search engine, what would happen to your conscience if it's given the wrong data?** (It will take you in the wrong direction.)
- ◆ Say: **We must learn what is good so that our conscience will be informed. Then, with the help of the Holy Spirit, when we make decisions, our conscience will guide us to choose the good.**
- ◆ Say: **If the Internet or a TV show asks you to do something, you should listen to your conscience first.** Ask: **Where can you get trustworthy, accurate information for your conscience?** (from parents, godparents, religion classes, teachers, good books, friends who love God, the priest when you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Decision-Making Vocabulary. Ask: **Are obligations things we may do or things we must do? What obligations do you have as a child?** Discuss his or her answers.
- ◆ Say: **Principles are truths we believe in that help us decide how to act. Jesus gave us many principles.**

- ◆ Say: **When we make decisions, we must also think about the consequences. Sometimes we can see the consequences before we make a choice, but not always. Imagine your alarm goes off to get you up for Mass. You can decide to get up or to stay in bed. If this is the only Mass you can attend, and you decide to sleep in, what will the consequence be?** (missing Mass)
- ◆ Ask: **What does your conscience consider when making a decision?** (obligations, principles, and consequences) **What does it do once it's considered these things?** (makes a judgment) **Then what does your conscience do?** (It approves or disapproves the decision made.)

Sharing PAGE 118

- ◆ Have your child read aloud Make a Decision on page 118. Guide your child to consider the obligations, principles, and consequences of the Israelites' decision.

Acting PAGES 119–120

- ◆ Together pray aloud the Act of Contrition found on the inside front cover of your child's book.
- ◆ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 119 and 120.
- ◆ 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 121–122**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and Scripture in the sidebar on page 121. Say: **This verse comes from the letter of Saint Paul to the Christians in Rome.** Ask: **What advice does he give them?** (They need to do God’s will.)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **When you rely on Church teachings and Jesus’ example, your decisions will lead to happiness.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **What are some things you can do to live out God’s law?**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 122. Say: **You can follow the example of Saint Boniface by forming your conscience according to Church teachings.**
- ◆ 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 read aloud Luke 6:20–26 and bring the spirit of the Beatitudes to the world today.
- ◆ Challenge your child to evangelize. Say: **Talk to friends about the good experiences you have had with the Church.**

CHAPTER 14 God Forgives Us

Centering

- ✦ Share ring-shaped candy with your child. Talk about the shape of the candy. (life preserver) Encourage your child to talk about a time he or she may have needed a life preserver, literally or figuratively.
- ✦ Ask: **What wrong decision did the Israelites make?** (not to go into Canaan; to complain) **What consequence did they suffer?** (They had to wander for forty years.) Say: **Another consequence the Israelites faced because of their complaining involved snakes.**
- ✦ Say: **Today we're going to learn about how the Israelites turned to God for healing in the desert and how God brought about healing from an unlikely source.**

Sharing PAGE 123

- ✦ Read aloud the chapter title and then have your child read silently A Bronze Serpent on page 123. Ask: **Why did God send snakes among his people?** (because of their complaining) **Why did the Israelites ask Moses to intercede for them?** (They recognized their sinfulness in speaking against God and Moses. They knew Moses was a friend of God's and spoke familiarly with him.)
- ✦ Ask: **Why was the figure of the bronze serpent placed on a pole?** (so that the people who looked upon it with faith could be cured) **Why were the people cured when they looked at the bronze serpent?** (Coming to see the serpent was a sign that they realized their sinfulness and God's power to heal. Because of their repentance and faith, God healed them.)

Sharing PAGE 124

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph and Scripture quote of Jesus Is Lifted Up on page 124. Allow time for your child to answer the questions.
- ✦ Have your child read silently the rest of Jesus Is Lifted Up. Say: **To let Jesus' Death have power in our lives, we must have faith in it. Some ways to do this are listed on this page.** Have your child read aloud the list. Ask: **Which of these sounds like the greatest challenge? What can you do to meet it?**
- ✦ Say: **Jesus saved us. We must open our hearts and our lives to him. We must listen to him and act according to his example. He constantly gives us grace to live his life in our world today. With grace, we can do all he wants us to do.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly.

Sharing PAGE 125

- ✦ Discuss the song “Amazing Grace.” If available, play a recording of the song. Ask: **What has God’s grace done for us? Why do we call it “amazing” grace? What is meant by the lines “I once was lost, but now I’m found; was blind but now I see”?**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud Reconciliation in Our Lives on page 125. Ask: **Why is sin such a great evil?** (It is the cause of all other evil.) **How did Jesus break the power of sin?** (by his Death) **Which relationships are harmed by sin?** (with God, others, and ourselves) **How does God deal with us when we sin?** (He loves us and wants to forgive us.)
- ✦ Have your child complete the activity Receiving Forgiveness. Review his or her answers.
- ✦ Talk about prayers of the Mass in which we express our desire to be reconciled. Ask your child to name some of these prayers. (Lord, have mercy; Lord’s Prayer, sign of peace; Lamb of God; Lord, I am not worthy)
- ✦ Encourage your child to share examples of situations in which apologies and acts of love can show that we are sorry and truly want to be reconciled with another.

Sharing PAGE 126

- ✦ Have your child read aloud Mortal Sin and Venial Sin on page 126. Ask: **Which of the sacraments has as its first purpose “the forgiveness of sins and the healing of the sinner”?** (Reconciliation) **What kind of sins must we confess?** (mortal) **What makes a sin mortal?** (The act is seriously wrong. We know it is seriously wrong. We freely and willingly choose to do it.)
- ✦ Say: **We should also confess venial sins. We don’t have to remember them all, but we should try to confess those we commit most often and those that hurt others the most.**
- ✦ Have your child read silently the sections Reconciliation and Healing and Growth. Ask: **What three actions does a person perform in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?** (repentance, confession of sins to the priest, a commitment to repair the harm caused by the sin)
- ✦ Have your child assemble the Reconciliation Booklet at the back of his or her book. Guide your child through the preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation using the booklet.

- ◆ Say: **If we are truly sorry for our sins, we will not want to commit them again.** Ask: **How can we plan not to commit the same sins over and over?** (Ask ourselves how we can change and follow Jesus more closely. Decide what we will do to be better. Sincerely promise Jesus that we will try not to sin again.)
- ◆ Review the rite for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Say: **Page 8 of your booklet will help prepare you to confess your sins to a priest. Look it over.** Ask: **Do you have any questions?**
- ◆ Say: **Whatever your penance, you should do it as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to remember to do it.**

Acting PAGES 127–128

- ◆ Share your parish schedule for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with your child. Encourage your child to prepare for and celebrate the sacrament soon, and to form the habit of celebrating it regularly.
- ◆ Pray together I Pray to the Holy Spirit on page 2 of the Reconciliation Booklet.
- ◆ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 127 and 128.
- ◆ 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 129–130**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 129. Say: **These verses talk about sin, but they also describe God’s mercy. Ask: Which phrases have special meaning to you?**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Sin is never simply a personal act. The personal sins we commit always have consequences in our relationship with God and others.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Penance means to turn your heart away from sin and toward God. Acts of penance demonstrate that we want to make better choices.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 130. Say: **Maximilian Mary Kolbe started a religious magazine to preach the Gospel to all nations. He relied on the Blessed Virgin Mary to bring him closer to Jesus.**
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Discuss what it means to be a peacemaker. Ask: **What are some obstacles to making peace in the world? Say: If you want peace, work for justice.**
- ◆ Review the corporal and spiritual works of mercy on page 269 of your child’s book. Ask: **How can helping others meet their needs help make peace?** (They do not need to resort to violence to get what they need; they see other people as helpers, not as enemies.)

CHAPTER 15 God's Chosen People Enter the Promised Land

Centering

- ◆ Discuss clubs or school groups with which your child is involved. Say: **These clubs probably have at least one thing in common—they all have leaders.** Ask: **Why does a club need a leader?** (A group needs a leader to organize things, help the group to carry out plans, and represent the group.) **Why would the success of a group depend on its leader?** (The leader's enthusiasm, attitudes, and decisions affect all the members.)
- ◆ Say: **In the last chapter, you learned how Moses was a good leader for the people. He kept them reconciled with God. Today you will study other leaders God chose for his people.**

Sharing PAGE 131

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the section A Team Leader on page 131.
- ◆ Have your child read silently Moses—A Great and Wise Leader. Ask: **How did Moses show his leadership during the travels through the desert?** (He helped organize the tribes into a nation; he spoke to God for them; he made decisions based on God's Word and God's law; he served the people by caring for their needs; he led them through the desert.)
- ◆ Say: **God expects all true leaders to use their authority for the good of others. God also expects us to respect and obey those in authority, unless what we are being told to do is sinful.** Ask: **Who are some of our leaders?**
- ◆ Say: **Some day you may be a leader—but first you must be a follower. You must learn to obey before you can expect others to obey you. The best leaders are those who were the best followers.**
- ◆ Ask: **Why did God call Moses to Mount Nebo?** (God wanted Moses to see the Promised Land before he died.) Direct your child to find Nebo on the map on page 133.
- ◆ Say: **When God called, Moses responded immediately. This is a sign of a good leader—one who obeys God first. Moses had been faithful to God all his life, so when God told him he was to die, he accepted that too.**
- ◆ Ask: **What does the Scripture say about Moses?** (There has never been such a prophet in Israel as Moses, the man who knew the Lord face-to-face.)
- ◆ Together look over page 131 and list the leadership qualities that Moses showed. Ask: **What happened to Joshua when Moses laid hands on him?** (He was filled with the spirit of wisdom.)

Sharing PAGE 132

- ◆ Have your child read aloud Joshua—A Strong and Fearless Leader on page 132. Have your child use the map on page 133 to locate the land of the three tribes on the east bank of the Jordan.
- ◆ Read aloud The Laying on of Hands. Silently lay your hands on your child's head as a gesture of blessing. As you do so, encourage him or her to practice the leadership qualities that Moses showed.

Sharing PAGE 133

- ◆ Discuss your child's experiences working to win something. Examples may include an academic excellence award or an athletic trophy. Say: **Our experiences of winning can help us understand the Israelites' excitement and joy as they prepared to enter the Promised Land.**
- ◆ Have your child read silently page 133. Ask: **How were the Israelites able to walk on dry land through the Jordan?** (God caused the waters to stop flowing.) **How can we tell that God was with the people when they were conquering Canaan?** (God guided the Israelites to victory, even though their enemies were superior in number and military strength.)
- ◆ Ask: **Why was Shiloh important?** (It was a place of worship and the city where the Ark of the Covenant was kept.) **What promise did the people make to God after conquering Canaan?** (We will serve the Lord, our God, and obey his voice.)
- ◆ Have your child find each tribe's land on the map.

Sharing PAGE 134

- ◆ Take turns reading aloud page 134. Ask your child to identify ways that we are like the Israelites.
- ◆ Have your child tell what each of the following terms can be compared to in our lives today: Canaan (heaven), Ark of the Covenant (the Eucharist), Moses and Joshua (Jesus), desert (life, Purgatory), Canaanites and other hostile tribes (Devil, temptations)
- ◆ Have your child add *Joshua*, *Mount Nebo*, *Shiloh*, *Jericho*, *Vicar of Christ*, and *Levite* to the vocabulary section of his or her journey log.

Acting PAGES 134–136

- ◆ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus on page 134. Allow time for your child to read silently Matthew 25:32–46 and to pray to Jesus, asking for his help to recognize him in all people.
- ◆ Allow time for personal prayer. Suggest that your child talk to Jesus, tell him what qualities he or she needs to become a good leader, and ask his help in acquiring those virtues.
- ◆ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 135 and 136.
- ◆ 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 137–138**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 137. Say: **Jesus spoke these words about our final judgment. Ask: What makes this message hopeful?** (We are blessed; God has prepared a kingdom for us.)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Our sins have consequences that require purification. Only the pure of heart can be united with God.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **You can pray to the Holy Spirit anytime and anywhere. Let prayer be your source of strength.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 138. Say: **When Pope Leo I was a deacon, other Church leaders looked to him for advice and explanations of the faith.**
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Have your child help the least of their brothers and sisters. Show your child how to find people and organizations that need assistance.
- ◆ Encourage your child to comfort friends and family. Say: **Jesus says that those who provide comfort to those who are ill, who are strangers, and who are hungry are blessed and righteous. They will inherit eternal life.**

CHAPTER 16 Unit 3 Review

Centering

- ✦ Discuss how your child responds when good things are done for him or her. Say: **Think of something that was done for you that you like to remember and talk about.**
- ✦ Ask: **How do you think a person who did something good feels when you remember what he or she did?**
- ✦ Say: **The Jewish people like to remember God’s words and God’s goodness to them. It makes them rejoice, and it gives praise to God. They thank God by doing special things. Today we will look at some of these things, and we will do something special ourselves to remember God’s Word and God’s goodness.**

Reviewing PAGES 139–141

- ✦ Have your child complete Living the Commandments on page 139 and share his or her answers.
- ✦ Introduce the significance of the mezuzah in the Jewish faith. Say: **In Catholic churches and some Catholic homes, a holy water font is near the doorway.** Ask: **What is the purpose of a holy water font?** (for people to bless themselves with holy water)
- ✦ Say: **Holy water is a sign that we want to remember that we have been baptized and are to live as children of God. When we bless ourselves—make the Sign of the Cross—we are reminding ourselves that God is with us and that he gives us the strength we need to live as his children.**
- ✦ Say: **If you visit a Jewish home, you might see a sacred object called a mezuzah. Mezuzah is the Hebrew word for “doorpost.”** Ask: **What was special about the doorposts of Jewish homes on the night of the first Passover?** (Blood from the sacrificial lamb was sprinkled on the doorposts.) **The mezuzah is a case or box that attaches to a door or doorpost. It contains a prayer written on a small, rolled parchment. Devout Jewish people pray this prayer every day. Whenever devout Jewish people pass a mezuzah, they touch it reverently and pray that they may always be faithful to everything God has said.**
- ✦ Have your child add *mezuzah* to the vocabulary section of his or her journey log.
- ✦ Discuss the importance of remembering the good things God has done for us. Then talk about ways that we remember him. Say: **It is important to remember God’s words and the good things God has done for us.** Share good things that God has done for both of you and for other family members.

- ◆ Say: **One way the Jewish people remember God is by putting a mezuzah on their doorposts.** Ask: **How do we as Christians remember and thank God for his Word and the good things he has done for us?** (We remember and thank God in the Eucharist, in prayer, and on Sundays and special feast days. We celebrate God's Word in the Liturgy of the Word, in sacraments, and in Bible devotions. We put the Bible and other holy things in a place of honor.)
- ◆ Say: **The Jewish people read and celebrate the words of God in the Torah.** Ask: **What is the Torah, and what other name does it have?** (The Torah is the first five books of the Bible. It is also called the Law of Pentateuch.)
- ◆ Say: **Today you will make a Bible scroll to put in your place of prayer. The quotation you will write on your scroll is Deuteronomy 11:18.** ("Take these words of mine into your heart and soul.") Help your child make a scroll by taping a straw to each end of a long rectangular strip of paper. Have your child write the quotation in the center of the strip. Tightly roll the paper from both ends until they meet in the middle. Then tie the ribbon around the scroll. The scroll will be used in the celebration later.
- ◆ Together play the game To the Promised Land on pages 140 and 141.

Celebrating PAGES 142–143

- ◆ Have your child open his or her Bible to Psalm 119. Say: **Psalm 119, which will be used in the celebration, praises God's law. The law the psalm speaks of is not just the Ten Commandments, but all that God has revealed to guide our lives.**
- ◆ Say: **This is the longest psalm in the Bible. How many verses does it have?** (176) Share one verse of Psalm 119 that you find particularly meaningful. Have your child choose a verse he or she likes and write it on a slip of paper. This verse will be used during the celebration.
- ◆ Give your child his or her Bible scroll to carry during the procession.
- ◆ Decide which parts each of you will read aloud.
- ◆ Follow the prayer service Celebrating God's Guidance on pages 142 and 143.

Acting PAGE 144

- ◆ Have your child read silently Looking Back at Unit 3 on page 144.
- ◆ Direct your child to answer the questions for Living the Message and then complete Planning Ahead.
- ◆ Begin or continue the Bible Picture Dictionary. Ask your child to define and illustrate terms from Unit 3.
- ◆ On flash cards, write Scripture references from this unit. Have your child locate the references in his or her Bible.
- ◆ Have your child write his or her own hymn of Thanksgiving based on Psalm 136.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 145–146**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 145. Ask: **What is Jesus asking us to do?** (love our enemies) **How have your actions shown your neighbors that you love them as you love yourself?** (I am polite; I follow the Ten Commandments.)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **How do you show respect for the dignity of all human life?** (I don't bully others; I respect other people's things and ideas.)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **What are some things Jesus asks us to do?** (to love our enemies; to be merciful to others as our Father in heaven is merciful to us)
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 146. Say: **John Chrysostom lived a simple life and lived what he preached as a disciple of Christ. He handed over his wealth to build hospitals and sold the expensive furniture in the bishop's residence to give money to the poor.**
- ◆ 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: **Find a way that you can do something good for someone you don't always get along with. Show your faith in action.**
- ◆ Challenge your child to return insults with blessings. Say: **When you think about someone who is being unkind to you or saying untrue things about you, work a blessing into your thought. Speak that blessing out loud.**