

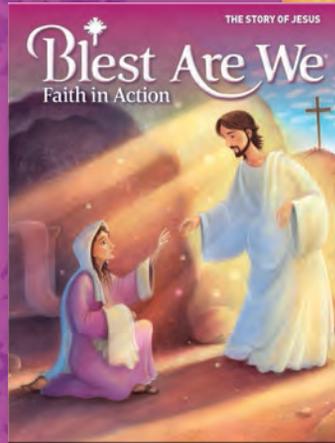
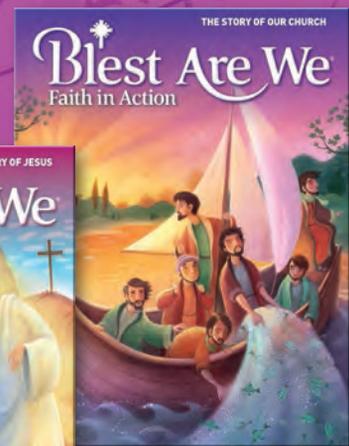
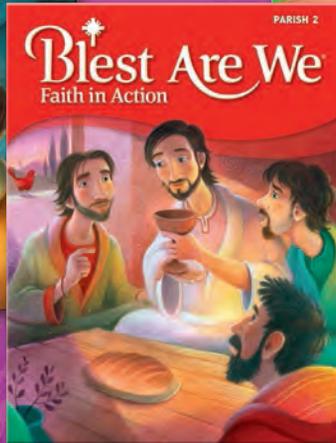
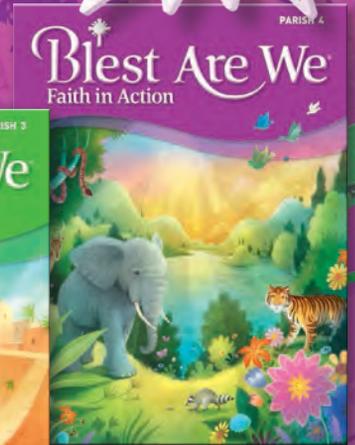
Blest Are We[®]

Faith in Action

SAMPLER

NEWLY
UPDATED &
REVISED

PARISH PROGRAM
Grades K-8



a Kendall Hunt Company

RCLBenziger.com

Blest Are We[®]

Faith in Action



RCL Benziger is pleased to present its revision of one of the most beloved elementary religious formation series.

Blest Are We Faith in Action honors the thematic approach, content, and teaching format of RCL Benziger's ***Blest Are We Faith and Word*** series. Each grade level features cover art that exemplifies a story from Scripture, highlighting that grade level's theme. Visually appealing, theologically sound with an enhanced design, ***Blest Are We Faith in Action*** engages today's learner on the formative journey.

This sampler includes a chapter from Grade 2 and a chapter from Grade 6 of ***Blest Are We Faith in Action***. Included with each chapter are the correlating Chapter Review, and Faith in Action pages. A sample lesson from the Grade 2 and Grade 6 Feasts and Seasons section is also provided.

Corresponding Catechist Guide At-a-Glance Planner and resource pages are also included with this sampler. The resource pages include:

- **Multimedia Resources**
Current print and multimedia resources are suggested for each chapter and in the Feasts and Seasons section throughout the series.
- **Family Life Connections**
Each ***Blest Are We Faith in Action*** chapter resource page suggests a correlation to one or more of the lessons found in RCL Benziger's ***Family Life*** program.
- **Tips for Teaching Children With Special Learning Needs**
Every chapter of ***Blest Are We Faith in Action*** offers a practical teaching tip related to the chapter content or chapter activities.



Other features available in the *Blest Are We Faith in Action* series include:

- Increasing focus on children with **special needs** through an article in every grade-level Catechist Guide, addressing practical ways to adapt lessons and providing teaching tips in each chapter
- Encouraging **family engagement** through the redesigned Take Home pages to support families in the faith formation of their children
- Establishing a strong connection to **Catholic Social Teaching** through the series' Faith in Action feature
- Engaging the learner through digital integration with eBooks, music, Web site support, and eAssessment resources



Blest Are We Faith in Action invites all learners to explore and grow in Faith, Word, and Action. Come join the journey on the path to discipleship!



Blest Are We[®]

Faith in Action



STUDENT EDITION COVER

The ***Blest Are We Faith in Action*** logo honors the legacy of the series, culminating in an understanding of Catholic teaching through Faith, Word, and Action.

Dynamic, colorful, and whimsical cover illustrations depict key Scripture stories pertinent to each grade level's theme.

Getting ready for Chapter 4

Take Home

We Praise and Thank God

Saint Augustine said those who sing pray twice. He was telling us that raising our voices in song pleases God. This chapter presents the value of song as a form of prayer and the value of prayers of thanks and praise.

ACTIVITY Name That Hymn

Play "Name That Hymn!" with your family. You can hum, play a musical instrument, or sing "la-la-la" to the tune of a favorite hymn. Let the others guess the title. Then invite them to sing along, if they know the words.



THROUGH THE WEEK



A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK Thank you, Lord, for giving us life. May we use our voices to sing thanks and praise to you. Amen.

ON SUNDAY

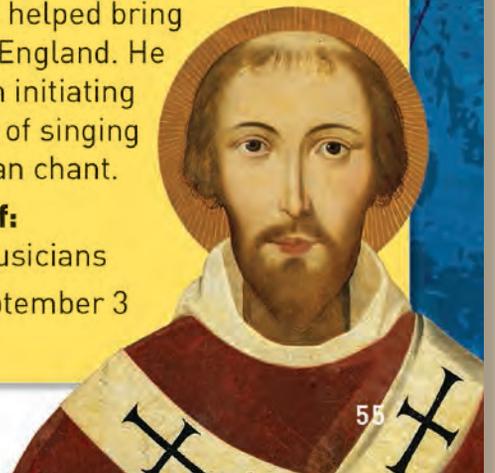
Singing is a key way we participate in the Mass. Be joyful! As Saint Augustine said, when we sing, we pray twice.

Pope Saint Gregory the Great (c. 540–604)

As pope, Gregory the Great reformed the Church and gave generously to the poor. Pope Gregory I helped bring Christianity to England. He is credited with initiating a solemn form of singing called Gregorian chant.

Patron Saint of: singers and musicians

Feast Day: September 3



TAKE HOME PAGE for FAMILIES

The tear-out **Take Home** page with activities and info **helps families explore the chapter** before the children study it.

Included are a profile of a saint, a Prayer for the Week, and suggested online resources for children and their families.

WEB
e.com
onary.com
ource.com

Getting ready for Chapter 4

Take Home

Scripture Background Before the Time of Jesus

Psalms The Book of Psalms is an Old Testament collection of 150 songs, laments, and other types of prayers. Psalms have varied intentions: some glorify God, some offer praise and thanksgiving, some are wisdom psalms, others are petitions or laments, and still others are historical. David is considered to be the author of many of the psalms. Because some of the psalms were also written after David's death, they can be considered a record of the Israelites' existence over time.

You can read Psalms 92 and 149 as examples of psalms of thanksgiving and praise.



Our Catholic Tradition in Music

Gregorian Chant Since the sixth century the Church has been expressing its praise of God musically through Gregorian chant. Named after Pope Gregory I, chant is a solemn form of singing that creates a harmony between words and melody. Because in some pagan religions music was used to stir up people, Christians were encouraged to have a kind of music that

was prayerful. Gregorian chant met that standard. There were other kinds of chants before Gregorian chant, but it was more beautiful and developed than some of the others.

Contemporary recordings of Gregorian chant have brought appreciation of this practice to a wider audience.

Feria Tertia

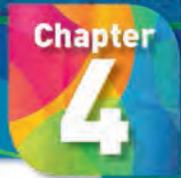
Ad Magnific.
Ant. VIII. G

D i-xit autem * pa-terfamí-li- as: Amí- ce, non fá-ci-
o ti-bi injú-ri- am: nonne ex de-ná-ri-o conve-nísti mecum?
tol-le quod tu-um est, et vade. E u o u a e.

**TAKE HOME PAGE
for FAMILIES**

Each chapter's Take Home page also includes a **Scripture Background** piece and interesting explanation of an aspect of **Our Catholic Tradition**.

We Praise and Thank God



Sing to the LORD a new song, . . . Psalm 149:1

Share

Celebrations are important times. People come together to give thanks. They say thank you for special people or gifts.



On the Fourth of July we give thanks for freedom.



On birthdays we give thanks for life.



On Thanksgiving we give thanks for all our blessings.



On Christmas we give thanks for the birth of Jesus.

1. Write the name of a celebration you enjoyed.

2. Write why you gave thanks.

CHAPTER OPENER

The first page of every chapter **introduces the chapter theme** with a verse from Scripture or a quote from the liturgy or the rites, personal sharing, and an activity.

Hear and Believe Scripture

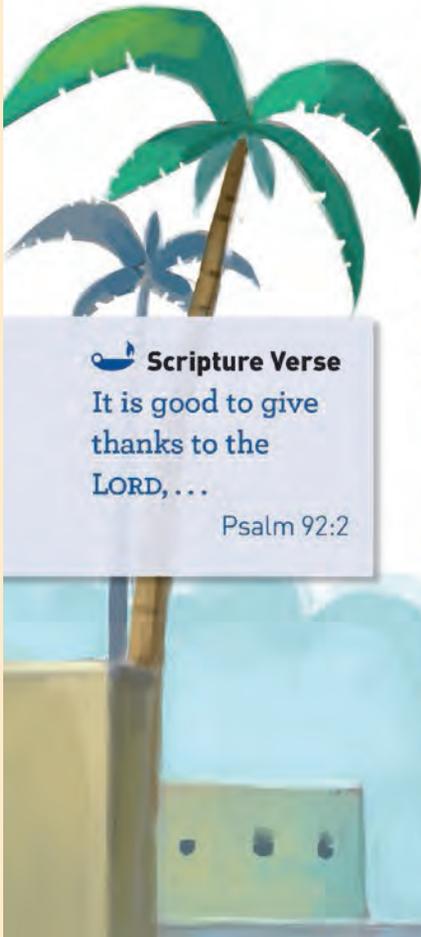
 **King David Gives Thanks**

King David loved God. He liked to lead the Jewish people in prayer. David liked to play the harp, dance, and sing. He sang about God's goodness. He thanked God for giving the people many gifts.

One day Jewish leaders brought the Ark that held God's laws into David's city. David ordered musicians to play on their harps, lyres, and cymbals. Then David sang out,

“How good it is to give God thanks and glory!
I sing praise to your name, O God.
Every morning you are kind to me.
You are with me all day and all night.
Your goodness fills me with gladness.
I am happy because of the gifts you give
to me.”

Based on 1 Chronicles 15 and Psalm 92:1-5



 **Scripture Verse**

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, . . .

Psalm 92:2

DOCTRINE PAGES

The next two pages consist of doctrine, Scripture, liturgical texts, saints' biographies, and inspirational stories.

The **oil lamp symbol and text in Scripture blue** help children quickly identify Scripture passages.

Engaging Scripture illustrations by a single artist in each grade level provide continuity for studying Scripture.



We Give Praise and Thanks

King David wrote many song-prayers called **psalms**. Our parish community sings special songs at Mass. We give **praise** and thanks to God with holy music.

Our Church Teaches

Prayer is talking to and listening to God. There are many kinds of prayer. Some prayers give thanks to God. Some prayers give praise for God's goodness. We can pray alone. We can pray with others. We can sing or play music as we pray.

We Believe

We can pray through songs or dancing, or by listening to holy music. Holy music helps us give praise and thanks to God.

Faith Words

psalms

Psalms are prayers from the Bible that are often sung.

praise

Praise is a joyful type of prayer. It celebrates God's goodness.

prayer

Prayer is talking to and listening to God.



SPECIAL FEATURES

The **We Believe side bar box** contains a concise statement of the chapter's doctrine.

The **Faith Words side bar box** provides definitions of key faith terms that are boldfaced and highlighted in yellow in the text.

Respond

Glory to God

In the first part of the Mass we usually sing “Glory to God.” This special song is called the Gloria. It is a prayer of praise and thanks. This is how it begins.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

Roman Missal

What songs do you sing at Mass?

RESPOND PAGES

The **Respond pages** provide stories of saints and other holy people who have lived their faith in accordance with the doctrine of the Church. These pages also contain activities to reinforce what has been learned in the chapter.

ACTIVITY

1. Write your own prayer of praise.

O God, I praise you for being

2. Write your own prayer of thanks.

O God, I thank you for

You will use these prayers in the prayer celebration.

In what way can I praise and thank God with song?

Prayer

A Prayer of Praise and Thanks

As members of our parish community, we give praise and thanks to God. We can say and sing our prayers.

Leader: Heavenly Father, we praise you.
We give thanks to you in song.

All (sing): “Glory to God . . .”

Leader: Let us share our prayers of praise and thanks.

All (sing): “Glory to God . . .”

O God, I praise you for being

kind and forgiving.

O God, I thank you for

keeping grandpa
healthy.

Leader: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks. We praise you in song.

All (sing): “Glory to God . . .”

PRAYER PAGE

Every chapter concludes with a **prayer page** providing children with a wide variety of experiences of prayer, including spoken and sung prayer, meditative prayer, and contemplative prayer.

Chapter Review

4

- A** Think about the story *King David Gives Thanks*.
Draw a line under the words that name the things King David liked to do.

mop the floor	lead people in prayer
sing and dance	run in races
play the harp	give thanks to God

- B** Circle the best answer.

- What do we call an important time when people come together to give thanks?
 psalm celebration ark
- What is a joyful type of prayer that celebrates God's goodness?
 praise thanksgiving sorrow
- What is the song that we usually sing in the first part of the Mass?
 Amen Holy, Holy, Holy Gloria
- What do we call the prayers that King David wrote?
 psalms impressions creeds

CHAPTER REVIEW

The **one-page chapter review** helps the children recall what they have learned in the chapter.

Chapt

Faith in *Action*



Cantor We can praise God in song. When we sing in church, we often have a music leader called a cantor. A cantor loves to sing praises to God. The cantor leads us in singing holy songs.

In Everyday Life

ACTIVITY Think about holy songs you like to sing. Which song is your favorite? Write down the words you remember.

In Your Parish

ACTIVITY Circle the musical instruments used in your parish.



FAITH IN ACTION PAGE

Each chapter includes a **Faith in Action page** that highlights a parish ministry and makes the everyday and parish life connection between that ministry and one of the seven principles of **Catholic Social Teaching**.

tion Cantor

Pentecost Sunday



“... [Y]ou will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, ...”
Acts 1:8

Sharing Good News

Sometimes we hear more bad news than good news. We need to hear and read about more good things happening in our world. Good news gives us hope. It brings us happiness and peace.

ACTIVITY

Think about some good news you have heard. Write a headline for a story about good news.



Great Weather Today!

The GOOD NEWS

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are six sets of these lines for writing.



FEASTS AND SEASONS

The **Feasts and Seasons** section contains lessons about every liturgical season, and includes Scripture, story, prayer, and activities. **Color coding** by season makes for easy reference.

Pente

Pentecost Sunday

Holy Spirit, you came to guide the followers of Jesus. Help and guide us today. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit!

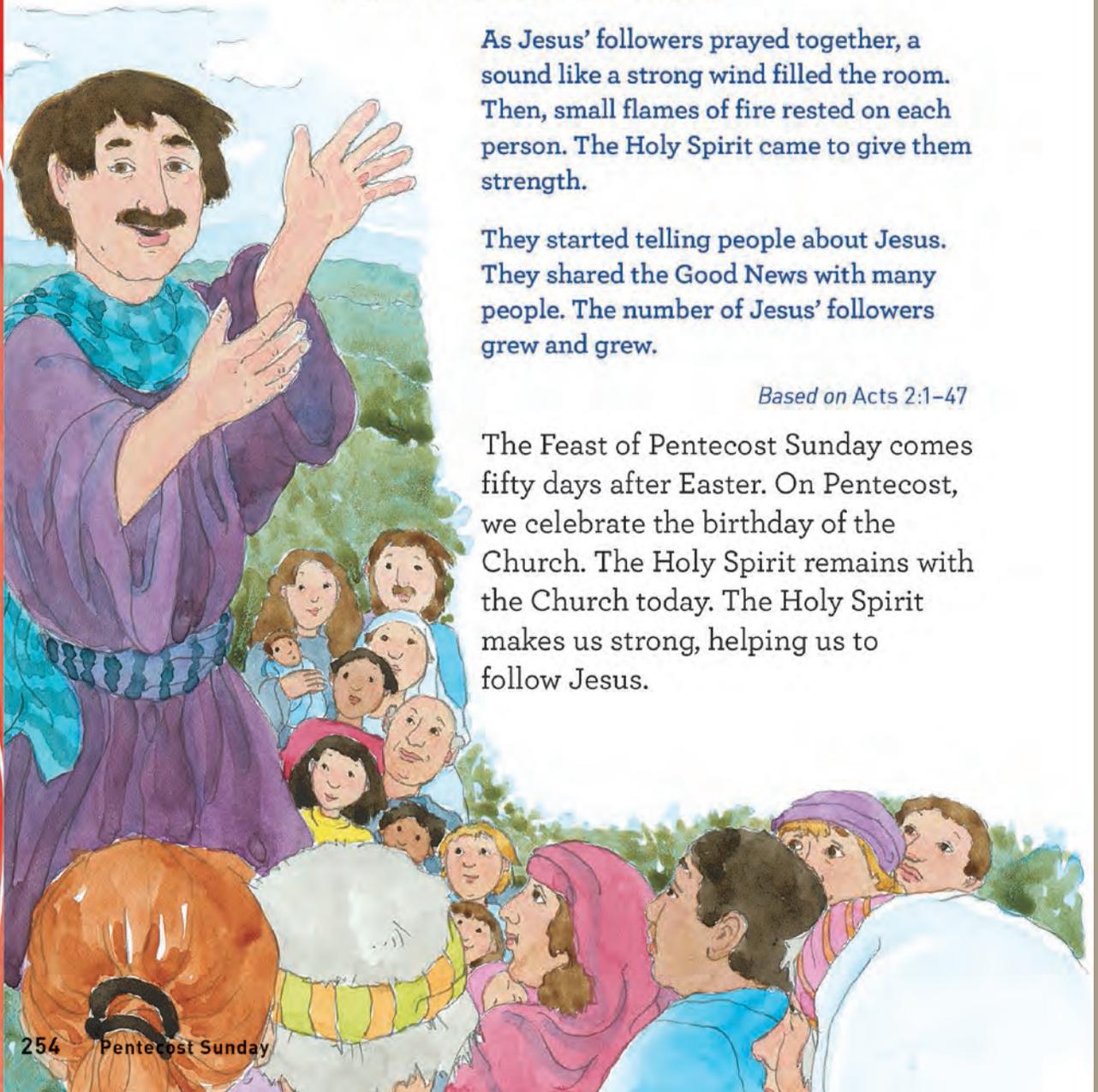
After his Resurrection, Jesus told his followers to wait for a special promise from God. They waited in Jerusalem with Jesus' mother, Mary. Crowds of people began coming to Jerusalem. It was time for the Jewish festival of Pentecost. Jews had come from faraway places to worship in the Temple.

As Jesus' followers prayed together, a sound like a strong wind filled the room. Then, small flames of fire rested on each person. The Holy Spirit came to give them strength.

They started telling people about Jesus. They shared the Good News with many people. The number of Jesus' followers grew and grew.

Based on Acts 2:1-47

The Feast of Pentecost Sunday comes fifty days after Easter. On Pentecost, we celebrate the birthday of the Church. The Holy Spirit remains with the Church today. The Holy Spirit makes us strong, helping us to follow Jesus.



We Praise and Thank God

Chapter 4

A Catechist's Prayer

God our Father, as the angels sang at our Savior's birth, help me to believe that when I praise you in song, I truly glorify your name. Help me to inspire the children I teach to lift their voices to sing your praises and give you thanks. I ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.

Background for the Catechist

Throughout its history, the Church has always given praise and thanks to God for his mighty deeds. We praise God for his own sake. We thank God for the miracle of creation, for the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, for the gift of Jesus, and for Jesus' passing over from Death to life in the Resurrection. In the Eucharist, we give thanks for the gift of Christ and for his Good News of the Father's deep and abiding love for us.

Each Sunday we praise God with words and songs, with gestures and movements. We lift our hearts and minds to God in a hymn of communion. We give thanks for the gift of Christ and for the blessings in our lives.

The Gloria and the Psalms

It is from Scripture—both the Old and the New Testament—that the Church finds words for its acclamations, processions, responses, and ordinary chants, such as the Gloria. This prayerful song begins with the words sung by the angels as they proclaimed Jesus' birth to the shepherds in Bethlehem.

Since its beginning, the Church has always used the Old Testament psalms as an integral part of its liturgy. Among the 150 psalms, we find many that praise God and thank him for the blessings he has bestowed on all people.

For Reflection

Think about a favorite song you like to sing at Mass, and reflect on what its lyrics mean to you. How does singing these words help you to give praise and thanks to God?

CATECHIST BACKGROUND

The **Catechist Background page** provides background information about the Church's teachings, a brief prayer, and a reflection for the catechist on the chapter content.

At-a-Glance Planner

Faith Focus

When we gather to pray we lift our minds, hearts, and voices in praise, thanksgiving, and song.

Share

15 Minutes



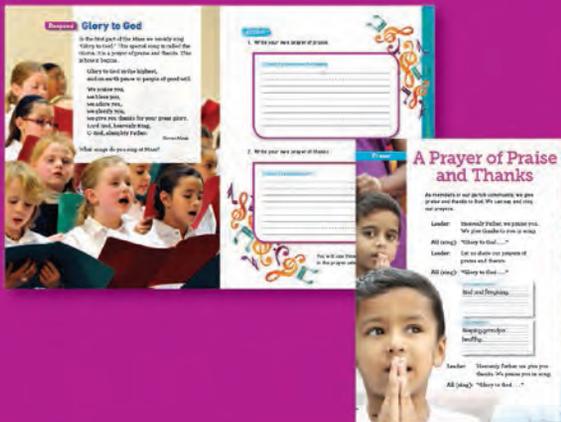
Hear and Believe

25 Minutes



Respond

20 Minutes



MATERIALS

- materials for prayer center as listed on page 55
- pencils or pens
- Additional Activity**
- basket
- child-friendly stickers or tokens

- pens or pencils
- Additional Activity**
- rhythm instruments for role-playing

- crayons or colored markers
- pens or pencils

AT-A-GLANCE PLANNER

The **At-a-Glance Planner** presents an overview of the faith focus, objectives of the learning focus, materials needed, teaching steps, and a review reminder for the catechist.

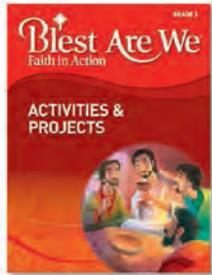
TEACHING STEPS

- Pray the Scripture verse.
- Read about and discuss blessings in the children's lives for which they give thanks.
- Complete the activity.

Additional Activity

- Create a "thanksgiving" basket.

See the Grade 2 **Activities & Projects** book for additional resources to enhance and expand the session.



Learning Focus

This chapter will help the children

1. appreciate how singing sacred music is a form of prayer.
2. recognize prayers of praise and thanks.
3. compose short prayers of praise and thanks.

Catechist Notes

- Discuss the illustration.
- Read and discuss the Scripture story of David singing a psalm of praise.
- Teach the doctrine in Our Church Teaches.
- Discuss We Believe and review the Faith Words.

Additional Activity

- Conduct a role-playing of the Scripture story.

- Discuss the photograph.
- Read and discuss the story about the Gloria.
- Write a prayer of praise and a prayer of thanks.
- Create a poster of praise.
- Pray A Prayer of Praise and Thanks.
- Complete the Chapter Review or invite children to review with their families at home.
- Distribute the Take Home pages for the next chapter.

Additional Activity

- Teach the Gloria.

Catholic Social Teaching

- Plan a time to teach the Faith in Action page for this chapter.

Looking Back

Take a moment to review your self-evaluation from the previous chapter. What have you learned that you may want to incorporate into this week's lesson?

Resources

BOOKS

- *A Picnic in October*
Eve Bunting; illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (Harcourt Brace & Co., 1999)
Tony learns what the Statue of Liberty means to his grandma.
- *Thankful*
Eileen Spinelli (Zonderkidz, 2015)
This resource conveys the importance of being thankful for everyday blessings.
- *Come On, Rain*
Karen Hesse; pictures by Jon J. Muth (Scholastic, Inc., 1999)
In this prose poem, a little girl prays for rain.

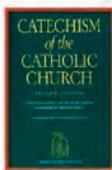
DVDS/VIDEOS

- *The Story of David*
(23 min.) (Vision Video)
This animated video retells the story of King David.
- *The Angel's Prayer Lesson*
(12 min.) (Twenty-Third Publications, 1998)
Angel Callista enthusiastically teaches children about prayer and the many forms it can take.

AUDIO/MUSIC

- "You Have Put On Christ"
(Unit 1 song, page 24)
- "Psalm 92: Lord, It Is Good"
(M. Guimont/GIA Publications)
- "All You Works of God"
(M. Haugen/GIA Publications)
- "Gloria"
(use a setting sung in your parish)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

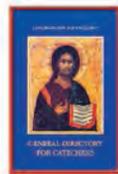


The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) links the singing of the psalms to the liturgical celebrations of the Jewish people in the Old Testament. CCC references: 1156-1158, 1191, 2559, 2590, 2637-2639

GDC AND NDC CONNECTIONS

The *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) reminds us that an important task of catechesis is teaching prayer. GDC references: 84, 85, 137

The *National Directory for Catechesis* (NDC) presents the application of catechetical principles associated with teaching about music and prayers of praise and thanksgiving. NDC reference: 38B



FAMILY LIFE CONNECTION

Connect this chapter's concepts to the moral catechesis found in Lesson 9: Family Connections of the RCL Benziger *Family Life* program. Encourage the children to make a personal commitment to daily prayer (see Teaching Tip: Daily Habit of Prayer on page 49 in the *Family Life Teacher's Guide*).

VISIT BlestAreWe.com

Access your online resources now:

- interactive and printable activities
- calendar for liturgical events
- tools for planning lessons
- and much more!

CATECHIST RESOURCES

The **resource pages** provide multimedia resource suggestions and chapter content references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *National Directory for Catechesis*, and the *General Directory for Catechesis*. In addition, the chapters are correlated to RCL Benziger's *Family Life* series, and a Special Needs feature offers tips for working with children with special learning needs.

Chapter 4

The Prayer Center

Gather the following materials for the prayer center.

- Bible and Bible stand
- crucifix or cross
- large candle, taper, and snuffer
- prayer cloth (color of liturgical season)
- *Blest Are We Faith in Action* Music CD 2
- CD player

Arrange the items on the prayer table, placing the candle near the enthroned Bible. Make sure to begin and end each lesson with prayer.

Faith in Action

Cantor

The Catholic Social Teaching highlighted in this chapter is **Respect for All Life**, formally known as **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**. To reinforce Catholic identity and present opportunities for evangelization, invite the children to turn to page 64 and complete the Faith in Action lesson as a way of putting into practice the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.



Special Needs

Use a wide variety of pictures of families celebrating special days in order to help the children identify what they are thankful for.

The role-playing activity suggested in this chapter is a wonderful opportunity to include those children who have difficulty speaking.

The use of rhythm instruments may cause distress to those with auditory sensitivities. Try using them, but have other options (such as waving pennants or ribbons attached to straws or sticks) in mind.

Assessment

Reviewing and Testing

You may wish to review the objectives covered in the chapter. To assess the children's understanding of the chapter, choose from among the following.

Student Book

- Chapter Review page 63
- Write-In Glossary pages 278–285

Assessments Book

- Chapter Test pages 4a and 4b; Unit Test 1

SPECIAL NEEDS FEATURE

The **special needs box** on the Catechist Resource page offers tips specific to the chapter content for working with children who have special learning needs.

We Praise and Thank God

Chapter 4

Sing to the LORD a new song, . . . Psalm 149:1

Share

Celebrations are important times. People come together to give thanks. They say thank you for special people or gifts.



1. Write the name of a celebration you enjoyed.

2. Write why you gave thanks.

Why do God's people give thanks?

57

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Giving Thanks for Blessings

- Place an assortment of child-friendly stickers or tokens in a basket. Seat everyone in a circle. Then give each child an item from the basket.
- Each child is to name something to be thankful for while putting the item back into the basket. Encourage each child to share with his or her individual gifts and talents.

passes the basket to the person to
 for all the blessings in the children's lives.
 by distributing the items.

Chapter 4

Share

15 Minutes

Praying with Scripture

- On the board, print the Scripture verse from the top of the page. Read the prayer aloud with the children.
- Light the candle near the Bible in the prayer center. Gather the children there. Then invite them to praise God by chanting the Scripture (singing the words at one pitch and in one musical key). Or sing the unit song on page 24.

Personal Experience

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the first three sentences.
- Discuss with the children some of the things they are thankful for. *(Answers will vary.)*
- Have volunteers read aloud the text accompanying the illustrations.
- Have the children circle the word *thanks* each time they see it.

Doing the Activity

- Invite the children to complete the activity.
- Provide time for them to share their responses about a celebration they enjoyed and why they gave thanks.

LOOKING AHEAD Have the children reflect on the question in the arrow and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.

WRAPAROUND PLAN
 A concise wraparound plan leads catechists through a creative teaching process following the three steps: **Share, Hear and Believe,** and **Respond.** Includes enrichment boxes.

Faith in Action

**Parish Ministry
Cantor**

- Cantors share their musical talents by leading others in joyful praise of God. Explain that at Sunday Mass one way the assembly participates is by singing the hymns and psalms. This helps unite the community in worship.
- Have the children share what they know about cantors and whether they have any interest in becoming a cantor some day.
- Explain to the children that when they sing in cooperation with others in the ministry described, they are showing **Respect for All Life (Life and Dignity of the Human Person)**.

Doing the Activities

1. In Everyday Life

- Have a volunteer read aloud the introduction.
- Encourage the children to identify holy songs they like. List them on the board. Encourage the children to write some of the words to the songs they remember in the space provided. It may be helpful to have volunteers sing or hum parts of their favorite songs to help jog their memory.

2. In Your Parish

- Read aloud the directions and have the children identify and circle the musical instruments used in their parish.
- Ask the children if any of them play musical instruments or enjoy singing. Perhaps they could perform for the group in the future.

Faith in Action



Cantor We can praise God in song. When we sing in church, we often have a music leader called a cantor. A cantor loves to sing praises to God. The cantor leads us in singing holy songs.

In Everyday Life

ACTIVITY Think about holy songs you like to sing. Which song is your favorite? Write down the words you remember.

In Your Parish

ACTIVITY Circle the musical instruments used in your parish.



64 Faith in Action Cantor

Catholic Social Teaching

**Respect for All Life
(Life and Dignity of the Human Person)**

- The Church emphasizes the importance of respect for all life. In God's kingdom all people are important. The Church calls on all members to respect others by enhancing their lives, advocating for just public policies, and organizing for safer and better communities. Social laws must protect life from conception through natural death.
- Focus on the positive with the children. to join in song with refrains from Psalm 126. You might also include songs from Faith in Action Music CD 2.

**FAITH IN ACTION
LESSON PLAN**

Lesson plans for the Faith in Action pages provide guidance in putting the seven basic themes of **Catholic Social Teaching** into practice.

PARISH 6

Blest Are We[®]

Faith in Action



STUDENT EDITION COVER

Dynamic, colorful, and whimsical cover illustrations depict key Scripture stories pertinent to each grade level's theme.

Getting ready for Chapter 7

Take Home

Commandment and Fulfillment

The Israelites traveling in the desert toward what would become their homeland were hungry, thirsty, and angry at Moses. Their complaints were met with miracles from God that filled their physical needs: food falling to the ground each morning and water bursting forth from a rock. God also tended to their spiritual needs by giving them the Ten Commandments. The Commandments helped the Israelites remain in a faithful, rewarding relationship with God.

ACTIVITY House Rules

What are your family rules? List them, remembering to include rules that family members follow every day without even thinking about them. Post your family rules. Invite family members to add to the list throughout the coming week.



House Rules

1. All digital devices off by 10 PM.
2. No texting during dinner.
3. Put all dirty clothes in hampers.
4. Don't waste water.
5. Keep the front door locked.
6. Wipe your feet when you come in the door.
7. Be ready on time for Sunday Mass.

THROUGH THE WEEK



A Prayer for the Week Lord, through the ages you have sent us holy people to teach us how to live. Open our hearts and minds to their guidance that we may share their joy in eternity with you. Amen.

TAKE HOME PAGE for FAMILIES

The tear-out **Take Home** page with activities and info **helps families explore the chapter** the young people study it.

Saint profiles include illustrations in a wide variety of artistic styles.

ings are proclaimed at
for God's promises and
kept those promises.

WEB
.com
hary.com
rce.com

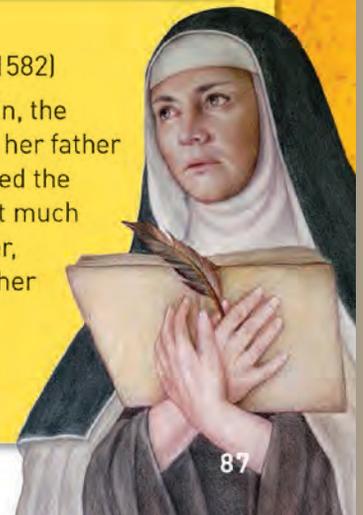
Saint Teresa of Jesus

(Saint Teresa of Ávila, 1515–1582)

Saint Teresa was born in Spain, the daughter of nobles. Although her father strongly objected, Teresa joined the Carmelite order. Teresa spent much of her life writing about prayer, including how she overcame her difficulties with praying.

Patron Saint of: Spain

Feast Day: October 15



87

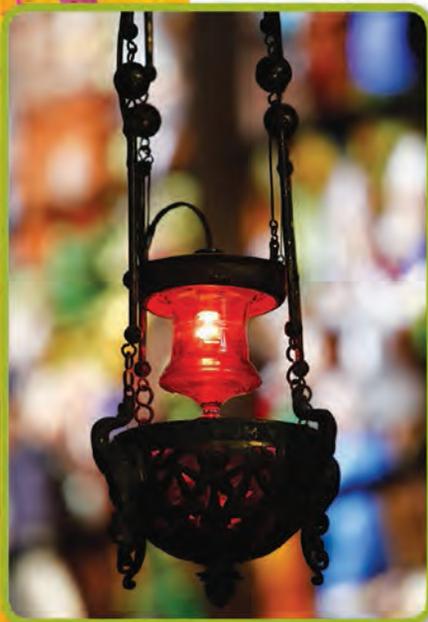
Getting ready for Chapter 7

Take Home

Scripture Background In the Time of Jesus

TEACHING FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

On their journey to the Promised Land, God revealed to the Israelites the Ten Commandments, which Moses received on Mount Sinai [see Exodus 19–20]. In the New Testament, Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, where he taught his followers the Beatitudes and the Golden Rule from a mountain [see Matthew 5–7]. At Mount Sinai, God gave his people laws to guide their relationship with him and with others. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus revealed to us the fullness of God’s law in the Gospel, the new law of love that finds its home in our hearts and our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Our Catholic Tradition in Sacramentals

ETERNAL LIGHT The Israelites regularly kept oil lamps burning outside the Ark of the Covenant, the sacred box containing the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments. When the Ark was moved to the Temple in Jerusalem, the ritual continued. After their Temple was destroyed, the Israelites began to worship in synagogues, where a continuously burning light called *Ner Tamid* (“eternal light”), representing God’s eternal covenant, shines above the Ark, now holding the Torah.

In our churches, at least one oil lamp or candle continually shines near the tabernacle holding the Blessed Sacrament. The light signifies the divinity of Christ, the Light of the World.

TAKE HOME PAGE for FAMILIES

Each chapter’s Take Home page also includes a **Scripture Background** piece and an interesting explanation of an aspect of **Our Catholic Tradition**.

Commandment and Fulfillment

Chapter 7

“... I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; ...”

Jeremiah 31:33

Share

You follow rules every day—in school, clubs, sports, and your home. These rules usually keep things running smoothly. Many rules help keep people safe. Try to think of some rules you follow each day that keep people from physical or emotional harm.

ACTIVITY

What do you remember about the rules called the Ten Commandments? In the first column, list everything you already know about the Commandments. In the second column, write a few questions you have about them. Complete the third column when you finish this chapter.



What I Know

What I Want to Know

What I Have Learned

CHAPTER OPENER

The first page of every chapter introduces the **chapter theme** with a verse from Scripture or a quote from the liturgy or the rites, personal sharing, and an activity.


Hear and Believe Scripture


The Covenant at Sinai

After the Israelites left Egypt, God led them through the desert. The journey was rough, and the Israelites grumbled against Moses. But God protected the Israelites and eased their hardships.

The Israelites complained to Moses that they were starving. The next morning, breadlike flakes covered the desert. The Israelites asked, “What is this?” Moses told them, “This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.” The Israelites called this food *manna*. It was white and tasted like wafers made with honey. The people complained that they were thirsty. At the Lord’s command, Moses struck a rock with his staff, and water flowed out for the people to drink.

About three months after they left Egypt, the Israelites came to the desert of Sinai. They camped at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moses went up the mountain to speak to God. The Lord said, “Tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I brought you here safely to me. Therefore, if you listen to me and keep my covenant, you shall be dearer to me than all other people. You shall be to me a holy nation.” Then the Lord told Moses to have the people prepare to meet the Lord in three days.

On the morning of the third day there were peals of thunder and lightning, and a heavy cloud over the mountain, and a very loud blast of the shofar, so that all the people in the camp trembled. But Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stationed themselves at the foot of the mountain. . . .

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall not have other gods beside me.

. . . You shall not invoke the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.

. . . Remember the sabbath day—keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, . . .

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife . . . or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Exodus 19:16–17; 20:1,2,7–8,12–17

DOCTRINE

PAGES

The next two pages consist of doctrine, Scripture, liturgical texts, saints’ biographies, and inspirational stories.

The **oil lamp symbol** and **Scripture blue text** denote Scripture for easy identification.

Moses told the Israelites God's Commandments. They offered sacrifices to the Lord. Then Moses went up the mountain again. When Moses came down the mountain, he was carrying stone tablets upon which God had written the Ten Commandments. But the Israelites were dancing, drinking, and worshiping a golden calf.

Moses angrily threw the tablets and broke them. He went back to the Lord to ask the Lord to forgive the Israelites. The Lord commanded Moses to cut two new stone tablets.

"Here is the covenant I will make," said the Lord. "Before your people's eyes I will work wonders that have never been seen in any nation on Earth. People will see the power of the Lord. But you must keep my Commandments. Write down these words, for with them I have made a covenant with you and Israel."

Moses wrote the Commandments on the tablets. Then skillful Israelites created a gold and wood box and a special tent. Moses brought the tablets down the mountain and placed them in the box, called the **Ark of the Covenant**. After that, the Israelites carried the Ark of the Covenant in the tent wherever they traveled.

To read the complete account in Scripture see Exodus 16:13-15,31; 17:5-6;19-20; 32; 34:1-4,10-11,27-29; 35; 40.

God's Love and Laws

The covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants was a two-way relationship. God loved his people, and he would work wonders before their eyes, just as he had done when he fed them **manna**. The people loved God and would keep his Commandments, which he revealed through Moses. The Ten Commandments express the way we all want to live: without offending God or harming other people and ourselves. Because we are created in God's image, we have a natural desire for goodness. We also have a special dignity, as well as rights and duties, such as the right to practice our faith and the duty to love and care for one another.

Our Church Teaches

God is the ultimate authority for our society. God revealed the Ten Commandments. By following them, we show love for God and choose good over evil. God's law from the Old Testament prepares us for the Gospel. Jesus taught us how important it is to keep God's Commandments. He also said, . . . "You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

We Believe

Jesus revealed the ultimate meaning of the Ten Commandments and taught us to keep God's laws in the spirit of love.

Faith Words

Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant was a special box that held the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments.

manna

Manna is the breadlike food that God gave the Israelites in the desert.

SPECIAL FEATURES

The **We Believe side bar box** contains a concise statement of the chapter's doctrine.

The **Faith Words side bar box** provides definitions of key faith terms that are boldfaced and highlighted in yellow in the text.

Respond

Saint Teresa of Jesus (Saint Teresa of Ávila)

As a teenager in Spain in the 1500s, Teresa shared many of the concerns of modern teenagers. She worried about her appearance and what boys thought of her, and she liked to flirt. The last thing on her mind was spending her life in a convent! But Teresa's strict father was worried about his daughter's behavior. When she was sixteen he sent her to a convent.

Teresa soon wanted to spend the rest of her life in service to the Lord. She became a Carmelite nun. Teresa tried to keep Jesus present within her through prayer, which she described as a mental sharing between friends. She believed that prayer should be time spent alone, reflecting only on God. When Teresa prayed, she felt God's presence overwhelm her. People who watched her pray said that her whole body would lift off the ground.

But there was a time in Teresa's life when praying was a struggle. She found it very hard to concentrate. She worked hard to overcome this difficulty. Teresa realized that there were others who also had trouble praying. She wanted to help them experience the beauty of prayer. So she spent much of her life writing and teaching others how to pray.

As an adult, Teresa founded a religious order called the Discalced Carmelites. Members of this order show their love for God by living a simple life of poverty, devoted to prayer. Teresa helped others discover that one finds inner peace through prayer. The Church recognized Teresa for her life of holiness and her contributions to the Church. She was canonized in 1622. In 1970, Saint Teresa of Jesus (Teresa of Ávila) was named a Doctor of the Church. Her feast day is October 15.

RESPOND PAGES

The **Respond pages** include a story, activity, and prayer to help the young people respond to and apply the chapter content to their daily lives.



ACTIVITY

For each of the Ten Commandments, tell the meaning of the Commandment for today. Four have been done for you.

Bible	Meaning for Today
I, the LORD, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.	_____
You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.	_____
Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.	_____
Honor your father and your mother.	_____
You shall not kill.	<i>Respect life. Take care of your health. Work to protect unborn children, the sick, and the elderly.</i>
You shall not commit adultery.	<i>Avoid situations that might lead to sexual sins.</i>
You shall not steal.	<i>Keep promises and agreements. Do not purposely keep things that you have borrowed or things that people have lost.</i>
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	_____
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.	<i>Keep your heart pure and your thoughts focused on God. Respect people's marriage vows.</i>
You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.	_____

Based on Exodus 20:2-17

GO TO page 274 for more information about the Ten Commandments.

How can the Scriptures help us pray?

Prayer

Praying with Scripture

Saint Teresa of Jesus (Teresa of Ávila) said that she often started praying by reading Scripture and reflecting upon it. Try her method of prayer. Silently read the following Scripture passage. In it, Moses is speaking to the Israelites.

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Quietly reflect on what these words mean for you today. Then write a prayer telling God how you will love him “with all your heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength.”

PRAYER PAGE

The **prayer page** at the end of each chapter provides the young people with a wide variety of experiences, including spoken and sung prayer, meditative prayer, and contemplative prayer.

Chapter Review

7

A Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- _____ revealed the ultimate meaning of the Ten Commandments and taught us to keep God's laws in the spirit of love.
 - Moses
 - Abraham
 - Jesus
 - Miriam
- _____ is the ultimate authority in our society.
 - Moses
 - God
 - The President
 - The Supreme Court
- The _____ express the way we all want to live: without offending God or hurting others or ourselves.
 - Ten Commandments
 - Israelites
 - Carmelites
 - First and Third Commandments
- Saint Teresa of Jesus (Teresa of Ávila) helped others discover that one finds inner peace through _____.
 - play
 - prayer
 - cooking
 - the words to a hymn

B Match Column A with Column B by writing the correct number in the space provided.

- | A | B |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Ark of the Covenant | _____ laws that guide our moral lives |
| 2. Ten Commandments | _____ "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." |
| 3. Sinai | _____ the breadlike food that God gave the Israelites |
| 4. manna | _____ the desert through which the Israelites passed on their journey from Egypt |
| 5. the greatest Commandment | _____ the special box that held the stones of the Ten Commandments |

CHAPTER
REVIEW

The **one-page chapter review** helps young people recall what they have learned in the chapter.

Chapt

Faith in *Action*



EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS People turn to their parishes for help with all kinds of needs. Sometimes they look to the parish for assistance in finding work. Some people cannot find work because they lack sufficient education. Some are afraid because they are new immigrants and are looking for jobs for the first time. Some parishes offer literacy programs as well as job skills and job placement seminars. Employment assistance ministries help people take responsibility in their search for jobs that they can perform with dignity. Through their efforts, people in this ministry model what it means to live out the Catholic Social Teaching of **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**.

In Everyday Life

ACTIVITY Julie wants to audition for the parish talent show. Her older sister Angela is helping her prepare for the audition, saying, "Make sure you speak loudly and clearly." What other advice might Angela give Julia?

ADVICE FOR AUDITIONING

In Your Parish

ACTIVITY In the space provided, write an announcement for your parish bulletin describing an employment assistance program. Be sure your message will clearly tell how this program will be helpful to them if they are searching for a job.

FAITH IN ACTION PAGE

Each chapter includes a **Faith in Action page** that highlights a parish ministry and makes the everyday and parish life connection between that ministry and one of the seven principles of **Catholic Social Teaching**.

tion Employment Assistance Programs

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Then our mouths were filled with laughter;
our tongues sang for joy.

Psalm 126:2

Proclaim Your Faith

The last Sunday of the liturgical year is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The liturgical color for this solemnity is white. On this day we recall that we are members of the Church, called to spread the Good News of Jesus to everyone in the world. We are called to proclaim Christ's kingly power and turn to him with love. We give him honor, serve him, and are faithful to him because he is our King.



ACTIVITY

Imagine that you are asked by a friend who does not attend any church and who does not believe in God, "What does it mean to be Catholic?" In this space, write an imaginary dialogue between the two of you in which you try to give an answer to your friend.

Your friend: _____

You: _____

Your friend: _____

You: _____

FEASTS AND SEASONS

The **Feasts and Seasons section** contains lessons about every liturgical season, and includes Scripture, story, prayer and activities. **Color coding** by season makes for easy reference.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of tl

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

*Jesus Christ,
Lord, Savior,
and King,
we honor you and
thank you for your love
and care. Help us live
according to your
law of love.
Amen.*

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe is an important holy day in the Church, and was begun in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. The pope knew that people would never live in peace with one another if they did not look to Jesus as their Lord and Savior. He decided to help by starting a holy day that celebrated that Christ is our King, the Head of the Church, and the Lord of all creation.

Pope Pius XI also knew that 1925 marked the sixteen-hundredth anniversary of the important Church Council of Nicaea. This meeting of bishops took place in the town of Nicaea (part of modern-day Turkey) in 325 AD. At Nicaea, the bishops wrote the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed includes the statement of our belief in Christ, whose “kingdom will have no end” (Nicene Creed, *Roman Missal*).

The Church has applied many of the Old Testament references to the Messiah as king to Christ. For example:

**His dominion is vast,
and forever peaceful,
Upon David’s throne, and over his
kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice,
both now and forever.**

Isaiah 9:6

In Luke’s Gospel, the angel tells Mary that her son will be given the throne of David (see Luke 1: 32-33). Near the end of Matthew’s Gospel, when Jesus gives the commission to his disciples, he reminds them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matthew 28:18). These words show that Jesus is truly King of the Universe.

Jesus Christ will reign over all human beings in a new, perfect society at the end of time. Until he returns to us in glory, he will reign in our minds when we believe in his teachings. He will reign in our hearts when we love God and put him first in our lives. And he will reign in our wills when we obey his laws and live lives of love.

Christians believe that at the end of time, Jesus Christ will come again in glory to establish his kingdom. Until then, the Church is his kingdom on Earth. What does it mean to you to say that Jesus Christ is King?

Christ the Eternal High Priest
by Vivian Imbruglia



Commandment and Fulfillment

Chapter 7

A Catechist's Prayer

Jesus, you fulfilled the Ten Commandments and taught us to live them by loving God and our neighbor. Help me live the Commandments with a loving heart and to live them as you did: as an expression of my relationship with God and with others. Amen.

Background for the Catechist

When you were a child, you were probably asked to memorize the Ten Commandments. You learned that being good meant obeying these laws. This chapter presents the Ten Commandments as more than rules or laws. They are signs of God's covenant with his chosen people. When we obey the Ten Commandments, we live in freedom as God's children. We experience God's presence and love, just as the people of Israel did.

Keeping God's Law

The old Covenant was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who established the new and eternal Covenant. He shows us how to live in a faithful and loving relationship with God and people. Jesus emphasized the Great Commandment: "... You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). Jesus also gave us the New Commandment: "... [L]ove one another as I love you" (John 15:12).

From Jesus' words and actions we learn how to keep God's law in the spirit of love. For true disciples of Jesus, the Commandments are not something external, written on tablets of stone. Instead, they are written in our hearts. They are part of our identity as members of God's family.

For Reflection

What do the Ten Commandments mean to you? Do you see them merely as laws to obey or as ways to honor your

CATECHIST BACKGROUND

The **Catechist Background page** provides background information about the Church's teachings, a brief prayer, and a reflection for the catechist on the chapter content.



86A

At-a-Glance Planner

Faith Focus

The Ten Commandments tell us how to live as covenant people who love God and each other.

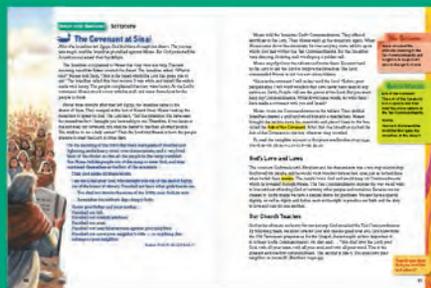
Share

15 Minutes



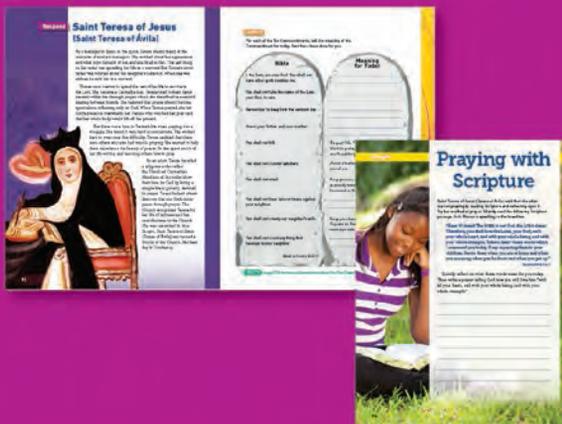
Hear and Believe

25 Minutes



Respond

20 Minutes



MATERIALS

- materials for prayer center as listed on page 87
- pens or pencils

- Bibles (at least one for every two young people)

Additional Activity

- poster board
- colored markers

- pens or pencils

Additional Activity

- drawing paper
- colored pencils or markers

AT-A-GLANCE PLANNER

The **At-a-Glance Planner** presents an overview of the faith focus, objectives of the learning focus, materials needed, teaching steps, and a review reminder for the catechist.

TEACHING STEPS

- Proclaim the Scripture verse.
- Read the text and discuss personal experiences.
- Do the chart completion activity.

Additional Activity

- Discuss the boardwalk pier rules.

See the Grade 6 **Activities & Projects** book for additional resources to enhance and expand the session.



Learning Focus

This chapter will help the young people

1. learn why God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.
2. understand why the Ten Commandments express the way we all want to live.
3. recognize that God fulfilled the Covenant by sending Jesus Christ.

Catechist Notes

Blank space for Catechist Notes.

- Discuss the illustration.
- Read and discuss the Scripture narrative about the covenant at Sinai.
- Teach the doctrine in Our Church Teaches.
- Discuss the We Believe statement and the Faith Words.

Additional Activity

- Identify ways to keep the Commandments.

- Discuss the illustration.
- Read and discuss the story about Saint Teresa of Jesus (Saint Teresa of Ávila).
- Do the activity.
- Pray with Scripture.
- Complete the Chapter Review or invite young people to review with their families at home.
- Distribute the Take Home pages for the next chapter.

Additional Activity

- Learn ways to live the Ten Commandments.

Catholic Social Teaching

- Plan a time to teach the Faith in Action page for this chapter.

Looking Back

Take a moment to review your self-evaluation from the previous chapter. What have you learned that you may want to incorporate into this week's lesson?

Resources

BOOKS

- *The Ten Commandments Explained*
Silvia Vecchini (Pauline Books and Media, 2015)
This book examines each Commandment, showing the purpose of each.
- *Holes*
Louis Sachar (Farrar Straus & Giroux Books for Younger Readers, 1998)
This Newbery Medal-winning story deals with crime, unbearable punishment, and injustice. It reveals the strength of the human spirit in a young boy whose struggles are rewarded with redemption.

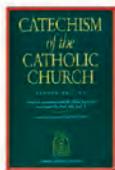
DVDS/VIDEOS

- *The Exodus*
“In the Beginning” series (30 min.) (CCC of America, Inc.)
This video focuses on how God led his people from Pharaoh’s armies through the perils of the desert to the Promised Land.
- *The Call: Tracing the Covenant Through Scripture*
(18 min.) (Franciscan Media)
This video shows how many biblical figures, including Abraham, Moses, John the Baptizer, and Mary, were challenged to respond to the call of God.

AUDIO/MUSIC

- “Wade in the Water”
(Unit 2 song, page 66)
- “This Holy Covenant Was Made”
(S. Dunstan/GIA Publications)
- “We Are Your People”
(B. Wren/Hope Publishing)
- “We Sing of the Saints”
(A. Hommerding/World Library Publications)
- “God Be in My Head”
(B. Sexton/GIA Publications)

CATECHISM CONNECTION



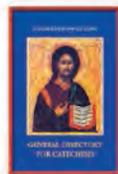
The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) explains that the Ten Commandments figure into our daily lives as “social” people. It discusses

natural law and the desire for goodness. CCC references: 72, 73, 228, 592, 1920, 1921, 1978, 1980, 2319, 2454, 2529, 2530, 2662

GDC AND NDC CONNECTIONS

The *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) refers to the importance of moral education. GDC references: 85, 87, 117

The *National Directory for Catechesis* (NDC) presents the catechetical principles associated with teaching the Ten Commandments. NDC reference: 45



FAMILY LIFE CONNECTION

Connect this chapter’s concepts to the moral catechesis found in Lesson 7: Respect Thyself of the RCL Benziger *Family Life* program. Help the young people understand how the Ten Commandments, which they study in this chapter, teach us to respect God, ourselves, and others.

VISIT BlestAreWe.com

Visit our Catechists and Students sections for:

- interactive and printable activities
- calendar for liturgical events
- tools for planning lessons
- and much more!

CATECHIST RESOURCES

The **resource pages** provide multimedia resource suggestions and chapter content references to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *National Directory for Catechesis*, and the *General Directory for Catechesis*. In addition, the chapters are correlated to RCL Benziger’s *Family Life* series, and a Special Needs feature offers tips for working with children with special learning needs.



The Prayer Center

Gather the following materials for the prayer center.

- Bible and Bible stand
- crucifix or cross
- large candle, taper, and snuffer
- prayer cloth (color of liturgical season)
- *Blest Are We Faith in Action* Music CD 6
- CD player

Arrange the items on the prayer table, placing the candle near the enthroned Bible. Make sure to begin and end each lesson with prayer.

Faith in Action

Employment Assistance Programs

To reinforce Catholic identity and present opportunities for evangelization and putting into practice the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, invite the young people to turn to page 96 and complete the Faith in Action lesson for this chapter.

Faith in Action

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS Please do not feel surprised to hear with all kinds of needs. Sometimes they look as if they will not overcome in finding work. Some people cannot find work because their lack of skills, education, funds or all of these things. You can help them and you should be able to help them. Some people have other things going on as well as job skills and job experience. It is important to remember that people have responsibilities in their search for jobs. They have to be patient and diligent. Through their efforts, people in this country cannot wait for help to be sent from the Catholic Social Teaching of the Church in the United States and the Region in the World.

In Everyday Life

QUESTION Ask students to discuss for the parish education. For older students discuss in helping and helping by the business, health, home, some simple social needs and clearly, when other advice might be helpful?

WRITE THE ANSWERS:

In Your Parish

ACTIVITY In the space provided, set to an announcement for your parish bulletin board, the parish's employment assistance program. Do not put a message and clearly set parameters for the program and be helpful to each of them in searching for jobs.

96 Faith in Action: Employment Assistance Programs

Special Needs

Many young people will have difficulty remembering the Ten Commandments. Provide a list of the Commandments (page 274) or continue to refer to the Scripture passage on page 90 throughout this session.

Assessment

Reviewing and Testing

You may wish to review the objectives covered in the chapter. To assess the young people's understanding of the chapter, choose from among the following.

Student Book

- Chapter Review page 95

Assessments Book

- Chapter Test pages 7a and 7b

SPECIAL NEEDS FEATURE

The **special needs box** on the Catechist Resource page offers tips specific to the chapter content for working with children who have special learning needs.

Commandment and Fulfillment

Chapter 7

"... I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;..."
Jeremiah 31:33

Share

You follow rules every day—in school, clubs, sports, and your home. These rules usually keep things running smoothly. Many rules help keep people safe. Try to think of some rules you follow each day that keep people from physical or emotional harm.



ACTIVITY

What do you remember about the rules called the Ten Commandments? In the first column, list everything you already know about the Commandments. In the second column, write a few questions you have about them. Complete the third column when you finish this chapter.

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Have Learned

How are the Ten Commandments a covenant?

89

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Discussing the Boardwalk Pier Rules Sign

- Direct the young people's attention to the photograph on page 89.
- Discuss the rules—why they are necessary, and what might happen if people violate them? *(The rules are necessary to protect people, property, and the environment. When people violate them, drownings, damage to the environment, and disorder...*

... people to suggest other possibilities for rules.

Chapter 7

Share

15 Minutes

Praying with Scripture

- Explain to the group that a covenant involves cooperation and faithfulness. Ask volunteers to suggest why this is so.
- Light the candle near the Bible in the prayer center. Invite a volunteer to proclaim the opening Scripture verse at the top of page 89. Sing the unit song on page 66.

Personal Experience

- Read the Share paragraph on page 89.
- Invite partners to brainstorm a list of rules they follow in their daily lives. Have volunteers share some of the rules with the group. *(Encourage discussion about rules that promote cooperation and respect for others.)*

Doing the Activity

- Invite the young people to do the activity on page 89.
- Ask volunteers to share responses from the What I Know column. Gently correct any misconceptions. Tell the young people they will have a better understanding of the Commandments at the end of the chapter.

LOOKING AHEAD Have the young people reflect on the question in the arrow, and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.

Chapter 7 89

WRAPAROUND PLAN

A concise wraparound plan leads catechists through a creative teaching process following the three steps: **Share, Hear and Believe,** and **Respond.** Includes enrichment boxes.

Faith in Action

**Parish Ministry
Employment Assistance Programs**

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the introductory paragraph. Share that many parishes provide employment assistant programs. These programs may consist of locating training programs and jobs through newspaper ads and other job search sources, or providing job training. In parish communities with large immigrant populations, support might include language classes to foreign-born parishioners to help them become better prepared for employment.
- Through this ministry, Catholics can live the Catholic Social Teaching of **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**.

Doing the Activities

1. **In Everyday Life**
Invite the young people to complete the activity. Have volunteers share their responses.
2. **In Your Parish**
Have the young people write their announcements. You might brainstorm services the employment assistance group might provide, such as job search service, help with applications, etc. Have volunteers share their ideas.

Faith in Action



EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS People turn to their parishes for help with all kinds of needs. Sometimes they look to the parish for assistance in finding work. Some people cannot find work because they lack sufficient education. Some are afraid because they are new immigrants and are looking for jobs for the first time. Some parishes offer literacy programs as well as job skills and job placement seminars. Employment assistance ministries help people take responsibility in their search for jobs that they can perform with dignity. Through their efforts, people in this ministry model what it means to live out the Catholic Social Teaching of **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**.

In Everyday Life

ACTIVITY Julie wants to audition for the parish talent show. Her older sister Angela is helping her prepare for the audition, saying, "Make sure you speak loudly and clearly." What other advice might Angela give Julia?

ADVICE FOR AUDITIONING

In Your Parish

ACTIVITY In the space provided, write an announcement for your parish bulletin describing the parish's employment assistance program. Be sure your message will clearly tell parishioners how this program will be helpful to them if they are searching for a job.

96 Faith in Action Employment Assistance Programs

Catholic Social Teaching

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- Catholic Social Teaching states that the economy must serve people, rather than people serving the economy, and that the basic rights of workers must be protected, including the right to productive work and fair wages.
- Have the young people work in small groups to identify problems a new immigrant might face in trying to find a job in his or her new homeland.
- As a large group, discuss some of these issues and possible solutions.

**FAITH IN ACTION
LESSON PLAN**

Lesson plans for the Faith in Action pages provide guidance in putting the seven basic themes of **Catholic Social Teaching** into practice.

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