

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Scope & Sequence Grades 7 and 8 | T8 |
| Program Overview | T12 |
| Introduction to Guide | T14 |
| Understanding the Early Adolescent | T20 |
| Praying with Young People | T22 |
| Ways of Learning | T24 |
| Putting Faith into Action | T26 |
| Connecting with the Home | T28 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction to Student Text | T30 |
|------------------------------|-----|

Unit 1 Who Is God? 10A

1 The Source of All Life

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Planning Guide | 11A |
| Catechist Overview | 11C |

Lesson Plan 11

- ★ God created us to know him. ★ God makes himself known. ★ God gives us the gift of faith.
- ★ The Church gives witness to God's presence.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Exodus 3:14, 15; Deuteronomy 4:29; John 17:21; Acts of the Apostles 17:24–25, 27–28; Hebrews 1:1–2

Catholic Identity: Who are God's people?

Partners in Faith: Saint Paul
Sharing Faith with Your Family

2 The Truth Revealed

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Planning Guide | 21A |
| Catechist Overview | 21C |

Lesson Plan 21

- ★ Scripture and Tradition reveal the truth. ★ The truth is written in Scripture. ★ The truth is handed down in Tradition. ★ The Church lives by the truth.

Psalms 25:1–2, 4–5, 8–9; 119:43–44; John 17:17; 21:25

Catholic Identity: More about the Bible

Partners in Faith: Saint Jerome
Sharing Faith with Your Family

3 The Blessed Trinity

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Planning Guide | 31A |
| Catechist Overview | 31C |

Lesson Plan 31

- ★ God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the Blessed Trinity. ★ The mystery of the Blessed Trinity is central to our faith. ★ God calls us to live our faith through loving relationships. ★ God calls us to share his love with the world.

Matthew 22:37, 39; Luke 3:21–22; 4:14–15; 6:27–28; John 11:41–42; Romans 8:16–17; 2 Corinthians 13:13

Catholic Identity: The Trinity and the Sign of the Cross

Partners in Faith: Blessed Julian of Norwich
Sharing Faith with Your Family

4 God, Our Loving Father

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Planning Guide | 41A |
| Catechist Overview | 41C |

Lesson Plan 41

- ★ God loves all he has created. ★ God invites us into a loving relationship with him. ★ God is merciful and gives us laws out of love. ★ Jesus Christ is the greatest sign of God's love.

Genesis 1:1–3; 17:1–2; Exodus 34:1, 6; Psalms 90:1–2, 14; 145:8; Isaiah 49:15; John 6:40; 1 John 4:9

Catholic Identity: Always another chance

Partners in Faith: Saint Teresa of Ávila
Sharing Faith with Your Family

5 Jesus Christ, the Good News

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Planning Guide | 51A |
| Catechist Overview | 51C |

Lesson Plan 51

- ★ We meet God in his Son, Jesus Christ. ★ We meet Jesus in the four Gospels. ★ The synoptic Gospels tell the good news from a similar viewpoint. ★ The Gospel of John explores the mystery of the Incarnation.

Luke 8:1; 9:6; John 15:9

Catholic Identity: How do we pray with Scripture?

Partners in Faith: The Catholic News Service
Sharing Faith with Your Family

6 Holy Spirit, Helper and Guide

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Planning Guide | 61A |
| Catechist Overview | 61C |

Lesson Plan 61

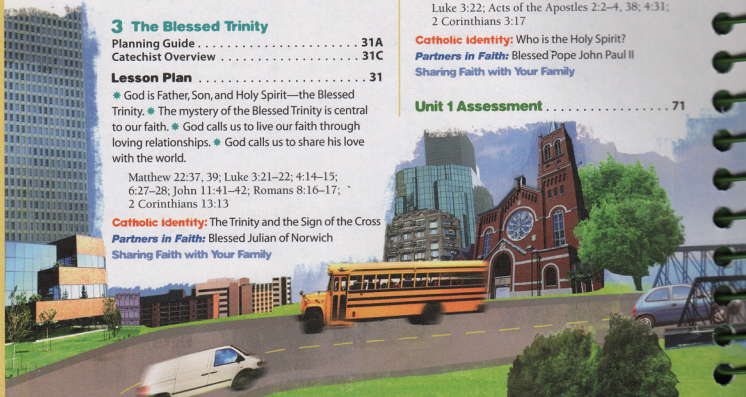
- ★ The Holy Spirit is always present with the Father and the Son. ★ The Holy Spirit is active in God's plan of salvation. ★ The Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost. ★ The Holy Spirit is always guiding the Church.

Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 11:2; John 14:16–17, 26; 16:13; Luke 3:22; Acts of the Apostles 2:2–4, 38; 4:31; 2 Corinthians 3:17

Catholic Identity: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Partners in Faith: Blessed Pope John Paul II
Sharing Faith with Your Family

Unit 1 Assessment 71



Unit 2 Who Is Jesus? 74

7 The Promise of Salvation

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Planning Guide | 75A |
| Catechist Overview | 75C |

Lesson Plan 75

• God reaches out to help humankind. • God offers his people the hope of salvation. • God promises a Messiah. • The promise of a Messiah comes to fulfillment.

Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 9:6; 19:20; 42:6; 53:7; Jeremiah 14:8; Psalms 68:21; 71:1–3; Luke 1:31–33, 35, 38, 46–55; Romans 12:12

Catholic Identity: The Magnificat

Partners in Faith: Venerable Matt Talbot

Sharing Faith with Your Family

8 Jesus, the Promised Messiah

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Planning Guide | 85A |
| Catechist Overview | 85C |

Lesson Plan 85

• Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah. • Jesus fulfills the hopes of Israel. • Jesus is the Son of God. • Jesus is true God and true man.

Genesis 22:18; Isaiah 7:14; 9:5–6; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:32–33; 2:11, 30–32, 38, 40, 41–52; John 1:1, 14; Galatians 3:29

Catholic Identity: The seven sacraments

Partners in Faith: Saint Joseph

Sharing Faith with Your Family

9 The Coming of God's Kingdom

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Planning Guide | 95A |
| Catechist Overview | 95C |

Lesson Plan 95

• Jesus prepares for his work as God's Son. • Jesus ushers in God's Kingdom. • Jesus teaches us to spread the Kingdom of God. • Jesus teaches us to pray for God's Kingdom.

Matthew 4:10; 5:3–10, 12; 13:49; Mark 1:7–8, 10–11, 15; 4:32; Luke 4:43; 17:20–21

Catholic Identity: The Sacraments of Initiation

Partners in Faith: Jean Donovan

Sharing Faith with Your Family

10 Jesus the Healer

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 105A |
| Catechist Overview | 105C |

Lesson Plan 105

• Jesus offers freedom and life. • Jesus heals and forgives. • Jesus calls us to faith. • Jesus shows God's power and love.

Psalms 30:3; Matthew 4:23; 8:25–27; 10:3–4; 14:27, 28, 30, 33; 15:30–31; Mark 2:1–5, 12; 5:34; 10:46–47, 51–52; Luke 4:18–19, 21; 5:17; 7:48; 9:37–39, 42–43

Catholic Identity: The Sacraments of Healing

Partners in Faith: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

Sharing Faith with Your Family

11 Jesus, the Bread of Life

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 115A |
| Catechist Overview | 115C |

Lesson Plan 115

• Jesus prepares his disciples for all that is to come. • Jesus tells his disciples he will always be with them. • Jesus suffers for the sins of humanity. • Jesus fulfills God's plan of salvation.

Matthew 16:14–16; 26:63–66; Mark 15:31, 38–39; Luke 22:19–20, 42, 44; John 6:35, 51–52, 54, 57

Catholic Identity: Truly present

Partners in Faith: The Hospice Movement

Sharing Faith with Your Family

12 Jesus Christ the Savior

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 125A |
| Catechist Overview | 125C |

Lesson Plan 125

• Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. • Christ's work of salvation is accomplished. • Christ's life and mission continue in the Church. • The Church is the Body of Christ.

Matthew 18:20; 28:20; Mark 16:6–7, 15–16; Luke 24:50–51; John 10:10, 14:3; Acts of the Apostles 1:11; 2:3–4, 42–47; Romans 12:5; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 2:9; 4:10

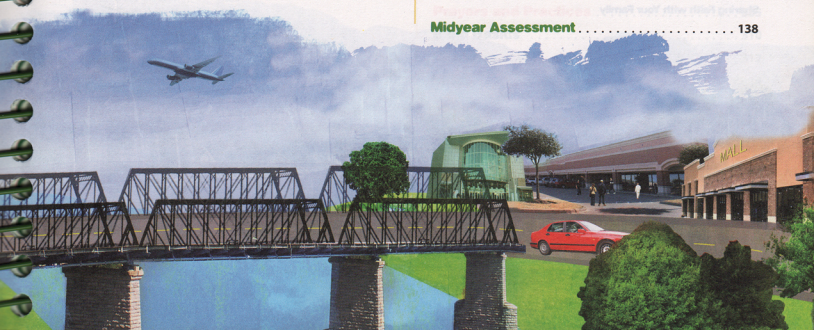
Catholic Identity: Life without end

Partners in Faith: Saint Mary Magdalene

Sharing Faith with Your Family

Unit 2 Assessment 135

Midyear Assessment 138



Unit 3 How Is Jesus Christ Alive in the Church Today? 140

13 The Seven Sacraments

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 141A |
| Catechist Overview | 141C |

Lesson Plan 141

- Through the sacraments we share in God's life and love. • The grace of the sacraments enables us to respond to God's love. • As the Church we are united in Christ and celebrate his Paschal Mystery.
- The sacraments sanctify us and build up the Body of Christ.

Psalms 23:1-4, 6; 139:14; Jeremiah 23:24; Matthew 28:20

Catholic Identity: What are sacramentals?

Partners in Faith: Olivier Messiaen

Sharing Faith with Your Family

14 Baptism

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 151A |
| Catechist Overview | 151C |

Lesson Plan 151

- In Baptism we receive new life in Christ. • We are washed and anointed. • At Baptism we are welcomed into the Church.
- We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.

Mark 10:14; 16:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 15:22; John 1:26-27, 29, 31-34; 3:3, 5; 4:10

Catholic Identity: The catechuminate

Partners in Faith: Marla Ruzicka

Sharing Faith with Your Family

15 Confirmation

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 161A |
| Catechist Overview | 161C |

Lesson Plan 161

- The disciples receive the Holy Spirit. • The laying on of hands and anointing are signs of the Holy Spirit's presence. • The Sacrament of Confirmation completes Baptism. • We are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

John 7:38; Acts of the Apostles 2:17, 21; 1 Corinthians 12:4-5; Galatians 5:25

Catholic Identity: The gifts of the Holy Spirit

Partners in Faith: Blessed Miguel Pro

Sharing Faith with Your Family

16 Eucharist

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 171A |
| Catechist Overview | 171C |

Lesson Plan 171

- We are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ. • Jesus gives his disciples a new covenant. • We are one with Jesus Christ.
- We celebrate the Eucharist.

Luke 22:19-20; 24:26-31; John 6:11, 55-56, 58; 13:14-15; 15:4

Catholic Identity: Sacrament of redemption

Partners in Faith: Catholic Relief Services

Sharing Faith with Your Family

17 Penance and Anointing of the Sick

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 181A |
| Catechist Overview | 181C |

Lesson Plan 181

- God is loving and forgiving. • We celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. • Jesus comforts all who are in need.
- We celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Psalms 116:5, 9; Matthew 11:28; Mark 6:13; 16:17-18; Luke 15:11-24; John 6:54; 20:21-23; James 5:14-15

Catholic Identity: God gives us peace

Partners in Faith: Saint Peregrine

Sharing Faith with Your Family

18 Holy Orders and Matrimony

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 191A |
| Catechist Overview | 191C |

Lesson Plan 191

- Matrimony is a Sacrament at the Service of Communion.
- In Matrimony, couples receive the grace for lifelong love and service. • Jesus called his Apostles to continue his work. • Those called to Holy Orders are consecrated to the service of others.

Genesis 1:28; 2:24; Matthew 19:6; Luke 6:13; 9:2; 22:27; John 20:21-22; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 John 4:7

Catholic Identity: Signs of service

Partners in Faith: Pope Benedict XVI

Sharing Faith with Your Family

Unit 3 Assessment 201



Unit 4 How Does the Church Live As the Body of Christ? 204

19 We Live Out Our Vocation

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 205A |
| Catechist Overview | 205C |

Lesson Plan 205

★ God calls each of us to a particular vocation. ★ Some are called to live as laypeople. ★ Some are called to the consecrated life. ★ Some men are ordained as priests and permanent deacons.

Isaiah 43:1; Jeremiah 1:4–8; Matthew 19:21; John 15:5; 1 Corinthians 12:5

Catholic Identity: The evangelical counsels

Partners in Faith: Blessed Laura Montoya

Sharing Faith with Your Family

20 We Gather As Christ's Disciples

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 215A |
| Catechist Overview | 215C |

Lesson Plan 215

★ God gives us many gifts. ★ As members of the Church, we come together in faith, hope, and love. ★ The Church is one and holy. ★ The Church is catholic and apostolic.

Matthew 18:20; 28:19; John 10:14; 20:29; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 13:7–8; Ephesians 4:4, 5–6

Catholic Identity: The cardinal virtues

Partners in Faith: Saints Raphael, Gabriel, and Michael the Archangels

Sharing Faith with Your Family

21 We Perform the Works of Mercy

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 225A |
| Catechist Overview | 225C |

Lesson Plan 225

★ As Jesus' disciples we are called to follow his example.
★ As Jesus' disciples we have a responsibility to care for others.
★ We can perform the Works of Mercy. ★ By caring for others we choose discipleship and eternal life.

Genesis 4:9; Isaiah 58:7; Matthew 5:7; 7:12; 25:31–32, 34–40; Luke 10:30–34, 37, 11:41; John 13:15; James 2:14

Catholic Identity: Time, talent, and treasure

Partners in Faith: Sean Devereux

Sharing Faith with Your Family

22 We Work for Justice and Peace

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 235A |
| Catechist Overview | 235C |

Lesson Plan 235

★ We are called to justice. ★ We are called to peace. ★ We are called to work together for justice and peace. ★ Through Catholic social teaching we live out our discipleship.

Psalms 34:15; 122:8–9; Isaiah 32:17; Matthew 5:6

Catholic Identity: Social responsibility

Partners in Faith: Jesuit Volunteer Corps

Sharing Faith with Your Family

23 We Are a Communion of Saints

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 245A |
| Catechist Overview | 245C |

Lesson Plan 245

★ Jesus calls all to be one. ★ As the Body of Christ, the Church, we help each other to live as disciples. ★ Mary is the perfect example of discipleship. ★ Mary is the Church's greatest saint.

Luke 1:38; John 2:5; 17:20–21; 19:27; 1 John 1:7

Catholic Identity: Marian shrines

Partners in Faith: Venerable Catherine McAuley

Sharing Faith with Your Family

24 We Rejoice in God's Kingdom

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Planning Guide | 255A |
| Catechist Overview | 255C |

Lesson Plan 255

★ We open our hearts to God. ★ God has always called people to prayer. ★ We pray in many ways. ★ We pray always.

Psalms 146:2; Matthew 3:17; 5:3; 6:10; Luke 18:1, 13; 23:34; John 11:41; 14:1, 6–7, 23; 2 Corinthians 13:13; Philippians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Catholic Identity: Constant prayer

Partners in Faith: Saint Teresa de Los Andes

Sharing Faith with Your Family

Unit 4 Assessment 265

End-of-Year Assessment 268

Seasons and Celebrations 271

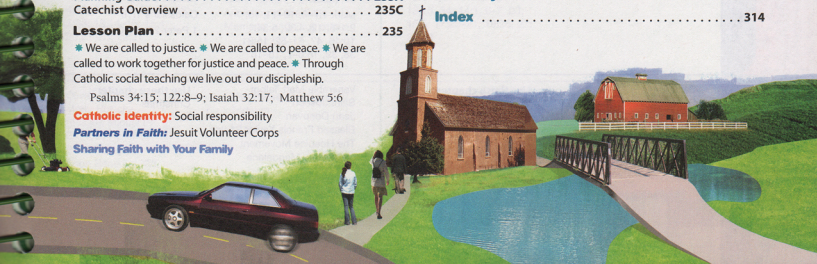
| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Liturgical Calendar | 272 |
| The Liturgical Year | 273A |
| Advent | 277A |
| Christmas | 281A |
| Lent | 285A |
| Triduum | 289A |
| Easter | 293A |
| Ascension | 297A |
| Ordinary Time | 301A |

Prayers and Practices 305

Bible Basics 310

Glossary 312

Index 314





Imagine that you are an international journalist. In the space below, write a feature article to explain to the world who God is. Write a headline and include an appropriate image for your article.

Blank space for writing a feature article, with a large vertical line for a headline and a smaller horizontal line for a sub-headline.

We Live Our Faith As Disciples of Jesus Unit 1 Assessment

73

PUPIL PAGE 73

■ We Live Our Faith CD-ROM Test Generator is a valuable tool for chapter, unit, midyear, and final assessment. It will help you to customize tests using five methods to select questions. You can:

- make up printed tests from a bank of questions
- customize tests
- edit test questions
- add an unlimited number of test questions
- allow students to take a test on your local area network
- allow students to take a test online from any location; results can be reported to the instructor
- use numerous test layout and printing options
- score tests automatically and use a class management system.

Unit 2

Who Is Jesus?



Chapter 7 The Promise of Salvation

The Big Question:
Who or what helps me in difficult times?



Chapter 8 Jesus, the Promised Messiah

The Big Question:
Do I keep my promises?



Chapter 9 The Coming of God's Kingdom

The Big Question:
How can I make a difference?



Chapter 10 Jesus the Healer

The Big Question:
How do I get beyond hardships and hurts?



Chapter 11 Jesus, the Bread of Life

The Big Question:
Will God always be there for me?



Chapter 12 Jesus Christ the Savior

The Big Question:
Why is life worth living?

74

PUPIL PAGE 74

Getting Ready for Unit 2

Introduce the unit by reading the unit title. Point out that the title is a question and that reflecting on this question helps disciples of Jesus to live their faith.

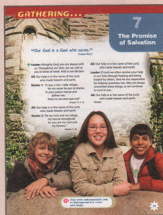
Pause for a minute of silence to allow the students to reflect on their responses to the unit question on the unit opener page in their text. You may want the students to write their responses on the right side of the page.

Print the unit question on a poster. Display the poster in your prayer space. As you complete the unit, revisit the unit question. Ask: *Has your response to this question changed since you began this unit? If it has, what is your response now?* Then invite volunteers to share their responses.

GATHERING...

This Week's Liturgy

Visit www.weliveourfaith.com for this week's liturgical readings and other seasonal material.



Page 75

- Pray together Psalm 68.
- Listen to a reading from Psalm 71.
- Respond in prayer.

Materials

For the prayer space: Bible, a cross, a candle, photographs of people serving others

BELIEVING...

BELIEVING...

Our faith leads us to God's kingdom.

Our faith leads us to God's kingdom. We believe in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Church, the sacraments, and the life to come. We believe in the love of God for all people and the need for justice and peace in the world.

Evil and sin—why?

Evil and sin are part of the human condition. They are the result of our free will and our desire to be like God. But God loves us and wants to save us from our sin. He offers us the grace of the sacraments and the love of the Church to help us overcome our sin and live in God's kingdom.

Page 78

God reaches out to help humankind.

- Discuss the lead-in question.
- Present the text about free will, sin, and original sin.
- Highlight the definitions of the *Faith Words*.
- Complete the motto-writing activity.
- Present the feature: *Evil and sin—WHY?*
- Discuss the follow-up question.

Materials

- highlighters or colored pencils

God offers His people the hope of salvation.

God offers His people the hope of salvation. He promises to be with them and to save them from all their iniquities. He promises to be a Father to the fatherless and a God to the orphaned. He promises to be a God who is with them and who saves them from all their iniquities.

Evil and sin—why?

Evil and sin are part of the human condition. They are the result of our free will and our desire to be like God. But God loves us and wants to save us from our sin. He offers us the grace of the sacraments and the love of the Church to help us overcome our sin and live in God's kingdom.

Page 79

God offers his people the hope of salvation.

- Discuss the lead-in question.
- Present the text about the Old Testament accounts of God helping his people.
- Make a time line showing dates for leaders of the Israelites.
- Complete the activity about God helping his people.
- Reflect on the follow-up question.

RESPONDING...

RESPONDING...

Recognizing Our Faith

Recognizing Our Faith. We believe in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Church, the sacraments, and the life to come. We believe in the love of God for all people and the need for justice and peace in the world.

Living Our Faith

Living Our Faith. We believe in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Church, the sacraments, and the life to come. We believe in the love of God for all people and the need for justice and peace in the world.

Recognizing Our Faith

Recognizing Our Faith. We believe in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Church, the sacraments, and the life to come. We believe in the love of God for all people and the need for justice and peace in the world.

Page 82

- Reflect on *The Big Question*.
- Complete the *Recognizing Our Faith* activity.
- Facilitate reflection on *Living Our Faith*.
- Present *Partners in Faith* about Venerable Matt Talbot.

Putting Faith to Work

Putting Faith to Work. We believe in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Church, the sacraments, and the life to come. We believe in the love of God for all people and the need for justice and peace in the world.

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

Encountering God's Word. We believe in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Church, the sacraments, and the life to come. We believe in the love of God for all people and the need for justice and peace in the world.

Page 83

- Review the chapter goals in *Putting Faith to Work* and discuss ways of responding in faith.
- Lead the Scripture meditation, *Encountering God's Word*.
- Complete *Chapter 7 Assessment*.
- Complete the *Alternative Assessment* activity.

GATHERING...

THE BIG QUESTION
How do we help people who are in need?



Read the text on page 76 and complete the Discover activity.

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Page 76

- Reflect on *The Big Question* about who or what helps in difficult times.
- Complete the *Discover* activity.
- Discuss global problems and possible solutions.
- Discuss chapter goals.

How do we help people who are in need? This is a question that has troubled people for centuries. In the Bible, we see that God calls us to love one another. In the Gospels, we see Jesus helping the poor and the sick. Today, we still have people who are hungry, homeless, and in need of help. How can we help them?



Read the text on page 77 and complete the Discover activity.


Page 77

- Present the story about addiction.
- List ways we can help friends when they are having troubles.
- Discuss a quotation from César Chavez.

BELIEVING...

God promises a Messiah.

Read the text on page 80 and complete the Discover activity.



Page 80

God promises a Messiah.

- Discuss the lead-in questions.
- Present the text about the Messiah.
- Listen to and discuss lyrics of Advent hymns.
- Complete the hopeful-message activity.
- Discuss the follow-up questions.

Materials

- recordings of Advent hymns
- missalettes or hymnals

The promise of a Messiah comes to fulfillment.

Read the text on page 81 and complete the Discover activity.



That Magnificent

With Words

Page 81

The promise of a Messiah comes to fulfillment.


- Discuss the lead-in question.
- Present the text about the Annunciation.
- Stress the *Faith Words*.
- Present *Catholic Identity*.
- Complete the prayer activity.
- Discuss the follow-up questions.

Materials

- writing paper and pens
- basket


RESPONDING...

Sharing Faith with Your Family



The Worship Connection

Catholic Social Teaching



Page 84

- Encourage the students to share with their families the activities suggested: *Sharing Faith with Your Family*, *The Worship Connection*, *More to Explore*, and *Catholic Social Teaching Checklist*.



Visit www.welfareoffaith.com to find additional activities and ideas.

Overview

In this chapter the students will learn that God promised salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Doctrinal Content

For Adult Reading and Reflection
Catechism of the Catholic Church

The students will learn:

Paragraph

- **God reaches out to help humankind.** 410
- **God offers his people the hope of salvation.** 439
- **God promises a Messiah.** 453
- **The promise of a Messiah comes to fulfillment.** 422

Faith Words

- free will (p. 78)
- sin (p. 78)
- original sin (p. 78)
- Immaculate Conception (p. 81)
- angel (p. 81)
- Annunciation (p. 81)



For additional chapter-related vocabulary and previously taught faith words, visit www.weliveourfaith.com

Catechist Background

What is the most important promise that was ever made to you?

When we look out at the world, we do not see the Garden of Eden. Often, in fact, it may look as if war, poverty, injustice, suffering, and sin pervade all that we see. When we look inside ourselves, we find a struggle to do good and resist temptation. We ask: Why is there sin?

To help us understand the origins of sin, the Church turns to the story of the first humans and the doctrine of original sin. In the Book of Genesis, we read that the first humans, Adam and Eve, were created with original holiness in the image of God. They also were created with free will, because they were made to give and receive love, and love must be freely given. But Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. They immediately lost “the grace of original holiness” (CCC, 399). As a consequence of their choice, this state of sin is passed from them to future generations. This is original sin, and it is into this condition that we are born.

However, in the story of Adam and Eve, we find the seeds of promise as well as the consequences of sin. God tells the serpent that the offspring of the woman will strike at the serpent’s head, and the Church reads this

as a promise (Genesis 3:15). The serpent, traditionally seen as the devil, will strike at the heels of humankind. But one human will come who will strike at the head of the devil, thereby implying the devil’s defeat. Later in the Old Testament we hear, through the prophets, further promises of a Messiah to come. We believe this Messiah is Jesus Christ.

In the infancy narratives of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, we read how the prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. And our response can be as Anna’s was when she saw the child Jesus in the Temple: She “gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). We can thank God by proclaiming “good news of great joy. . . . a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord” (Luke 2:10–11).

How will you thank God for fulfilling his promise of sending Jesus Christ, our Savior?

The Promise of Salvation

“Our God is a God who saves.”

(Psalm 68:21)

+ Leader: Almighty God, you are always with us. Throughout our lives, we can call on you in times of need. And so we declare:

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Reader 1: “In you, LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue and deliver me; listen to me and save me!”
(Psalm 71:1–2)

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Reader 2: “Be my rock and my refuge, my secure stronghold; for you are my rock and my fortress.”
(Psalm 71:3)

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: O Lord, we often receive your help in our lives through helping and being helped by others. And we are responsible for helping ourselves, too. May we always remember these things, as we continue to trust in you.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Amen.



Visit www.weliveourfaith.com to find appropriate music and songs.



Catechist Goal

- To explain that throughout human history God has reached out to help his people, and that God promised salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ, the Messiah

Faith Response

- To respond to God's promise of salvation by helping and serving others

Materials

- Bible
- highlighters or colored pencils

GATHERING...

Prepare to Pray Choose a *Leader* and two *Readers*. Provide time for these students to practice their parts before beginning the prayer.

The Prayer Space Display on the prayer table an open Bible, a cross, and a candle. You may also wish to display photographs of people serving others.

This Week's Liturgy

Visit www.weliveourfaith.com for this week's liturgical readings and other seasonal material.

Pray

- Pause for a minute of silence. Ask the students to be as still and quiet as possible.
- Proclaim the quote from Psalm 68. Then signal the *Leader* to begin.
- Encourage everyone to participate by responding in the parts marked *All*.
- Pause after the last response. Then invite the students to think about people who have helped them recently. Offer a short prayer of thanks for these people.

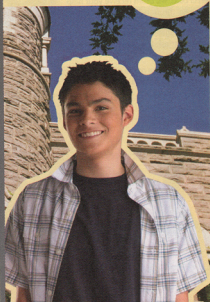
GATHERING...

The BIG Question:

Direct the students' attention to *The Big Question* about who or what helps them in difficult times. Explain that difficult times could refer to personal, local, national, or global problems. Pause briefly for silent reflection. Remind the students that you will discuss the question again at the end of the chapter.

The BIG Question:

Who or what helps me in difficult times?



In this chapter
we learn how original sin weakened our human nature and allowed ignorance, suffering, and death into the world, and how God promised help and salvation. Through this chapter, we hope

to understand
that throughout human history God has reached out to help his people

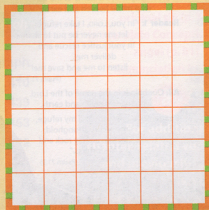
to celebrate
that God promised salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ, the Messiah

to respond
to God's promise of salvation by helping and serving others.

76

Discover a signal for help. "SOS" is known worldwide as a call for help. This is due in part to Samuel Morse, who developed Morse code in the 1800s. In Morse code, short electrical signals, or dots, and long electrical signals, or dashes, stand for letters and numbers. These signals were sent out to communicate messages. In Morse code, a message calling for help consisted of three dots, three dashes, and three dots (•••---•••), or the letters SOS. This signal could be broadcast very quickly, so it was used internationally.

With a partner, take turns writing an S or O in the grid below. Your goal is to get the letters SOS to appear in a row, horizontally or diagonally, during your turn. Each time you do this, score a point and take an additional turn. The person with the highest score wins!



Discuss some real-life "SOS" situations around the world—situations in which people need help. Suggest actions that might be taken to help the people involved.

Discover Ask a volunteer to read the first paragraph on page 76. Suggest that Morse code is only one way people can ask for help. Elicit other ways. (Responses might include calling 911, broadcasting about worldwide problems, and asking a responsible adult to help with personal problems.)

Invite a volunteer to read the activity directions. Point out that this game is based on the game Tic-Tac-Toe. Allow the students sufficient time to play a few rounds of the game with their partners.

Present the discussion suggestion below the activity. Lead the discussion by suggesting one or more examples of situations throughout the world that require an "SOS." Some examples might include wars, hunger, unemployment, effects of natural disasters, and personal addictions. Invite volunteers to suggest remedial actions.

In this chapter

Call attention to the chapter goals. Ask the students to remember these goals while working on the chapter, especially the goal of celebrating that God promised salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Family Connection

Encourage the students to discuss *The Big Question* and the *Discover* activity on this page with their families and friends. You may download copies of the features on this page at www.weliveourfaith.com.

Extras!

Tip for Catechists

Before you lead the students in large group discussions, set a time limit. A maximum time limit of ten minutes is recommended for the discussion of the question on this page.

“Hi. My name is Maura, and I’m an alcoholic. It has taken a lot for me to say that about myself. Getting through my first few meetings here was the hardest thing I’ve ever done. I remember thinking to myself: *I don’t need this. These people are nothing like me!* But I needed someone to help me. I just couldn’t stop drinking.

“So, I continued to come here and listen to your stories. Soon, I learned that your stories were a lot like my story. And all of you became the help I needed to get through the day. Now I have Maryann as my sponsor, and I’m really getting into the Twelve Steps. I actually admitted that I was powerless over alcohol. I am being honest with myself and others. I am also turning to God and to all of you to get me through this. So, I guess what I really want to say is this: Thank you for being here for me. I hope one day I can help another kid like me.”

With these words,

Maura, fifteen years old, looked gratefully at the other Alcoholics Anonymous members sitting around her. She couldn’t believe that six months had already passed since her last drink.

The organization Alcoholics Anonymous began in 1935 with a friendship between two alcoholics, William Griffith Wilson and Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith. They met at a time when they were both struggling to stay sober. By sharing stories of their struggles and encouraging each other to depend on God, they helped each other to overcome their addiction one day at a time. Soon Wilson and Smith began meeting with other alcoholics to help them

to get sober, too. Wilson and Smith shared their spiritual guidelines, which included: admitting that they were powerless over alcohol, turning to God for help, examining their past behavior, making amends, telling the truth, and serving

others. Eventually, these spiritual guidelines developed into what is known as the “Twelve Steps,” and their small gatherings grew into the larger organization known as Alcoholics Anonymous, or AA. Because AA protects its members’ anonymity, Wilson and Smith were known for years as simply “Bill W.” and “Dr. Bob.”

The group that Bill W. and Dr. Bob began now has two million members worldwide. Members meet to pray together, share their stories and struggles, and work on following the Twelve Steps. Through their friendships, members help each other to cope with the difficulties of addiction. Several other organizations have grown out of AA to help people who have other kinds of addictions.



“You are never strong enough that you don’t need help,” said César Chávez (1927–1993), an American activist, a labor organizer, and the founder of the National Farm Workers Association.

Activity When has a friendship helped you through a difficult situation? List some ways that you might help your friends when they are having trouble in their lives.

77

GATHERING...

Note: While presenting the topic of addiction, be sensitive toward any family situations among the students that might make this subject difficult to talk about. Keep the discussion away from personal experiences and situations so that the students can feel free to join in without having to divulge any personal information.

■ Invite a volunteer to read the story of Maura and her experience with Alcoholics Anonymous presented in the first three paragraphs. Afterward, give the students a few minutes to reflect privately on the story. Stress the strong support Maura gets from her friends at AA. Point out that although Maura had a very serious problem, she looked for help. Explain that we should not be afraid to ask for help with problems, whether they are serious or seem minor.

■ Present the text about the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous in the last two paragraphs.

Activity (Verbal/Linguistic)

Present the question found in the activity on this page. Invite the students to reflect on it and to share their responses if they wish. Then brainstorm with the group about ways in which they can help their friends when they need help. Point out that there are some things we can always do to help, such as to listen to our friends or to pray about the situation.

■ Present the quote from César Chavez. Ask the students why they think it might be difficult for some people to ask others for help. Suggest that sometimes people are too stubborn, too embarrassed, or too proud to allow others to help them in times of trouble. Stress that being able to ask for help is a sign of maturity.

Note to Catechists

Stress with the students that sometimes friends have problems that are very serious. Students should be urged to tell a trusted adult if a friend seems depressed, anxious, or dependent on drugs or alcohol. These kinds of problems need family involvement and professional help. It is also important to remember this if or when students confide in you. Many dioceses have offices or ministries that offer help for adolescents. You may want to consult with your diocesan Family Life Office or Catholic Youth Organization to discuss a course of action.

BELIEVING...

God reaches out to help humankind.

God, you are our greatest help in times of need.

■ You might begin this page by asking: *What would a perfect world be like?* Invite a few volunteers to share their responses.

■ Talk with the students about God's involvement in the lives of human beings since humans were first created. Explain that God has always cared for and been concerned about our welfare. God did not create us and then abandon us. God's nurturing love is always with us.

■ Invite a few volunteers to read the text on page 78. Then ask the students to go back to the text and highlight or underline the sentence that explains why God created us. (God created human beings to be at one with him, each other, and all of creation.)

■ Discuss the effects of original sin as presented in the third paragraph. Then ask: *What promise did God make?* (God promised that a descendant of the first humans would save humanity and crush the power of evil.)

Faith Words Challenge the students to suggest how the three *Faith Words* found on this page are related. Guide them to the understanding that the first humans of their own free will chose to disobey God. They committed a sin. This first sin is known as original sin. Then ask the students to highlight the definitions of the words.

Activity (Verbal/Linguistic) Introduce the activity by reminding the students of what a motto is. Give a few examples. (In God we trust; Think globally—act locally.) Then have the students work in pairs to write mottos of hope.

Evil and sin—why?

Invite a volunteer to read the feature. Pause briefly for silent reflection.

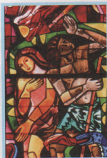
■ Conclude by asking: *What is one positive thing you can learn from reading the story of the first humans?* Invite a few volunteers to share their responses.

God reaches out to help humankind.

From the very beginning of creation, God wanted the lives of all of his creatures to be filled with love, peace, happiness, and goodness. God created human beings to be at one with him, each other, and all of creation. And indeed the first human beings lived in this original state of holiness for which God had created them.

But why, you might ask, isn't life today always filled with love, peace, happiness, and goodness? Why do we need so much help at times? Well, God granted human beings the dignity of acting on their own and cooperating in his plan of loving goodness. God gave human beings the gift of free will, the freedom and ability to choose what to do. And it was of their own free will that the first humans chose to disobey God. The first humans chose not to respect God's warnings, nor to trust his words. They selfishly did what they wanted rather than what God commanded. They committed sin. Sin is a thought, word, deed, or omission against God's law that harms us and our relationship with God and others. Through sin, the first humans severely damaged their friendship with God.

We can read about this "fall" from God's friendship in Chapter 3 of the Book of Genesis. Here we find a story that uses many symbols to teach us important



truths about sin and suffering. We read of the sin of the first human beings, who are called Adam and Eve in the story. The first sin committed by the first human beings is known as **original sin**. It weakened all of human nature and allowed ignorance, suffering, and death into the world. Because of original sin, human nature needed to be restored to its original relationship with God. God promised to give human beings the help that they needed. With the very symbolic words, "He will strike at your head,

while you strike at his heel"

(Genesis 3:15).

God promised that one day a descendant of the first humans would save humanity and crush the power of evil. Thus, God gave us the hope that sin and evil would one day be finally overcome. God gave us the hope of salvation.

Faith Words

free will
sin
original sin

Activity Write an uplifting motto that reminds people to have hope despite the sin and suffering in the world.

Evil and sin—why?

Sin is a terrible reality in human life. And, ultimately, the reason for the existence of evil is a mystery. Many saints and holy people in the Church have struggled to understand these truths. Here are some of their thoughts on the matter:

• Saint Augustine, a Christian philosopher in the early Church, wrote that he searched and searched for the reasons that evil existed, but found no solution. The only way to make

sense of evil and sin was to think of them as part of the mystery of God's plan for humankind.

- Saint Leo the Great, one of the Church's earliest popes, wrote that even though the first sin damaged humankind's original state of goodness and happiness, we are promised an even better life by Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin.
- Saint Thomas Aquinas, a theologian of the Middle Ages, wrote that even though sin is a terrible reality, there is nothing to prevent us from becoming better and holier people, even after sin.

- Saint Catherine of Siena, a Doctor of the Church, wrote that by seeking God's forgiveness for sin and turning back to him we can live a more virtuous life.
- Saint Paul, who spread Christianity to many lands, wrote that wherever there is sin, there is an even greater amount of grace from Jesus Christ.

With faith we can recognize that "there is not a single aspect of the Christian message that is not in part an answer to the question of evil" (CCC, 309).

What are your thoughts on the matter?

78

Extras!

Note to Catechists

Beyond presenting the text on this page, you may find it helpful to read and reflect on the Church's teachings about original sin. The teachings are presented in paragraphs 396 through 421 in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

God offers his people the hope of salvation.

As the Book of Genesis continues, we learn about the terrible effects of original sin on humankind. In one story we even find out that Cain, one of the sons of Adam and Eve, killed his brother, Abel. Thus, murder, one of the worst effects of original sin, came into existence. But even after this, God did not turn away from humanity. God continued to watch over Cain, encouraging him to choose good over evil. And throughout the Old Testament, the same pattern emerges again and again—people struggle, even turn away from God, but God in his mercy always offers renewed hope.

We can see this pattern during the Exodus, when the Israelites wandered through the desert after leaving Egypt. They were hungry and thirsty. But when they cried out for help, God led them to food and drink. Eventually, with God's help, the people found Canaan, a land that God had promised to make their own.

“Through the prophets, God forms his people in the hope of salvation.”
(CCC, 64)

When the Israelites settled into Canaan and became a nation, they had trouble keeping peace in their land and keeping the commandments. But when they cried out to God for help, God remembered his covenant and helped them. God sent judges, wise rulers who were often military leaders, to help them. The judges reminded the Israelites to keep their faith in God and restored peace to the land. Then, when the Israelites asked for a king to lead them and to protect them from their enemies, God helped them to choose their kings and to protect their land from invading nations.

But when the Israelite kings began to turn away from God, their nation was conquered and divided. People were scattered far from their promised land, suffered many injustices, and even lost faith. However, God encouraged them to keep their covenant with him. He did this through the words of the prophets whom he sent to speak in his name. They urged people to keep their faith in God and to trust that God would restore their nation. As we read in the *Catechism*, “Through the prophets, God forms his people in the hope of salvation” (64).



Activity

Use what you have learned on this page to explain how God helped his people during each of the stages below.

During the Exodus . . .

When the Israelites settled into Canaan . . .

When the Israelites asked for a king . . .

When the Israelite kings began to turn away from God . . .

79

BELIEVING...

God offers his people the hope of salvation.

God, thank you for never turning away from us!

■ Begin presenting the text on this page by asking: *What does it mean to hope?* Invite a few volunteers to respond to the question. (Responses might include to trust and to have confidence in expecting something.)

■ Point out that when we read the Old Testament we discover that God never tired of helping his people. Call attention to the map illustrating the Israelites' route when they were fleeing Egypt. Explain that the students can read the stages of the Israelites' forty-year journey as described in Chapter 33 of the Book of Numbers. Emphasize that throughout these years, God sent help to his people.

■ Invite volunteers to read about other ways God gave his people hope. These ways are described in the third and fourth paragraphs on page 79.

Curriculum Connection: Social Studies

You may want to invite volunteers to research the approximate dates for the different stages of

Israelite leadership as described on page 79. Then ask these students to incorporate these dates on a timeline. Have this group share the timeline with the other students.

■ Write the words *prophet* and *judge* on chart paper. Invite volunteers to explain the different roles these two types of people held among God's people.

Activity (*Verbal/Linguistic*) Have the students work in pairs. Invite a volunteer to read the activity directions. When the students have finished writing, ask the partners to share their responses with the entire group. (Exodus, paragraph 2; Canaan and king, paragraph 3; Israelites turn away, paragraph 4)

■ Conclude by asking the students to reflect on the question: *How comforting is it to know that God always offers renewed hope?*

Scripture

Three of the better known judges were Deborah, Samson, and Samuel. The students may find their stories interesting. The students can read the story of Deborah in Judges 4:1–23, the story of Samson in Judges 13–16, and part of the story of Samuel in 1 Samuel 1–12.

BELIEVING...

God promises a Messiah.

God, we believe that you sent the Messiah to lead us back to you.

■ Ask the question at the top of the page: *Who in your life calls you to live your faith?* As the students reflect quietly, point out that these persons may be family members, friends, neighbors, or other members of the Church. Then ask: *How are you influenced by each person?* Pause again briefly for silent reflection.

■ Invite volunteers to read the text. Then help the students reflect on the text by asking: *Why do you think there were many different ideas as to whom the promised Messiah might be?* Lead the students to the understanding that the Jewish people all expected a Messiah who would bring victory over evil, injustice, and sin, but they saw that happening in different ways.

■ Stress the following points about what God would do through the Messiah:

- bring a reign of justice and peace
- make a new covenant with his people
- would be with them always, leading them to eternal happiness.

Multiple Intelligences: Musical/Rhythmic Have the students find and read the lyrics of Advent hymns, especially "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." If possible have them listen to recordings of the same hymns. Discuss the sense of longing conveyed through the lyrics and music.

■ Call attention to the photograph on the page and read the caption. You may wish to share the information about the Dead Sea Scrolls in the *F.Y.I.* feature on this guide page.

Activity (Verbal/Linguistic) Invite a volunteer to read aloud the activity directions. Point out that God needs people in every generation to speak words of hope and mercy to others. When the students have finished writing, ask volunteers to share their messages.

■ Conclude presenting this page by asking: *Which image of the promised Messiah speaks to you? Why?* Pause briefly for silent reflection.

BELIEVING...

God promises a Messiah.

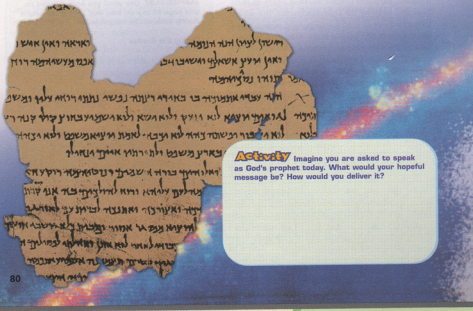
Who in your life calls you to live your faith?

As the Israelites struggled throughout their history, they listened to the prophets calling them to change their lives and to live by their covenant with God. These prophets reminded the people that God had promised to send the Messiah to bring them forgiveness and salvation.

The people expected the Messiah to be one who would bring victory over evil, injustice, and sin. In the Book of Isaiah, one of the great prophetic books of the Bible, we read of the Messiah as a mighty king. This king, it is said, would be a descendant of King David, one of the Israelites' greatest kings:

"His dominion is vast
and forever peaceful,
From David's throne, and over his kingdom"
(Isaiah 9:6).

Hebrew writings from a scroll of Isaiah found in a cave containing the scrolls of Qumran, near the Dead Sea



Activity Imagine you are asked to speak as God's prophet today. What would your hopeful message be? How would you deliver it?

Extras!

F.Y.I.

In 1947 a young Arab shepherd went searching for a lost goat along the shore of the Dead Sea. The shepherd looked in the caves there. In one cave the shepherd found large jars in which were a collection of ancient scrolls. The shepherd took several of the scrolls to an expert. A few months later, scholars had determined that some of the scrolls contained writings from the Old Testament. From 1947 to the present, over 900 documents have been retrieved from eleven of the caves. Most of the texts are written in Hebrew, but some are in Aramaic or Greek. One of the first scrolls discovered contains most of the Book of Isaiah. (See Dead Sea or Qumran Scrolls.)

The promise of a Messiah comes to fulfillment.

One of the prophecies about the Messiah from the Book of Isaiah stated, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel," which means "God is with us." (See Isaiah 7:14.) In time this prophecy of God's plan for salvation was fulfilled. To prepare Mary for her role in this plan, God blessed her in a special way: He made her free from original sin and from all sin since the very moment she was conceived. This truth about Mary's sinlessness is called the **Immaculate Conception**.

In Luke's Gospel we read that God sent an angel to tell Mary of her role in God's plan. An **angel** is a creature created by God as a pure spirit, without a physical body. Angels serve God as messengers, helping him to accomplish his mission of salvation. The angel who came to Mary said to her: "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High . . . and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:31–33). The announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God is called the **Annunciation**.

The name that Mary was to give to her child, Jesus, means "God saves" in Hebrew. And just as the prophecies had said, the child would be a descendant of King David, and would bring salvation to all people. But Mary, a young Jewish woman who was engaged to Joseph, a descendant of King David, did not understand how all of this could happen. She was not even married yet. So the angel explained, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Mary, accepting God's plan, responded, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

The Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah were coming to fulfillment. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, our greatest hope, was coming to be among us and to save us from sin.

Faith Words
Immaculate Conception
angel
Annunciation

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Mary, accepting God's plan, responded, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). The Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah were coming to fulfillment. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, our greatest hope, was coming to be among us and to save us from sin.

Activity Mary accepted God's plan of salvation. On a separate sheet of paper, write a prayer telling God that you accept the salvation that he offers.

Faith and Media

The Church honors Mary as the greatest of all saints. In 1943 the Society of Mary, or Marianists, established a library and center of research in Marian studies at the University of Dayton, in Ohio. Today the university's Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute houses the world's largest collection of printed materials relating to Mary. The library has also established a presence on the Internet. If time permits, visit the library's Mary Page with your students. There you will find Marian prayers, devotions, and meditations; hymns and songs, both ancient and modern; a virtual art gallery; a calendar of Marian feasts; and much, much more.

The Magnificat

According to the Gospel of Luke, after Mary learned that she was going to be the mother of God's Son, she praised God in a special prayer. Her prayer is called the Magnificat, which means "praises." It is a prayer filled with hope and

praise for God's faithfulness to his promises. The Magnificat has become part of evening prayer in the *Liturgy of the Hours*, a collection of daily prayers that the Church prays throughout the year.

Here are the words of the Magnificat:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones;

but lifted up the lowly,
the hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy,
according to his promise to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever" (Luke 1:46–55).

Prayer God by making the Magnificat part of your evening prayers.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

BELIEVING...**The promise of a Messiah comes to fulfillment.**

Jesus, we believe that you are the Messiah sent by God.

■ Explain that many first names have particular meanings. Share that the name *Mary* or *Maria* may be derived from an Egyptian name *Mry* which means "beloved." Then ask: *What are the meanings of other names that you know?* Invite a few volunteers to share their responses.

■ Point out that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was beloved by God and by others. Ask a volunteer to read the first paragraph. Stress that the name *Immanuel* means "God is with us." Have the students highlight the explanation of the Immaculate Conception. You may want to explain that every year on December 8 we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. For the Church in the United States, it is a holy day of obligation.

■ Have volunteers continue to read the text. Stress the meaning of the name *Jesus*.

Faith Words Ask the students to use each term in a sentence. You may want to point out that when we die and are sharing eternal life with

God, we do not become angels. The Church's teaching about angels may be found in paragraphs 328–336 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY**The Magnificat**

Introduce the Magnificat by reading the first paragraph of the *Catholic Identity* feature. Then pray together the words of the Magnificat.

Activity (*Intrapersonal*) Invite the students to write their prayers. After the students have finished writing, ask them to place the prayers in a basket. Set the basket on the prayer table as a sign of the students' willingness to accept God's plan of salvation.

■ Conclude by asking: *How can we show God our thanks for sending Jesus Christ, the Messiah?*

RESPONDING...

Recognizing Our Faith

Invite the students to reflect again on *The Big Question: Who or what helps me in difficult times?* Also ask: *Has your response to this question changed since beginning this chapter? In what way has it changed?* Then have the students complete the activity.

Living Our Faith

Talk with the students about the need for hope in today's world. Explain that people of faith always rely on God's promises of peace, hope, and justice in order to persevere during difficult times.

Partners in Faith

Present *Partners in Faith*. Explain that Matt Talbot needed hope in order to turn his life around. He found that hope through prayer, reflecting on Christ's life, fasting, and helping people in need.

Ask: *If you could ask Venerable Matt Talbot one question, what would it be?* Allow a few minutes for the students to share their questions. Then encourage the students to pray often that God will give hope to all people who are facing problems.

Note to Catechists: Point out to the students that the Church teaches us that we must care for our gifts of life and physical health. Explain that sometimes we need help in avoiding abuse of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and food. At these times we should speak to a responsible adult and ask for guidance. Also point out that we should not judge or ridicule people who have addictions.

RESPONDING...

Recognizing Our Faith

Recall the question at the beginning of this chapter: *Who or what helps me in difficult times?* Answer this question from the perspective of:

- one of the Old Testament people mentioned in this chapter
- _____
- _____
- _____
- someone you know of who needs help getting through a difficult time
- _____
- _____
- _____
- yourself, now that you've completed this chapter.
- _____
- _____
- _____

Living Our Faith

In this chapter we learned how God helps his people and offers hope. This week make a decision to be an example of hope in your home, school, and neighborhood.

Partners in FAITH

God can help us even when things seem hopeless. Matt Talbot was someone who knew this well. Born in 1856 in the slums of Dublin, Ireland, Matt was addicted to alcohol from the time he was twelve years old. When Matt began drinking, there were no alcoholic support groups

and most people looked upon alcoholics as immoral. Matt faced his addiction shamefully and alone. Finally, when he was twenty-eight, Matt went to a priest for help. The priest advised Matt to make a pledge to stop drinking. He also told Matt to think about Christ and his suffering on the cross. Matt took this advice and began to live a simple life of prayer and fasting. He found happiness and peace in helping others who were in need.

Though Matt suffered physically and mentally in his efforts to stay sober, he kept his pledge. He continued to live a life of prayer, fasting, and generosity until his death in 1925. Matt's efforts to overcome his addiction with God's help is a powerful example for us.

Pray that God will give hope to all people who are facing problems.

Venerable Matt Talbot



For additional ideas and activities, visit www.weliveourfaith.com.

82




Extras!

F.Y.I.

Rosa Parks (1913–2005) is an example of a person who offered hope to those in need. After a long day at work, Rosa, an African-American woman, refused to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama public bus. In 1955, when Rosa staged her protest, in many places in the United States, African-Americans did not enjoy the same rights as white people. On that particular day, Rosa Parks said *no more* to the laws that allowed such outward discrimination. Rosa's brave act was the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

Putting Faith to Work

Talk about what you have learned in this chapter:





-  We understand that throughout human history God has reached out to help his people.
-  We celebrate that God promised salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ, the Messiah.
-  We respond to God's promise of salvation by helping and serving others.

Decide on five to live out what you have learned.

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

“Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.”

(Romans 12:12)

-  **READ** the quotation from Scripture.
-  **REFLECT** on these questions: What does it mean to rejoice? to endure? to persevere? What are some examples of “affliction”—a condition of great suffering? What does this quote ask us to do when faced with it?
-  **SHARE** your reflections with a partner.
-  **DECIDE** on one person with whom you will share the hopeful message of this Scripture passage this week.

RESPONDING...**Putting Faith to Work**

Direct the students' attention to the feature on page 83. Remind the students that these three statements were the goals presented at the beginning of the chapter.

Pause briefly after reading each of the three statements. Invite the students to reflect on whether they can respond yes to each statement. Then lead a discussion about ways of responding to God's plan of salvation by helping others.

Encountering God's Word

Invite the students to follow the steps of the meditation. When the discussions are completed, encourage the students to choose someone with whom they will share the hopeful message of this Scripture passage this week.

Chapter 7 Assessment

Call attention to the assessment. Provide ten to fifteen minutes for the students to complete the review. Check the answers with the students. Clarify any misconception.

Alternative Assessment You may want the students to complete the following alternative-assessment activity: Write the letters of the

word *Messiah* vertically. Use each letter to begin a word or term that relates to what you have learned in this chapter about the promised Messiah.

Write the letter that best defines each term.

- b free will
 - c original sin
 - d angel
 - e Immaculate Conception
- the announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God
 - the freedom and ability to choose what to do
 - the first sin committed by the first human beings
 - a creature created by God as a pure spirit, without a physical body, who serves God and helps him to accomplish his mission of salvation
 - the truth that God made Mary free from original sin and from all sin since the very moment she was conceived

Short Answers

- Throughout Scripture, we read of many images that were prophesied about the Messiah. What are two of them? See page 80, paragraphs 2 and 3.
 - What does the name Jesus mean in Hebrew? "God saves."
 - What story do we find in Chapter 3 of the Book of Genesis, and what important truths does it teach us? the story of the humans' "fall" from God's friendship; see page 78, paragraphs 2-4.
 - What hope does God give us? the hope of salvation
- 9-10. **ESSAY:** What are examples of ways God has reached out to help his people? See page 79.

RESPONDING...**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

Discuss the following with your family:

- God reaches out to help his people.
 - God offers his people the hope of salvation.
 - God promises a Messiah.
 - The promise of a Messiah comes to fulfillment.
- Write the name of each family member on a strip of paper. Have each family member draw a strip of paper from a bowl. Each strip is to mention that the person whose name was written on it will help to give love to a person in need of help.

**The Worship Connection**

A prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. Read and discuss it. How does it relate to the other activities in this chapter?

More to Explore

To be prepared to respond, read and discuss the following: The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 279-281; The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 282-284; The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 285-287.

Catholic Social Teaching Checklist

Themes of Catholic Social Teaching: Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person

How is related to Chapter 7? All people have a right to food, shelter, clothing, employment, education, and the tools and the God helps us, we have a responsibility to help and protect the vulnerable.

How can you do that?

In my home

In my school

In my parish

In my community

Check off each action after it has been completed.

Sharing Faith with Your Family

Encourage the students to share with their families what they have learned in Chapter 7. Suggest that the families work on the family activity together.

Note: Encourage the students to work on the other activities on this page with family and friends: *The Worship Community, More to Explore, and Catholic Social Teaching Checklist.*