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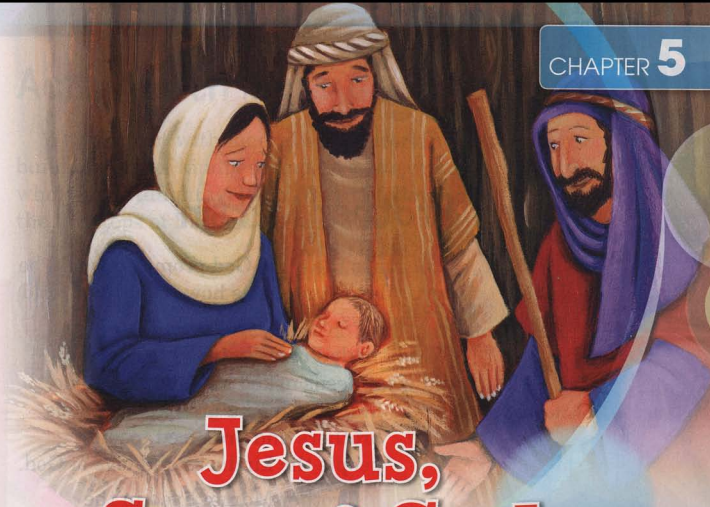
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Jesus, Son of God

? Why is it important to keep a promise?

God made this promise to his people.
He said a child would be born to them.

A virgin will have a baby. They will name him
Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever,
and Prince of Peace. The child will grow up and
begin rebuilding a world of kindness and love.

BASED ON ISAIAH 7:14; 9:5-6

? Who is the child God promised?



Disciple Power

Mercy

Jesus said, "Blessed are people of mercy." Mercy means great kindness. Mercy helps us act with great kindness toward others no matter what.

The Church Follows Jesus

Brother Martin

Jesus is the child God promised would be born. Jesus taught us how to build a world of kindness, love, and mercy.

Martin de Porres listened to Jesus. He did what Jesus asked his followers to do.

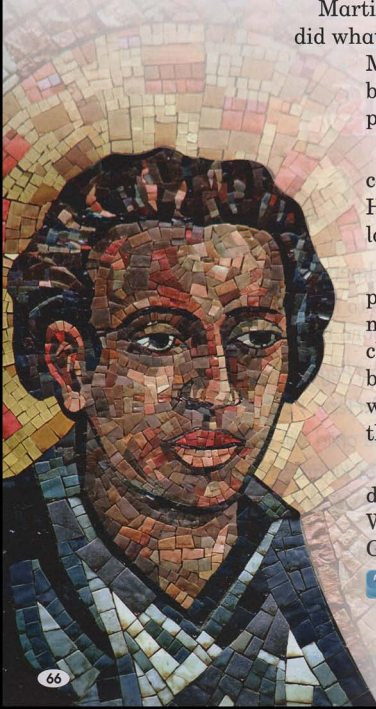
Martin joined a group of religious brothers and promised to show people the kindness and love of God.

Brother Martin lived in the country of Peru in South America. He showed people that God always loves them.

Brother Martin cared for sick people. He brought them food and medicine. He helped find homes for children who had no parents. He brought food and clothes to people who did not have the money to buy them for themselves.

All these things Brother Martin did are called Works of Mercy. When we do show mercy, we share God's love with others.

? What are the Works of Mercy that Martin did to help others?



Acting with Mercy

When we act with mercy, we are working to build a world of kindness and love. We are doing what Jesus taught us to do. We are following in the footsteps of Brother Martin.

Activity

Follow the footprints. Color the footprints that contain acts of mercy. Draw an X through the footprints that do not show acts of mercy.

Visit people who are sick.



Do not share treats with your sister.



Bring clothes to a homeless shelter.



Talk back to your parents.



Help serve dinner to hungry people.



Always want to be first.



Write how the people in the picture are building a world of mercy. Write one more way that you could help.



Faith Focus

How did Jesus show that God always loves people?

Faith Words

Covenant

The Covenant is God's promise always to love and be kind to his people.

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity who became one of us. Jesus is true God and true man.

God's Special Promise

The Bible tells us about a very special promise God made with his people. This promise is the **Covenant**. In the Covenant God promised to always love and be kind to his people.

The Covenant that God and people made began at creation. Our first parents broke the promise they made to God. They sinned. We call this sin Original Sin.

God made the Covenant again with Noah and with Abraham and with Moses. God's people still sometimes broke the Covenant. When they did, God sent people to remind them to keep the Covenant.



Still, God's people continued to break the Covenant. God then promised to send someone to make God and people friends again. God kept his promise. He sent his Son, **Jesus Christ**.

Jesus is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity who became one of us. Jesus is true God and true man.

? Why did God send his Son, Jesus?

Catholics Believe



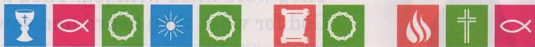
Works of Mercy

The Church teaches us the Works of Mercy. They are ways to be as kind and loving to people as Jesus.

Activity

Keeping a Promise

Use this code to discover who Jesus is.



Faith Focus

What does Saint Luke tell us about the birth of Jesus?

The Birth of Jesus

The Bible tells about the birth of Jesus. We call this story the Nativity.

Narrator *Just before Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph stopped to find a room in an inn.*

Action *Joseph knocks on the door of the inn. The innkeeper opens the door.*

Joseph *My wife and I need a room. She is going to have a baby.*

Innkeeper *There are no rooms left. You may stay in the stable.*

Narrator *Mary and Joseph went to the stable. Jesus was born there.*

BASED ON LUKE 2:4-7

The Bible tells us that angels told shepherds about the birth of Jesus. The shepherds went to see Baby Jesus. They were filled with joy. They praised God for what they heard and saw.

? What do we call the story of Jesus' birth?



Activity

Create a rebus story to show how God kept his promise to send someone to make people friends with God again.

Long ago, and Joseph

came to the little town of Bethlehem. They

had to stay in a stable. There,

was born. Some shepherds were watching

their . Suddenly an

came to them and

told them about the special baby. The

shepherds went and found the baby Jesus

lying in a

Faith-Filled People

The Blessed Virgin Mary

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God. Mary is the Mother of God. The Church celebrates and honors Mary the Mother of God on January 1.



angel



sheep



Jesus



manger



Mary

Faith Focus

How does Jesus help us come to know God's love?

God Cares for All People

The New Testament tells us that when Jesus grew up, he traveled from place to place. Sometimes he walked. Sometimes he rode a donkey. Sometimes he rode in a boat.

All the things Jesus said and did taught people about God's mercy and love. Mercy means "great kindness." Read this Bible story about God's mercy.

Many people had followed Jesus all day. As nighttime came, Jesus saw that the people were hungry. But there were only two fish and five loaves of bread to feed all the people. This is what Jesus did:

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over.

MATTHEW 14:19-20

? In what way did Jesus show that God is kind to people?



Jesus is the greatest sign of God's love and mercy. You can be a follower of Jesus. You can be a sign of God's love and mercy, too.

I Follow
Jesus

Activity

Signs of God's Love and Mercy

Look at the pictures. How are the people caring for others?
Write in each bubble what the helping person might be saying.



**My
Faith
Choice**

This week, I promise to live as a sign of God's love and mercy. I will



Pray, "Thank you, Holy Spirit, for helping me to live as a sign of God's love and kindness. Amen."

**TO HELP YOU
REMEMBER**

1. The Covenant is a promise of God's love and mercy.
2. The birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is called the Nativity.
3. Everything Jesus said and did shows us God's love and mercy.

Chapter Review

Recall

Match the words to their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| ___ 1. Mary | a. This Person is the Son of God. |
| ___ 2. Nativity | b. She is the Mother of the Son of God. |
| ___ 3. Joseph | c. He is the foster father of Jesus. |
| ___ 4. Jesus | d. This is the name we give to the Bible story of Jesus' birth. |

Add letters to complete the words in the sentences.

6. God's promise to always love and be kind to his people is called the

C _____ t.

7. J _____ s _____ is the Son of God.

8. Jesus showed us God's love and

m _____ y.

Reflect

What are the ways that you show God's love and mercy to others?

Share

Share with your class how you know God loves you.

The Angelus

The Angelus is a prayer that praises God for the birth of Jesus.

Group 1

The angel spoke God's message to Mary,

Group 2

and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

All

**Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy
womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.**

Group 1

"I am the lowly servant of the Lord:

Group 2

let it be done to me according to your word."

All

Hail, Mary . . .

Group 1

And the Word became flesh

Group 2

and lived among us.

All

Hail, Mary . . .



With My Family

This Week . . .

In **Chapter 5**, "Jesus, the Son of God," your child learned that:

- ▶ God and his people made the Covenant with one another.
- ▶ The Covenant is the promise of God's love and mercy, and the promise of his people to love and serve God above all else.
- ▶ When Adam and Eve sinned and broke the Covenant, God promised to send someone to renew the Covenant.
- ▶ God fulfilled his promise by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, who became man and lived among us. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He is the new and everlasting Covenant.
- ▶ The virtue of mercy helps us act with kindness toward others.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 51–67 and 456–560, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 77–87.

Sharing God's Word

Read together Luke 2:1–14, about Jesus' birth. Or read the play about the Nativity on page 70. Emphasize that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus' birth is one of the most important signs that God always keeps his promise to love us.

Live as Disciples

The Christian home and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Share ways that your family is already a living sign of God's love and kindness.
- ▶ Jesus told people repeatedly about God's love for them. Look around your home for something that reminds you of God's love. Talk about what it tells you about God's love.

Our Spiritual Journey

Devotion to Mary is a hallmark of Catholic living. Mary is an exemplar of holiness and hope and a witness to faith. She is the Mother of Jesus and our mother, too. Include a devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, in the spiritual journey of your family. In this chapter, your child prayed part of the Angelus. This prayer was traditionally prayed three times a day. Read and pray together the prayer on page 75. Pray the Hail Mary as a family each day.



For more ideas on ways your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

BeMyDisciples.com