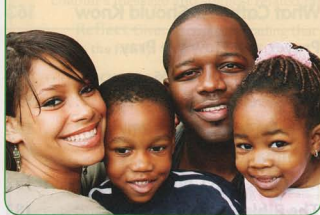




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Especially for Families

A Note to Families begins on page v. There is a Letter Home at the beginning of each unit. At the end of each unit you will find a Family Feature that explores ways to nurture faith at home.



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UNIT

2

Jesus Calls Us to Give Ourselves in Love

A photograph of several children of diverse backgrounds gathered around a green metal railing. They are focused on planting small yellow and orange flowers into a planter box. An adult's hands are visible, assisting them. The scene is outdoors, likely at a school or community garden.

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

1 John 4:16

A Letter Home

Dear Parents and Family,

This is a special year in your child's faith development. Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will offer an opportunity to introduce new concepts and develop your child's relationship with God in exciting new ways.

As part of this preparation, Unit Two introduces the children to the Ten Commandments. They will discover how the first three commandments ask us to express our love for God as Jesus did: by praying to God, by speaking of him with love, and by keeping the Sabbath holy. The unit continues with discussions of the remaining seven commandments, which focus on loving others as Jesus does.

The children are presented with the simple ideas in each commandment, learning that they are to pray (1st Commandment), to honor God's name (2nd Commandment), to keep the Sabbath (3rd Commandment), to obey (4th Commandment), to be kind (5th Commandment), to be respectful (6th and 9th Commandments), to be honest (7th and 10th Commandments), and to be truthful (8th Commandment).

The Ten Commandments are available online at www.christourlife.org, under Catholic Traditions within the Resources section. Being mindful of how the Ten Commandments are lived out in your home will help make these loving directions from God seem real for your child.

At the end of three of the chapters in this unit, the children will bring home a review of the chapter along with the "Building Family Faith" feature. At the end of the unit, the children will bring home a Family Feature to help nurture the family's faith at home.

Visit www.christourlife.org/family for more family resources.





CHAPTER

5

Jesus Shows Us How to Love God Our Father

Jesus Loved God His Father

We like to celebrate. God made us to celebrate his love. He made us to love and be joyful.

Jesus said:

“Live in my love. Keep my commandments. Then my joy will be in you, and your joy will be full.”

adapted from John 15:10-11

God gave us the **Ten Commandments**. They are rules that help us live as his children. When we follow God's rules, we are happy.



Jesus Pleased His Father

Jesus loved his Father very much.
He always did what pleased
his Father.

Jesus loved talking to him.
He heard his Father speaking
to him in everything.



Jesus spoke about his Father with love.

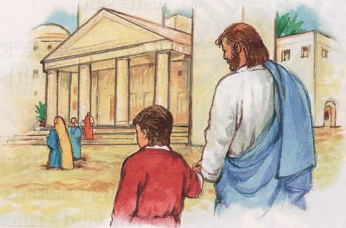


He celebrated the **Lord's Day**.

Jesus told us,

**"Love the Lord your God
with all your heart."**

adapted from Mark 12:30



Christians celebrate God's love always and
everywhere. Celebrating and loving God make us happy.



We Celebrate God's Love

Catholics celebrate God's love together at Sunday Mass. Sunday is the Lord's Day. It is a day of rest from hard work.

Print the missing words from the hearts.

God's law in the Bible tells how to love him. We show God love

_____ **GOD** _____
when we _____,

_____ **GOD** _____
say his _____ with love,

_____ **GOD** _____
and celebrate the _____.

Lord's Day

pray

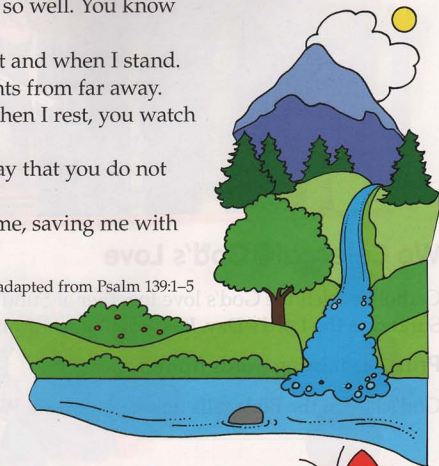
name

When we do this, we are following God's rules. We are obeying the first three **commandments**.

We Can Pray to God Every Day

Lord, you know me so well. You know everything I do.
You know when I sit and when I stand.
You read my thoughts from far away.
When I work and when I rest, you watch over me.
There is nothing I say that you do not know.
You are all around me, saving me with your hand.

adapted from Psalm 139:1-5



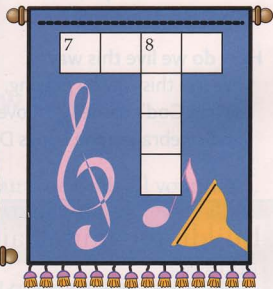
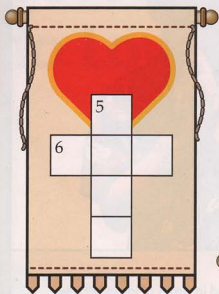
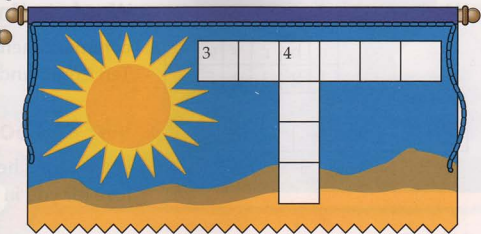
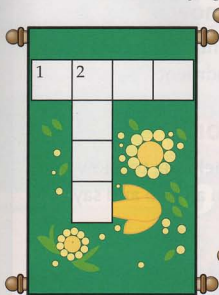
Add yourself to the picture.

Make yourself as colorful as the rest of God's creation.

A Moment with Jesus

Remember Jesus is with us every second of every minute of every day. Sit quietly and enjoy being with Jesus.

Make word banners. Fill in the missing words by using the clues at the bottom of the page.



Across

1. We p_____ when we talk and listen to God.
3. The Lord's Day is S_____.
6. When we keep God's commandments, we have j_____ in our hearts.
7. We take part in M_____ to celebrate the Lord's Day.

Down

2. Sunday is a day to r_____ from hard work.
4. We honor God's n_____.
5. We l_____ God with our whole heart.
8. We s_____ and pray in church.

Work the puzzle. Use this code.

e	h	r	v	w	y
1	2	3	4	5	6

God is

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1 4 1 3 6 5 2 1 3 1

Words to Know

commandments
Ten Commandments

Lord's Day

We Respond

Loving God, help me to show my love for you in all I do and say.

We Remember

What is God's law?

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul."

How do we live this way?

We live this way by praying, saying God's name with love, and celebrating the Lord's Day.



Building Family Faith

GOD SATISFIES our deepest longings. Jesus shows us how to call on God in times of joy or sorrow. We show our gratitude for God's love by gathering in prayer as a family and a Christian community.

REFLECT

Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.
(Ephesians 5:18–19)

DISCUSS AS A FAMILY

- How is praying a form of talking to God? There are different types of prayers, including praise, thanksgiving, and petition.
- What are your favorite childhood memories of Sunday Mass and your family rituals associated with it?

PRAY

Dear Jesus, here's what happened today . . .

DO

- Have your child choose daily prayers to say each morning, afternoon, and evening: Hail Mary, Bless Us O Lord, Our Father.
- Plan a way to make each Sunday special by developing rituals around the Mass: cook a special breakfast before Mass or invite different friends or relatives to come to church with you each week.
- At mealtime show how songs can be a form of praise by singing a favorite Church hymn or Christmas carol.

Visit www.christourlife.org/family for more family resources.