

Opening Lesson 1

Welcome to *Alive in Christ, Grade 4*. This lesson introduces you to the different parts of your book and invites you to learn, love, and celebrate your Catholic faith.

Scripture Generosity of God's Plan *Ephesians 2:4-5*

The Church Year Feasts and Seasons 9

In these lessons, you learn about special days and times of the Church year that celebrate Jesus and honor Mary and the Saints.

Ordinary Time

Sorrowful Mother 9

Scripture Simeon's Blessing *Luke 2:33-35*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Goodness

Advent

Prepare for Jesus 17

Scripture The Annunciation *Luke 1:26-32a*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Patience

Christmas

God's Greatest Gift 25

Scripture God Sent Jesus *Titus 3:4-7*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Generosity

Lent

A Time To Pray 31


Scripture Who Can Be Against Us? *Romans 8:31-34*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Self-Control




Easter

Triduum 39

 **Scripture** Unity and Humility *Philippians 2:8-9*


Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Charity

He Lives 47

 **Scripture** Life in the Christian Community *Acts 4:32-35*


Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Joy

Ascension 55

 **Scripture** I Am the Resurrection and the Life *John 11:25-27*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Faithfulness

Pentecost 61

 **Scripture** Many Are One Body *1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Peace



UNIT 1: Revelation

Unit 1 Preview 68

Chapter 1: God's Providence 69

 **Scripture** God's Plan *Psalms 33:9, 11-12* The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3 The Call of Jeremiah *Jeremiah 1:4-8*

- God loves and cares for all creation and has a plan for the world.
- Everything God wants you to know about him is contained in Scripture and in the Tradition of the Church.
- Practicing the prayer of "quiet" helps us to listen for God's voice.


Chapter 2: God Is Faithful 81

 **Scripture** The Promise *Hebrews 10:16-17, 23* In the Garden

Genesis 3 Abram's Call and Journey *Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-5; 17:5-9, 15; 21:1-3*

- God's covenant with Abraham reveals that God is always faithful to his People.
- Sin is present in the world because of human choice.
- Praying faithfully helps us trust that God will give us what we need.

Chapter 3: God's Commandments 93

 **Scripture** Holy Ground *Exodus 3:2b, 4-5* Joseph and His

Brothers *Genesis 37:1-4, 42:6-8, 44:1-12, 45:4-5* The Exodus from

Egypt *Exodus 2:1-10, 14:10-31, 15:19-21*

- God gave you the Ten Commandments to help you be faithful to him and his covenant.
- The Commandments tell you ways to love God and others.
- The decisions that we make are guided by the Ten Commandments.

Unit 1 Review 105





UNIT 2: Trinity

Unit 2 Preview 108

Chapter 4: In God's Image 109

Scripture Worthy of the Lord *Colossians 1:10, 12–15*

In His Image *Genesis 1:27*

- Every person is worthy of respect because he or she is created in God's image.
- Each person has a soul that will live forever.
- Paying attention to nature and the loving relationships around us helps us to see the glory of God.

Chapter 5: Living in Community 121

Scripture Love One Another *1 John 4:9, 11–13, 16b*

The Communal Life *Acts 2:42–45*

- God created people for one another, and all must work for the common good. Such love of neighbor reflects the love of the Holy Trinity.
- No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone.
- We create more loving relationships when we act responsibly.

Chapter 6: Making Good Choices 133

Scripture The Lord's Judgment *Isaiah 11:1–4a*

The Parable of the Good Samaritan *Luke 10:30–35*

- God's grace helps us use our reason and free will to make good choices.
- Conscience is our God-given ability that helps us judge right from wrong.
- To make good moral decisions we must—Stop, Think, Pray, Choose.

Unit 2 Review 145



UNIT 3: Jesus Christ

Unit 3 Preview 148

Chapter 7: The Beatitudes 149

Scripture Hear and Observe the Word of God *Luke 11:27–28*

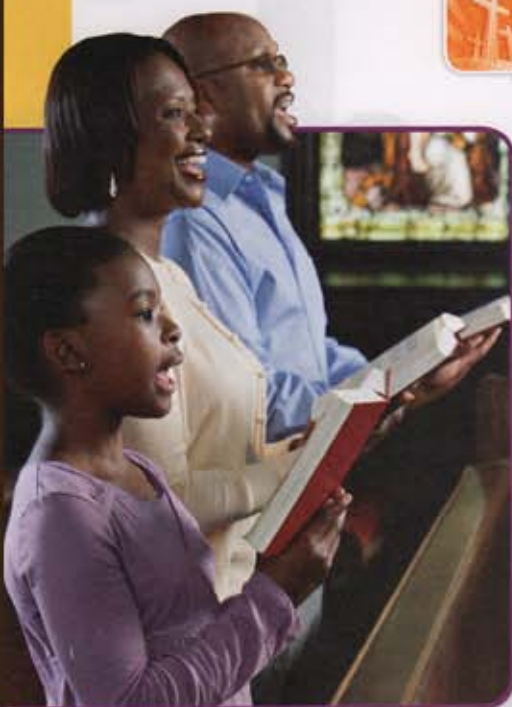
The Sermon on the Mount *Matthew 5:3–10*

- The Beatitudes are eight teachings that describe the Reign of God that Jesus announced when he lived on Earth.
- The Beatitudes show you how to live and act as a follower of Jesus.
- In prayers of intercession, we pray as Jesus did, asking God to help others and trusting in his mercy

Chapter 8: Love God and Neighbor 161

Scripture Live as Jesus Commanded *Ephesians 5:1–5* The Greatest Commandment *Matthew 22:37–40* The Rich Young Man *Matthew 19:16–22*

- The Great Commandment is to love God with all your heart, strength, and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself.
- The Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity help us to love God and grow closer to him.
- The Corporal Works of Mercy help us to recognize the needs of others and respond in love.



Chapter 9: Honoring God 173

Scripture Worthy Are You, Lord *Revelation 4:11; 7:12*

The Golden Calf *Exodus 32:1–20*

- The first three Commandments teach you to honor God above all else, respect his name, and worship him on Sunday.
- These Commandments tell you to believe in, trust, and love God.
- The first three Commandments guide how we are to act toward, think about, respect, and worship God.

Unit 3 Review 185



UNIT 4: The Church

Unit 4 Preview 188

Chapter 10: Called to Serve 189

Scripture Saul Is Chosen *1 Samuel 10:20–22*

The Call of the First Disciples *Matthew 4:18–22*

- God calls every person to a vocation.
- Through your vocation, you can help God increase his Reign.
- Through Baptism we are called to share in Jesus' ministry as priest, prophet, and king.

Chapter 11: Models of Virtue 201

Scripture Light of the World *Matthew 5:14–16*

The Canticle of Mary *Luke 1:46–50*

- The Church's holiness shines in the Saints. All who live their love of God are Saints.
- Mary is the perfect model of holiness, and she is called the Mother of the Church.
- To follow the example of the Saints, we must allow God's love to grow within us and then spread his message of love to others.

Chapter 12: The Church Teaches 213

Scripture Building the Body of Christ *Ephesians 4:11–13*

You Are the Messiah! *Mark 8:27–30*

- Jesus gave the leaders of the Church the authority to interpret Scripture and Tradition for the faithful.
- The Holy Spirit directs the Church in teaching and guiding the People of God.
- Sharing our gifts and giving our time and money are ways we help our parish provide for members and the needs of others.

Unit 4 Review 225





UNIT 5: Morality

Unit 5 Preview 228

Chapter 13: Family Love 229

Scripture Obey Your Parents *Colossians 3:20–21*

The Boy Jesus and His Family *Luke 2:41–52*

- God created humans to live in strong, loving families.
- The Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments provide basic laws of family love and respect.
- The Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments help us live as families that show God's love.

Chapter 14: Respect Life. 241

Scripture You Will Answer for Your Actions *Matthew 5:21–22*

The Choice *Deuteronomy 30:19–20* Love of Enemies *Matthew 5:43–45*

- All human life is sacred because it comes from God.
- The Fifth Commandment forbids anything that takes a human life.
- The Fifth Commandment also requires that you take care of and respect yourself and others.

Chapter 15: Live in the Truth. 253

Scripture Keep Your Promises *Matthew 5:33, 37*

The Truth Will Set You Free *John 8:31–32, 14:6*

- Because God is truth, his People are called to live in the truth.
- The Eighth Commandment forbids lying.
- Choosing truth involves avoiding gossip and rumors, using words that show respect, and being honest.

Unit 5 Review 265



UNIT 6: Sacraments

Unit 6 Preview 268

Chapter 16: The Liturgical Year 269

Scripture Trust God *Psalms 62:8–9*

The Right Time *Ecclesiastes 3:1–8*

- The liturgical year celebrates the Paschal Mystery.
- The seasons of the liturgical year include Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time.
- As Catholics, we pray and live according to the seasons of the Church year.

Chapter 17: The Seven Sacraments 281

Scripture His Grace *Ephesians 1:3, 7–8*

The Last Supper *Luke 22:17–20*

- The Seven Sacraments are effective signs, instituted by Christ, that give grace and continue his saving work in the world.
- The Sacrament of the Eucharist is at the heart of Christian life.
- We actively participate in the Mass with others in our parish to deepen our relationship with God.



Chapter 18: Healing and Reconciliation 293

Scripture I Confess Psalm 32:1–3, 5 The Story of Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1–10 The Man Born Blind John 9:1–38

- God's forgiveness is offered to all who are truly sorry and seek it.
- The Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick celebrate God's healing love.
- We can prepare for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation by reading scripture, examining our conscience, and praying.

Unit 6 Review 305

UNIT 7: Kingdom of God

Unit 7 Preview 308

Chapter 19: A Generous Spirit 309

Scripture Give Luke 6:38 The Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12:16–21 The Poor Widow's Contribution Mark 12:41–44

- The Commandments call you to be generous and to have the right attitude toward possessions.
- Stewardship is the way we appreciate and use God's gifts, including our time, talent, and treasure, and the resources of creation.
- The Seventh and Tenth Commandments encourage generosity and the right attitude toward possessions.

Chapter 20: The Church in the World 321

Scripture Be My Witnesses Acts of the Apostles 1:8

The Commissioning of the Disciples Matthew 28:18–20

- The mission of the People of God is to proclaim the Gospel and to work for the good of all people.
- The Church is made up of people of many cultures, but all are united by their belief in Christ.
- We can help missionaries in their work of spreading the message of Jesus.

Chapter 21: Eternal Life with God 333

Scripture Whoever Has the Son Has Life 1 John 5:1–3, 11–12

The Judgment of the Nations Matthew 25:34–40

- To spend eternity with God, we first must grow in friendship with him and accept his grace.
- The Last Judgment will mark God's final triumph over evil when Christ returns in glory and judges all the living and the dead.
- God the Holy Spirit is always there to help and encourage us to use his Gifts in our lives.

Unit 7 Review 345



What Do You Wonder?

- Why do we need God's mercy?
- How does God invite us to be in relationship with him?



Catholic Social Teaching Live Your Faith . . . 348

These pages introduce you to important teachings of Jesus and the Church that help us live Jesus' new commandment to love as he loved.

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Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers	356
Solidarity of the Human Family	358
Care for God's Creation	360

Our Catholic Tradition Faith Basics 362

This reference section presents information on our Creeds, Sacraments, prayers and practices of our Catholic faith.

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In God's Image

Let Us Pray

Leader: Creator Father, we give you thanks for making us as we are and who we are.

“You formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother’s womb.
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works!” **Psalms 139:13–14**

All: O God, you are more than our maker. You are our loving Father. Help us grow to be like you more and more each day. Amen.

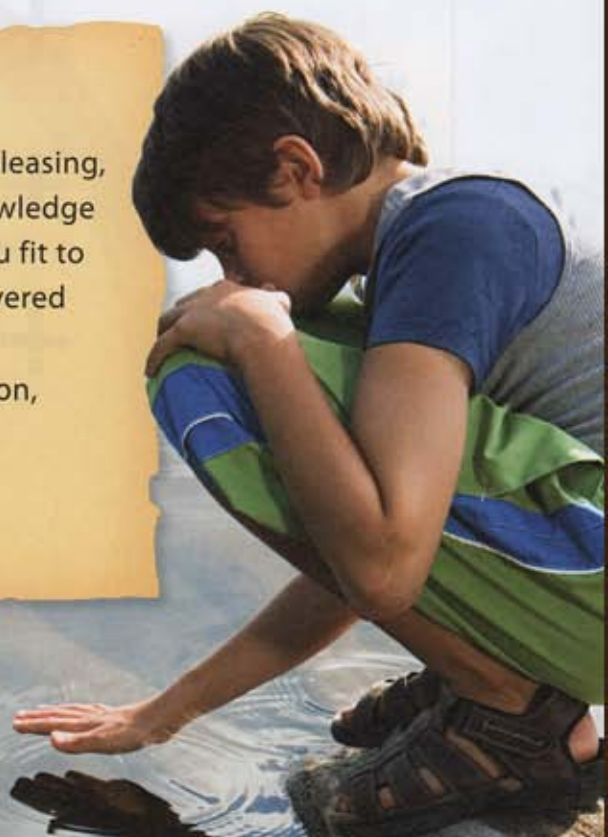
Scripture

Live in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God, . . . giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation. **Colossians 1:10, 12–15**

What Do You Wonder?

- How might sin hurt the way people relate to others?
- How does sin hurt the way people reflect God’s image?



Getting Started

In this chapter you will learn that all people have human dignity and deserve respect, because all people are made in the image of God. We are all equal and worthy of respect and love.



Choose five words from the Word List to create an equation that describes how we are made in God's image. When you are finished, write what two of these terms mean to you.

Word List

love
life
soul
dignity
relationship
respect
sin

—

+

+

+

=

Image of God

Catholic Faith Words

Here are this chapter's vocabulary words.

- human dignity
- mortal sin
- soul
- venial sin
- sin

Activity

Identify Actions that Hurt Relationships The choices we make in our relationships with God and others make a difference in the way we reflect God's love in the world. When we sin, it's like cracking the "mirror" of our reflection of God to the world. In the mirror below, write words to describe actions that hurt relationships in a way that look like cracks. For example, write the word *lying* on the mirror with broken lines.



How do these things make it hard for people to see God's image in us?

Reflect God's Love

What does it mean to be created in God's image?

Catholic Faith Words

human dignity the worth each person has because he or she is made in the image of God

soul the spiritual part of a human that lives forever

Our
Catholic
Tradition

For more,
go to page

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Scripture

God created mankind in his image;
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27**

God made you with a human body, and you have a **soul** that will live forever. God gave you the ability to think, to love, and to make choices. You can choose to do good every day and let God's image of love shine through.



Saint Marianne Cope

The story of Saint Marianne Cope shows how one person reflected God's love. She treated others, especially the poor and sick, with dignity and respect.

When she was a child, Barbara Cope knew that she wanted to become a religious sister. Because her family was poor, she worked in a factory to help support them. When her brothers and sisters were finally grown, she entered the religious community of the Sisters of Saint Francis.

In the convent, she was known as Sister Marianne. She taught and helped her Sisters establish hospitals which were special at that time because they treated people of any nationality, religion, or color. In the hospitals, she worked for patients' rights and promoted cleanliness.

The King and Queen of Hawaii invited the Sisters to work in hospitals there. Mother Marianne, as she was then called, took a group of Sisters to answer the call. Within a few years, they transformed a dirty hospital for lepers (people with a contagious skin disease) into a beautiful facility and made other improvements to help lepers and their families.

Over the years, Mother Marianne also helped found hospitals in New York.

➔ How did Mother Marianne's work honor the dignity of people?

Activity

Reflect In your own words, describe what the term *human dignity* means.

Share Explain your description to a classmate.



Created to Be with God

What is a failure to love?

God created you to be united to him and to all people. Every time you act in a loving way, you deepen your connection to God and to the members of the Church, the Body of Christ. When you choose to treat someone badly, you hurt this person and the whole community of faith. You choose not to show love and respect.

Sin is always a failure to love. A sinful thought, word, or act also hurts your friendship with God and other people. Sin affects you, too, and keeps you from becoming the person God wants you to be. There are two kinds of personal sin—**mortal sin** and **venial sin**.

Personal Sin	
Venial Sins	Mortal Sins
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sins that weaken your friendship with God and others, but do not destroy it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sins that cause a person's relationship with God to be broken
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• things that you do, such as disobeying, cheating, and lying. These are sins of commission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• serious sins, such as murder
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• bad habits that you develop, such as being lazy or dishonest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In order for a sin to be mortal, (1) the act must be seriously wrong, (2) you must know that it is seriously wrong, and (3) you must freely choose to do it anyway.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A failure to act sometimes is a sin of omission; for example, to remain silent when someone tells a joke that makes fun of another person or group is a sin.	

Love and Respect

All people are equal. Every person has human dignity and is worthy of respect because he or she is made in God's image. Because he is the Son of God, Jesus is the perfect image of God. You are called to become more like Jesus and to reflect the love and care that he shows all people.

Activity

Identify Sins For each statement below, write an M in the blank if it describes a mortal sin. Write a V in the blank if it describes a venial sin.

- ☐ a serious sin
- ☐ lying or cheating
- ☐ destroys a person's relationship with God and others
- ☐ murder
- ☐ hurts a person's relationship with God and others
- ☐ being lazy or disobeying

Catholic Faith Words

sin a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the law of God. Sins hurt our relationship with God and other people.

mortal sin serious sin that causes a person's relationship with God to be broken

venial sin a sin that weakens a person's relationship with God but does not destroy it



Our Catholic Life

Where do you see God's glory?

God shows you something of what he is like through his image in people and through the world he created. If you pay attention you will learn many things about him.



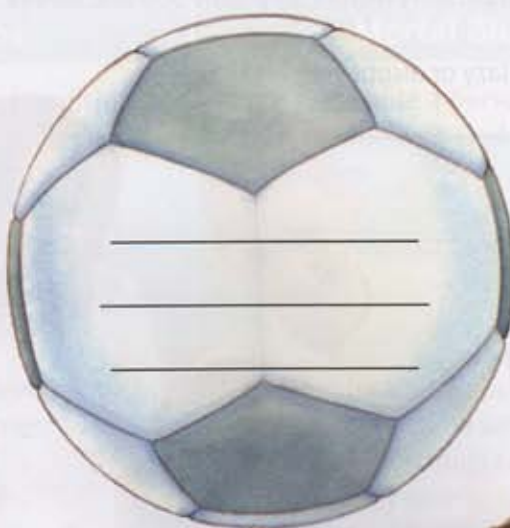
1. Inside the flower, write one way nature is a sign of God's glory.
2. Inside the soccer ball, write about a time when you have seen a reflection of God in another person.

Nature Gives Glory to God

The loveliness of a flower or the brilliance of a sunset tells you something about God's power and goodness. Reflecting on his glory may bring about feelings of gratitude or peace. Take time to look closely at and appreciate nature.

People Show the Glory of God

Think about people who have shown you love: your parents or guardians, a good friend, an understanding teacher, or a devoted grandparent. A baby may make you think of God's power and wonder. An older person may remind you of God's wisdom.



People of Faith

June 15

Saint Germaine Cousin, 1579–1601

Saint Germaine Cousin reminds us that each of us is made in God's image and worthy of respect. She had a crippled hand and a deformed neck. After her mother died, her father remarried. Her stepmother made her sleep in a cupboard under the stairs. Germaine never complained. Instead, she prayed for her stepmother. Finally, her stepmother realized that Germaine was very holy and wanted her to live in the house. But Germaine stayed in her cupboard and was a model of prayer and holiness.



Discuss: What can you do to help someone who has a disability?



Learn more about Saint Germaine at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Activity

Create a poster that explains how you can treat others with dignity and see the glory of God in everyone.

DIGNITY





Let Us Pray

Prayer for Dignity and Respect

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Reader 1: God of life,

All: We pray for the dignity of life.

Reader 2: God of creation,

All: We pray for the dignity of life.

Reader 3: God, the source of all life,

All: We pray for the dignity of life.

Reader 4: God, the protector of humanity,

All: We pray for the dignity of life.

Leader: God, we give you praise and thanks for all creation. **Based on Psalm 139**

All: Amen.



Sing "O God, You Search Me"

O God, you search me and you know me.

All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.

When I walk or lie down you are before me:

Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

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Chapter 4 Review

A Work with Words Circle True if the statement is true, and circle False if the statement is false. Correct any false statements.

1. A bully can never reflect God's image.

True

False

2. Sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the law of God.

True

False

3. You commit a mortal sin when you cheat on a spelling test.

True

False

4. Mortal sin causes a person's relationship with God to be broken.

True

False

5. Each person is unique and created by God.

True

False

B Check Understanding Complete the following statements.

6. The _____ is the spiritual part of you that lives forever.

7. Human _____ is the worth each person has because he or she is made in God's image.

8. A _____ sin hurts your friendship with God.

9. _____ and _____ show the glory of God.

10. A failure to act sometimes is a sin of _____.



Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com
for an interactive review.

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains that God created all people in his image and therefore each of us has human dignity and deserves respect.

Scripture



Read **Colossians 1:10, 12–15** to find out how God created us to live.

Catholics Believe

- Every person is worthy of respect because he or she is created in God's image.
- Each person has a soul that will live forever.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #355–357, 362–366 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Germaine Cousin, who was born with some severe disabilities.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Being Created in God's Image

Your child is probably now past those early childhood years in which he or she thought anything was possible. Some children this age are becoming painfully aware of their limitations and need to remember that they are valuable human beings by virtue of their creation in God's image. Knowing this, they can also begin to explore the idea that they were created for a purpose, and that God has a design for their lives.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Is it easier to show respect to a stranger or to someone in your own family?

It may be more difficult to show respect to people with whom we live because we see their flaws up close. All people deserve our respect because they are made in the image of God. As Catholics, we know that "to be made in the image of God includes specific qualities. Each of us is capable of self-knowledge and of entering into communion with other persons through self-giving. These qualities—and the shared heritage of our first parents—also form a basis for a bond of unity among all human beings" (*USCCA*, p. 67).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain why all people have dignity.
- Share a personal story about a time when you were not treated with dignity and how you felt.

LET'S PRAY >>>



O God, may we always be respectful of all people, knowing we are all your children. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.