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God Sent His Son as Our Savior

Goals

The children will know the story of the Fall and the story of God's fulfillment of the promise of a Savior.

They will celebrate Christmas in a more meaningful way.

9 God Promised a Savior

God showed divine mercy when the parents of the human family used their freedom to oppose God's expressed will. The children learn the effects of sin and how the promised Redeemer restored to all people the possibility of sharing in God's life, thus enabling them to live as God's children on earth and to live with God forever in heaven.

10 God Chose Mary and Joseph

God kept his promise to send a Savior and prepared a special people to be his own. The children learn how God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, God's Son. They are led to prepare for Jesus' coming as Mary, Joseph, and other faithful believers did.

11 Jesus Our Savior Was Born in Bethlehem

God emptied himself and became human like us in all things except sin when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The children learn how the Savior's arrival was announced to shepherds by angels, who told them to share the good news with others. Through the story of the Wise Men, they find out that Jesus came for all people.

12 Families Share Life and Love

The home life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph shows us a picture of people who live in God's love. The children are encouraged to do many little things that will bring the joyful sharing and caring spirit of the Holy Family into their own family life.



God Promised a Savior

Faith Focus

After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised a Savior so that we could be happy with God forever in heaven.

Reflecting on the Faith Experience

Take a few minutes to reflect prayerfully before preparing the lesson.

Listening

Here is your God, . . .
he comes to save you.

Isaiah 35:4

Lord, you are kind and
forgiving.

Psalm 86:5

Reflecting

“Do you promise?” Children often ask this question when they want a guarantee that someone will do something for or with them. They recognize the promise as a gift, freely bestowed. They may think that they do not deserve the gift and feel the need of a pledge that will be honored.

When Adam and Eve turned in sin from God’s love, God’s promise assured us of God’s continued desire to share his glory with the creatures he had made in his divine likeness:

For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son, so
that everyone who believes
in him might not perish but
might have eternal life.

John 3:16

God’s creative love destined men and women for eternal happiness with him. Ever since our first parents’ sin, salvation history records God’s love in forgiving his people. With the psalmist we capture the meaning of both sin and salvation, and we hope in God’s faithful love:

“The Lord looked down from
the holy heights,
viewed the earth from
heaven,
To attend to the groaning of
the prisoners,
to release those doomed to
die.”

Psalm 102:20–21

We recall God’s saving love in Eucharistic Prayer IV as the priest voices our praise, praying:

We give you praise, Father
most holy,
for you are great,
and you have fashioned all
your works
in wisdom and in love.
You formed man in your own
image,
and entrusted the whole world
to his care,
so that in serving you alone,
the Creator,
he might have dominion over
all creatures.
And when through
disobedience he had lost
your friendship,
you did not abandon him to
the domain of death.
For you came in mercy to the
aid of all,
so that those who seek might
find you.

Our God of love continually takes the initiative to bring those he has created to the fullness of grace.

*How do I open myself to God’s love
and put my trust in God’s promise?*

Responding

Loving Father, help the children understand the depths of your love shown in your gift of Jesus to us.

Scripture for Further Reflection

John 3:16 God gave us his Son.

Hebrews 4:14–16 Jesus, the Son of God, is our great mediator and high priest.

1 John 4: 14–16 The Father sent his Son as Savior of the world.

Preparing for the Faith Experience

Day One

God Made People like Himself

Day Two

God Promised a Savior

Day Three

God Keeps His Promises

Day Four

We Can Choose

Day Five

Extending the Chapter

Scripture in This Chapter

Genesis 1, 2 The Story of Creation

Genesis 3 The Fall

Catholic Social Teaching

- Family and Community
- God's Creation

Church Documents

Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The themes of this chapter correspond to the following paragraphs: 218, 396–400, 839, 1731.

National Directory for Catechesis

#51. E. Jesus Christ is the unique and universal savior of all people, and his Church is the sacrament of salvation for the whole world.

The Lord Jesus #1 (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith). The Church has the mission to proclaim that God is a Trinity of persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and that the Son became man in order to save all human beings.

Basic Teachings #15, #16 (USCCB).

Baptism calls us to freedom in Christ, but we are fully aware that our choices might result in sin. Religious instruction must not be silent about this reality.

Music in This Chapter

For a list of all the music suggested in this program, see page T487.

Enriching the Faith Experience

Use the activities at the end of the chapter to enrich a lesson or to replace an activity with one that better meets the needs of your class.

Bulletin Board

A suggestion for a bulletin-board design for this chapter is pictured.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

The children will be able to

- explain that God created human beings capable of knowing and loving him.
- explain that the first people had a loving relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation when they were obedient to God.
- reflect on the happiness of people living in a loving relationship with God.

Words to Know

grace

heaven

See the Glossary for definitions.

Key Terms

Adam—the first man

Eve—the first woman

Materials

- Doll
- Chalk
- Crayons or markers
- Songs of grateful joy, such as “We Thank You” from *Young People’s Glory and Praise*, Vols. 1 & 2 or “Thank You, Lord” from *Hi God!* for Sharing #6

Before You Begin

1. An understanding of love must precede an understanding of sin. In Unit 1 the children learned about God’s love. This lesson presents the gifts God gave to Adam and Eve as well as God’s command to respect and obey God’s law. The children will learn that all God’s gifts are good, but the greatest gift is that stated in Genesis: “God created man in his image; / in the divine image he created him.” (Genesis 1:27) No gift could be greater than the holiness God shared with the people he made.

A Letter Home

Dear Parents and Family,

In Unit 2 your first grader learns about God’s great gift to us. He or she is presented with lessons on the goodness and mercy of God, who sent his Son to be our Savior. You can help your child take this message to heart by reviewing the chapters together and praying as a family.

In Chapter 9 the children are taught about Adam and Eve and God’s desire that they live with him forever. They learn about the effects of sin and how God showed mercy by promising a Redeemer. The Redeemer is Jesus, the Son of God, who wins back for the human family a share in God’s life here on earth and the possibility of eternal happiness in heaven.

Chapters 10 and 11 show how God kept his promise to send a Savior and prepare a special people to be his own. God chose Mary and Joseph to prepare for Jesus’ coming. With Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem, God became human like us (in all things except sin) and dwelled among us. These lessons prepare the children for a meaningful celebration of the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Talking with your child about these lessons can wonder to your own experience of Advent and Christmas.

In the last chapter of Unit 2, the children are led to share God’s love with everyone, especially with the members of their families. Please notice the times they do so and offer them encouraging words.

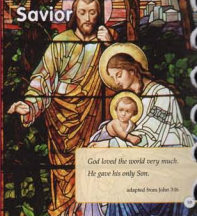
Chapters 9–11 each end with a review and a Building Faith handout, which your child will bring home. This handout gives you a quick review of what your child learned and offers practical ways to reinforce the lesson so that the whole family may benefit. At the end of the unit, the child will bring home a Family Feature handout to help nurture the family’s faith at home.

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

60 UNIT 2 God Sent His Son as Our Savior



UNIT 2 God Sent His Son as Our Savior



Throughout the Creation narratives the catechist should make the children aware that the biblical accounts are stories told to teach the basic religious truths revealed by God.

2. Plan when and how to make Advent a time of joyous anticipation for the coming of Christ into our lives. Please see SSL 2 Advent.

Centering

1. Pray together the Our Father with words and gestures.
2. Connect this unit with Unit 1.
 - ✦ In Unit 1 we learned about what God is like and how we can talk and listen to God.
 - ✦ Now we are going to learn more about how God sent his Son, Jesus, as our savior.
 - ✦ Let’s all turn to page 59. Look at the words in the box at the bottom of the page.

- ◆ [Name], please read to us what the Bible says about why God sent Jesus.
- ◆ What are some ways that God has shown us how much he loves us? (He gave us a beautiful world, a loving family, the Church, and so on.)
- ◆ On page 60 is a letter telling your family what you will be learning in this unit. After we finish today's lesson, you will take this page home to your family.

3. Introduce the story of the creation of people.

- ◆ Show a doll to the children. Let them volunteer to show or tell something they can do that the doll cannot. Have them explain why they are able to do it.
- ◆ Today we are going to talk about how God loved people so much that he made us like himself.
- ◆ I am going to tell you the story from the Bible that tells how God made people who could be happy with him forever in heaven.

Sharing

1. Summarize the Creation story. Have the children turn to page 61. Read aloud the text.
2. Tell the story of the creation of people from Genesis 2.
 - ◆ After God created all the beautiful things in the world, he made people. The story in the Bible tells us that God formed a man out of the clay of the ground. Then God breathed a breath of life into him, and the man became a living person. With the same love and care, God made a woman too. The Bible story calls the first man Adam and the first woman Eve.
 - ◆ The purpose of this story is to tell us that God made people. [Draw stick figures on the board.]
 - ◆ Adam and Eve could do wonderful things that the animals and the other creatures could not do. What could Adam and Eve do? (think, choose, and



9

God Promised a Savior

The Bible tells the story of Creation.

Long ago God created the whole world.

First he made the sky.

Then he made the water and the land.

God made creatures that fly, swim, and walk.

Finally, God made people.



61

love) These powers are powers that God has. We are made in God's image, which means we are made like God.

3. Describe the garden.

- ◆ God loved Adam and Eve more than any other creature he made. God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden with many trees, plants, and flowers. Adam and Eve were to care for the garden. There were many animals and lovely birds in the garden. Adam named them, and they were friendly with Adam and Eve.
- ◆ God put good things in the garden for Adam and Eve to eat. Every kind of tree whose fruit

was good to eat grew there. What trees could have grown there?

- ◆ In the center of the garden God placed the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. [Draw a tree on the board.] God said to Adam and Eve, "You may eat from all the trees in the garden. But do not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. For if you do eat from that tree, you will die."
- ◆ If Adam and Eve loved God, they would do as he said. They would not harm themselves by eating from that tree.

4. Tell about the special gifts God gave his people.


- ✦ God loved Adam and Eve so much that God did even more for them. God gave them a share in his own life. We call this grace.
- ✦ Because Adam and Eve received the gift of grace, God's life, God made them his adopted children. With grace they were very happy. They enjoyed being friends of God. [Draw smiles on the stick figures' faces.]

5. Invite two children to pretend to walk in the garden and notice God's gifts.

- ✦ Comment:
- ✦ Adam and Eve loved God and were very happy. They knew that God had given them special gifts. They were happy obeying God's commands. They were happy to be God's people. They were happy to be alive.

6. Have the children sing a song of gratitude.

Let them express the joy of being God's people.

7.  Tell the children about the unity of the human family with all creation.

✦ God's Creation

Family and Community

- ✦ Because Adam and Eve were the first people in the Bible, we call them our first parents.
- ✦ God made us his children, and we belong to his family. God wants us to care for the world. We can see God's love in everything and everyone that God created. God wants us to love and obey him. Then we will love everyone and someday be happy with God forever in heaven.

8. Have the children turn to page 62.

- ✦ Pretend you are in the garden. What other animals live there? What other beautiful things did God put in the garden?
- ✦ What is the greatest gift God gave the first people? (a share in

God made people just like himself.

We read about the first people on earth in the Bible.

God made Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve were happy.

They were God's friends.

They lived in the Garden of Eden.

God was good to Adam and Eve.

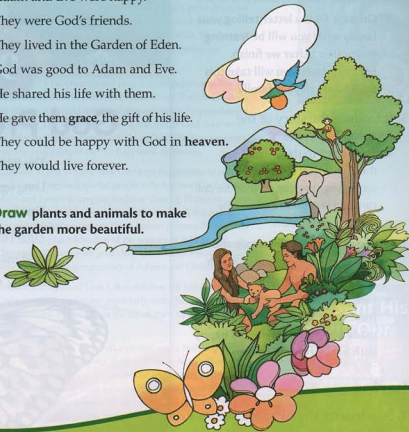
He shared his life with them.

He gave them **grace**, the gift of his life.

They could be happy with God in heaven.

They would live forever.

Draw plants and animals to make the garden more beautiful.




God's life; grace) **Why?** (God loves us very much.)

- ✦ How would you feel living in this garden? What would you like best about it?

9. Read aloud page 62 and have the children do the activity at the bottom of the page.

Acting

1.  Reflect on the beauty of human life as originally created by God.
 - ✦ Think how happy God's people were when God made them. They had God's life. God was with them. They were God's children and they would live forever with God in heaven.

- ✦ We too have God's life. God is with us, and we are God's children. We can live forever with God in heaven. How very good God is to us! Let us thank God quietly in our hearts. [Pause.]

2. Lead the children to acts of love.

- ✦ God's people showed how much they loved God by doing what God asked them to do.
- ✦ What could you do today to show God love?

3. Teach the words and gestures to the poem about creation.

Poem

God made the earth.

[Form a large circle over head.]

God made me.

[Point thumbs to self]

God made the fish

[Make wave motion with hands.]

that swim in the sea.

God made birds

[Raise arms up and down.]

that fly so high,

trees so tall

[Stand on tiptoe, right hand reaching for the sky.]

they reach the sky,

flowers that cover

[Stoop; move hands slowly left and right.]

the countryside,

Animals, all kinds,

[Stand; open your arms in gesture of surprise.]

even those you ride.

All these things

[Open hands and spread arms wide.]

help us to see

God's great love

[Point to self.]

for you and me.

Source unknown

4. Have the children take home page 60 to share with their families.

CHECKPOINT



- Were the learning outcomes achieved?
- Do the children know that at creation God gifted people with divine life?

Day Two God Promised a Savior

Student page 63

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The children will be able to

- explain that evil came into the world and that we are affected by it.
- explain that people have free choice and are responsible for their decisions.

Word to Know

Savior

See *Glossary* for definition.

Key Terms

devil—an evil spirit

sin—to disobey God; to fail to love

Materials

- Crucifix
- Stick figures of Adam and Eve drawn on the board or on paper
- Newspaper article about a person who acted as a savior (optional)

Before You Begin

1. The sin of Adam and Eve stands out in bold contrast to the love of God. Their sin is presented as a deliberate choice to seek happiness apart from God. They refused to acknowledge God as their creator to whom they owed obedience. The Bible story presents the alluring aspect of every sin—the hope that our choice will make us happier. The utter misery of Adam and Eve and the dire consequences of sin are relieved by the promise of a Savior who would restore grace to Adam and Eve and their descendants.

2. The story of the Fall (Genesis 3) contains what the Church calls the *protoevangelium*, that is, the first gospel. Genesis 3:15 mysteriously announces the promise of a Savior as the one who will come and strike at the serpent's head. The Church teaches that this passage shows that God did not abandon his people even after banishing Adam and Eve from the garden. Rather God promised his people a Savior to redeem the world.

Centering

Discuss what a savior is.

- ♦ **Do you know what a savior does?**
A savior is someone who saves you. Did anyone ever save you or someone you know from danger?
- ♦ **Sometimes a savior dies trying to save someone.** Today you will find out why Adam and Eve needed a Savior.

Sharing

1. Recall the last lesson.

Have two children draw faces on the stick figures on the board to show a happy Adam and Eve living in the garden. Let the children describe the gifts God gave Adam and Eve.

2. Tell the story of the temptation in the garden, adapted from Genesis 3:1–20.

- ♦ Draw a snake on the board.
- ♦ **There is a story in the Bible that tells us that the first people disobeyed God.**

Temptation in the Garden

The devil, an evil spirit, came to Eve in the form of a snake. He tempted Eve to eat a fruit that God had said not to touch. The snake said to Eve, "You and Adam will not die if you eat that fruit. You will become like God and know good and evil." The devil was lying.

Eve believed the snake. She wanted to be as great as God. So she ate some of the fruit. She gave some to Adam, and he ate it too.

Adam and Eve did not become like God, but were ashamed and afraid. They had chosen to do what they wanted rather than obey God. They sinned against God. They said no to God's love.

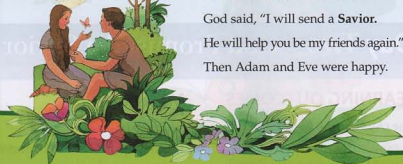
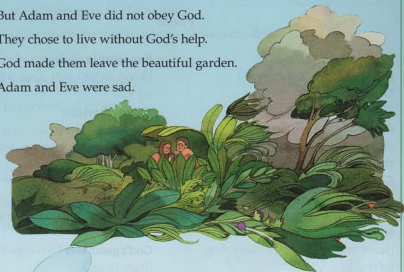
Later, when Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, they hid. God called to them, "Have you been eating of the tree I told you not to eat from?" Adam replied, "Eve gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Eve said, "The snake tempted me, and I ate the fruit."

But Adam and Eve did not obey God.

They chose to live without God's help.

God made them leave the beautiful garden.

Adam and Eve were sad.



God still loved Adam and Eve.

God said, "I will send a Savior.

He will help you be my friends again."

Then Adam and Eve were happy.

God Promised a Savior CHAPTER 9 63

3. Discuss the story.

- ♦ **How did the devil tempt Eve to eat the forbidden fruit?** (He told her they would be like God; he lied.)
- ♦ **Did he make her disobey God?** (No, she chose to disobey.)
- ♦ **What could Eve have done?** (not listened; not eaten the fruit)
- ♦ **Why did Adam and Eve want to hide from God?** (from shame, fear)
- ♦ **Could they hide from him?** (No.)

4. Tell the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin.

- ♦ Have the children look at the picture at the top of page 63.
- ♦ **Adam and Eve were sorry they sinned. They had offended God and had to leave the garden. The**

most precious gift they lost was grace, God's life. They no longer had a right to heaven. Their sin had brought evil into God's beautiful world.

- ♦ Let two children change the stick figures on the board to show how Adam and Eve felt after they sinned.
5. Explain how Adam and Eve's sin affected everyone.
- ♦ **Because Adam and Eve were the first people, their sin affected all people. We are born without God's life. We do not have the right to heaven. We must suffer and die. There is evil in our world.**

- Adam and Eve needed help to win back God's life for themselves and for all people. Everyone needed a Savior.

6. Tell about God's plan to save people.

- God promised to send a Savior to make up for sin. God would send his Son, Jesus. Jesus would show people how to love God by doing what God wants. It isn't always easy to save someone. Jesus would save us by obeying his Father. He died on the cross. [Show the children a crucifix.]
- What did God promise Adam and Eve?
- How do you think it made them feel?
- Why do you think God made the promise?

7. Read aloud page 63.

Point out that the bottom picture shows how happy Adam and Eve were when God promised them a Savior.

Acting

1. Lead the children to recognize the correlation between their choices and happiness.

- Invite a volunteer to go to the board.
- [Name], draw a face that shows how Adam and Eve felt when they chose to obey God.
- Now draw a face showing how they felt when they disobeyed God.

2. Lead the children in prayer.

- As you hold the crucifix, pray aloud:
- Thank you, God our Father, for loving us and for sending Jesus our Savior. Help us always choose to love you.

CHECKPOINT

- Were the learning outcomes achieved?
- Do the children know that the first people lost God's life for everyone by their sin?

Day Three God Keeps His Promises

Student pages 64–66

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The children will be able to

- describe the role of the Jewish people in the history of our salvation.
- explain that Jesus is our personal Savior who comes to us in and through his Church.
- compare the yearning of God's people for the promised Savior with their own yearning for God.

Key Terms

Chosen People—the Jewish people

Israel—the country of the Jewish people, where the Savior was born

Jewish people—people to whom the Savior would come

Materials

- Map showing Israel (optional)
- Crayons or markers

Before You Begin

- God prepared the world for the coming of his Son by choosing the Jewish people, entering into a covenant with them, forming them, and giving them great leaders. The stories in the Old Testament relating to Christ's coming will be presented in later grades.

- Today we still long for the Savior. We ask him to come and live in us with the Holy Spirit. We too are God's Chosen People called to prepare ourselves and others to welcome the Savior into our personal lives and into the life of his Church.

Centering

Discuss the meaning of promises.

- ✦ **Have you ever made a promise?** What's so special about a promise?
- ✦ **Would someone like to tell us about making a promise and how he or she kept it?**
- ✦ **Has anyone ever promised you something? Tell us about it.**
- ✦ **What promise did God make to people?** (to send a Savior)

Sharing

1. Have the children read **God Keeps His Promises** on page 64.

- ✦ Introduce the story by helping the children realize that many generations passed before the Savior came.
- ✦ **God did not tell when the Savior would come. The people knew that God would keep his promise. They prayed for the Savior to come.**

2. Help the children recall why people needed a Savior.

- ✦ **Why did Adam and Eve need a Savior?** (Adam and Eve had disobeyed God and no longer enjoyed God's close friendship on earth; they could not live with God in heaven.)
- ✦ **Why did people who lived after Adam and Eve need a Savior?** (They were born without grace, God's life.)
- ✦ **Why did we need a Savior?** (We were born without grace; we have disobeyed God.)
- ✦ **How did Jesus save us?** (He died on the cross to save us from sin; he brought God's life back to us.)

3. Explain the role of the Jewish people.

- ✦ **God chose a people from whom the Savior would come. God chose the Jewish people. God made them his special people. God said to them, "I will be your God, and you will be my people."**

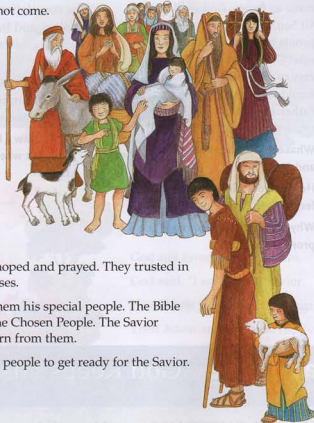
God Keeps His Promises

Adam and Eve waited and prayed for the Savior.

He did not come.

Their children and grandchildren waited and prayed for the Savior.

He still did not come.



The people hoped and prayed. They trusted in God's promises.

God made them his special people. The Bible calls them the Chosen People. The Savior would be born from them.

God told the people to get ready for the Savior.

64 UNIT 2 God Sent His Son as Our Savior

(Leviticus 26:12) The Bible calls God's people the Chosen People.

- ✦ **God helped his people get ready for the Savior. God let them experience his love and sent them leaders like Ruth, Moses, Esther, Elijah, and Samuel. What do you remember about Moses, Elijah, and Samuel?**
- 4. Tell some facts about Jesus' background.
 - ✦ **God gave his people, the Jewish people, their own country named Israel. There Jesus was to be born.** [Locate Israel on a map, if available.]
 - ✦ **God chose a young Jewish woman to be the mother of his Son, Jesus. Does anyone know her name?** (Mary)
 - ✦ **God chose Joseph to be the foster father to care for Jesus.**
 - ✦ **Mary and Joseph also prayed and waited for the Savior to come.**
- 5. Guide the children to have faith in Jesus as their personal Savior.
 - ✦ **Because Jesus saved us by dying on the cross, we are able to be friends with God again through Baptism. With grace, we can choose what we know God wants us to do. We can choose the things that will make us happy. We can choose to live as God's children.**
 - ✦ **If you wish, share with the children how Jesus is your Savior.**

- ✦ Jesus is your Savior too. He will help you choose what is good. Has Jesus ever helped you choose what God wanted? Would you like to tell about it?
 - ✦ When might Jesus help you choose what will make you happy?
6. Ask the children whether they know two words that begin with J that they should remember from today's lesson.

- ✦ Write two Js on the board and give clues if necessary.
- ✦ The first word that begins with J tells the name of God's Chosen People. (Jewish people)
- ✦ The second word is the name of the Savior who came to save all people. (Jesus)

7. Guide the children in doing the Leviticus activity at the top of page 65.

Have the children read the completed adaptation of Leviticus 26:12 when they have completed the activity.

Acting

1. Have the children role-play the story endings to show choices they can make with Jesus' help.
- ✦ Your grandmother asks you and your brothers to turn off the TV and come to dinner. You want to watch the end of the program.
 - ✦ Your dad gives you a small box of your favorite candy. You want to eat the candy yourself. Some of your friends come along and see the candy.
 - ✦ Your little sister hits you because you wouldn't play a game with her. You feel like hitting back.
 - ✦ Your aunt scolds you for leaving your room messy. You feel angry because you didn't have time to pick up your things before you went to school. You feel like talking back to your aunt.

- ✦ The teacher asks who misbehaved when she was out of the room. You were laughing and being silly, but you don't want to raise your hand. You are afraid you will get in trouble for misbehaving.
2. Explain praying to the Savior.
- ✦ Because the Savior has already come, we can call on him to help us say yes to God.
 - ✦ We can ask him to help us choose what God wants, especially when it is something hard for us.

3. Lead the children through **A Moment with Jesus** on page 65.
- ✦ Invite the children to quiet themselves and to turn to Jesus the Savior.
 - ✦ Talk to Jesus in the quiet of your heart. [Pause]
 - ✦ Thank him for being our Savior. [Pause.]
 - ✦ Draw a picture of yourself with Jesus.

Write the missing words.

God said to the Chosen people,

I will be your God

and you will be my people

A Moment with Jesus

Talk to Jesus in the quiet of your heart. Thank him for being our Savior.

Draw yourself with Jesus.

adapted from Leviticus 26:12

CHECKPOINT

- Were the learning outcomes achieved?
- How did the children show that they are aware of their need for a Savior?
- What signs are there that they turn to Jesus as Savior for help in their daily lives?

CHAPTER
9

Review

Whom would God send?

Write the first letter of each picture in the box.



We Remember

What promise did God make to Adam and Eve?

God promised to send a Savior.

Words to Know

grace heaven Savior

We Respond

Save us, Lord God, please save us.

adapted from Psalm 40:14

Building Family Faith

THE STORY OF Adam and Eve shows us God's plan for his people. God created human beings to share his life and to live in peace and tranquility. Our disobedience disrupted God's plan. In order to restore it, God promised to send a redeemer, Jesus, his Son, came to earth to heal us from the effects of sin.

REFLECT

"He was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin." 1 John 3:5

DISCUSS AS A FAMILY

- Why do we sometimes feel unhappy?
- What can we do to bring happiness to the other people in our family?

PRAY

Come, Lord Jesus. Be here with us.

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

DO

Make preparations for Advent, a time of waiting for the coming of the Savior. Make an Advent wreath and locate Advent prayers.



66

Day Four We Can Choose

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The children will be able to

- identify sad and happy feelings.
- recognize the effects of one's actions on others.
- demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts in this chapter.

Materials

- BLM 17 Quiz
- "Joy" heart punchouts from the back of the student book
- Crayons or markers

Before You Begin

1. Human nature desires and seeks what it identifies as good. It is necessary, therefore, that we realize what is truly good for us as human persons. Moral education helps children discern, in the light of Christ's teaching, that things are good insofar as they satisfy our basic human needs and our deep longing for God. With this perspective children are able to make value choices, giving up lesser goods to experience

greater ones. In this lesson the children learn that their happy and sad feelings are sometimes created by situations beyond their control. The children identify readily with the happiness and heartbreak a Native American boy felt through his love for his pony.

2. When planning today's lesson, keep in mind that Day Four is when the children take the quiz for this chapter. Reserve time at the end of class for this assessment. The quiz can also be administered on Day Five.

Centering

- Guide the children to be aware that people sometimes feel happy and sometimes feel sad.
 - ◆ How did Adam and Eve feel when they obeyed God?
 - ◆ How did they feel when they said no to God?
 - ◆ Sometimes we feel happy as they did. Sometimes something happens to make us feel sad. I know a story about a Native American boy who was sad until something happened. This story came from the Native American people of the Pawnee tribe.
- Tell the legend of the Mud Pony to the children.

The story is based on a Pawnee legend. The Pawnee people lived on the great plains. They settled in the valley along the Platte River (in what is now Nebraska). Owning horses was not a luxury but a true asset to a family and tribe. Horses made travel faster and carrying things easier. Horses helped with hunting and protecting the tribe.

The Mud Pony

A long time ago, there was a Native American boy who lived in a camp with his family. His family was very poor. They could not afford a pony like other families. The boy would sit alone while the other boys in the camp took care of their ponies. He was sad to be alone with no pony to take care of. So one day the boy decided that the only way to get a pony was to make one. He made two ponies out of mud. He built a corral for them and took care of them every day as if they were real ponies. This made the boy happy.

One day the boy went to see his mud ponies. But something bad had happened. One of the ponies had crumbled into dust. The boy cried and cried. After that he took very good care of the one that was left.

Many days later, the boy was away from the camp, playing with his mud pony. While he was away, the people packed everything up. They had to leave quickly because they had to follow the buffalo to hunt for food. The boy's parents looked everywhere for him, but they could not find him. They were very sad to leave without him. When the boy came back to the camp, everyone was gone! He cried all day. When he finally fell asleep at night, he had a dream about his mud pony. In the morning, when the boy woke up, he went to find his mud pony. When he saw the pony, he was surprised. The mud pony had come to life! The pony spoke to the boy. She told him that she was there to take care of the boy and to bring him to his people. The boy climbed on the pony. Together they crossed the plains to find the boy's people. When they found them, the people were amazed by the boy and the pony.

With the pony, the boy was able to ride faster and to hunt more buffalo than any of the other people. The boy became a great chief. He loved his pony very much. He took good care of her. One night, the boy had another dream. In the dream, the pony told the boy that she was going back to the earth because the boy was now able to take care of himself, his family, and the tribe. When the boy awoke, it was raining and the pony was gone. The mud pony had been washed away by the rain. The boy was very sad, but he was thankful for the pony.

3. Discuss the story.

- ◆ Why do you think it was important for the Native American families to have ponies? (Ponies made travel faster and made it easier to carry things. Ponies made hunting and protecting the tribe easier.)
- ◆ How did the tribe's decision to leave without the boy make him feel? (sad, upset)
- ◆ What might have happened to the boy if the mud pony didn't help him?
- ◆ Why do you think the boy and pony decided to find the tribe even though they had left the boy?
- ◆ How do you think the boy's family felt when they saw their son?
- ◆ Instead of staying upset with them, the boy and his pony helped his family and tribe. What did he do to help them? (He hunted for food. He became a great chief.) Did this make the people happy or sad? Why?
- ◆ What made the boy feel sad at the end of the story? (The pony went back to the earth.)
- ◆ Even though the boy was sad, the pony helped him have courage and be strong. He became a great chief because he loved animals and cared for his people.
- ◆ This story shows us that our decisions affect others. Sometimes decisions make us feel sad, like the tribe's decision to leave without the boy. Other times decisions make us feel happy, like the pony coming to life in order to help the boy.

Sharing


- Talk to the children about decisions that they may face that affect how they or others feel. Tell the children to let their faces show how they would feel in these situations:
 - Your best friend comes over to play.
 - Your favorite TV program is on.
 - You trip over something and fall.
 - You get to pick out a new pair of shoes.
 - No one is able to come out and play.
 - A friend shares cookies with you.
- Let the children act out endings to the following plays.
 - Point out that each story could have a happy or a sad ending. After each play is finished, have a child draw on the board a face that illustrates the effect the chosen ending had on the main character.
 - Sophie forgot her umbrella. She is getting wet. You have an umbrella large enough for two people.
 - Your mother is expecting friends. Your toys are all over the living room floor.
 - Your little brother is crying because he can't button his coat.
 - Your grandfather wants to rest. You are playing a noisy game with your friends.

3. Discuss the plays.

Help the children recognize that their good choices can help others. Explain that although we cannot make people feel a certain way, we can make good choices that can encourage or discourage people.

- Explain that God wants us to make decisions that bring happiness to others. We can choose to do this.
 - Sometimes we are like the mud pony who chose to help the boy and the tribe. She helped the boy bring happiness to those around him. We can also choose to bring happiness to others. This is what God wants us to do.
 - But other times we are like the people of the tribe at the beginning of the story. They made a decision that made the boy very sad. We sometimes do things that bring unhappiness to others. Then we are not doing what God made us to do. Then we are not happy either.
- Lead the children through the review on page 66.
- BLM 17** Distribute and administer BLM 17 Chapter 9 Quiz.
 - Use this opportunity to assess the children's understanding of the main concepts of the chapter.
 - If there is not enough time for the children to complete the quiz, consider moving it to Day Five.

Acting

-  Guide the children in prayer.
 - God is good to give us happy feelings. Let's bow our heads and thank God for them. [Pause.]
 - Say this prayer after me: "Jesus, help me bring happiness to others."
- Ask the children to think of one thing they could do to bring happiness to their families.
- Distribute the "Joy" hearts.
 - Have the children color the hearts while they listen to a song, such as "Joy, Joy, Joy" from *Hi God!* Explain:
 - Put these hearts where they can help you remember to bring joy to others. See how much joy you can bring to your family.
- At the end of class, have the children tear out and take home page 66. Encourage them to share Building Family Faith with their families.



CHECKPOINT



- Were the learning outcomes achieved?
- Do the children associate doing what God wants with achieving happiness?

Materials

- BLM 17 Quiz
- "Joy" heart punchouts from the back of the student book
- Crayons or markers

Day Five Extending the Chapter

Use the following suggestions to create an additional lesson for Day Five.

1. Remind the children to take home page 66 to share what they are learning with their families.
2. Incorporate any unused BLMs from the week's chapter.

3. Consider the time of the liturgical year and use the appropriate Special Seasons and Lessons. SSLs begin on page T355.

4. Visit www.christourlife.org to find additional activities for Extending the Chapter.

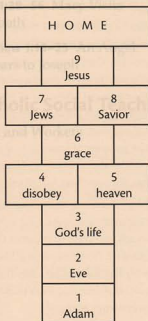
5. Use activities from Enriching the Faith Experience.

6. Guide the children in a prayerful discussion of Sunday's Scripture readings. Visit www.christourlife.org for more information.

Chapter 9 Enriching the Faith Experience

Use the following activities to enrich a lesson or to replace an activity with one that better meets the needs of your class.

1. Let the children dramatize the biblical story of the Fall and the promise.
2. Draw a hopscotch pattern on the board as shown. Have teams take turns telling something about the words in the squares until they reach "Home."



3. Play a song that expresses yearning for the Savior. You may lead the children to perform gestures, such as these for "Come, Lord Jesus."

- *Come, Lord Jesus*—raise your opened hands slightly. Cross your hands over your heart on the word *hearts*.
- *Our hearts*—make a large circle with your arms raised upward, fingers touching.
- *are open*—slowly open the circle by lowering your arms.

4. Have the children make "God Made Me Special" puppets. Distribute paper plates, one for each child. Have crayons or markers, scissors, craft sticks, glue, and pieces of yarn on hand. Invite the children to draw their own eyes, nose, and mouth on the paper plate. Then have them glue pieces of yarn to the paper plates for hair. Finally, have the children glue a craft stick to the back of the plate to make a puppet. You might have them write "God Made Me Special" on the craft stick. The children can use the puppets in role-playing or to act out stories from the Bible.

