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The Word of God

2

We Pray

For the LORD's word
is true;
all his works are
trustworthy. PSALM 33:4

**Lord God,
send the Holy Spirit
to open my heart
and mind
to your holy word.
Amen.**

*What is your favorite kind
of book?*

There are many types
of books. The Bible is
the most widely read
book in the world. It is
God's word.

*What is your favorite story
in the Bible?*

Sacred Scripture

Faith Focus

What kinds of writings are in the Bible?

Faith Vocabulary

Inspiration of the Bible.

The Holy Spirit guiding the human writers of Sacred Scripture to faithfully and accurately communicate God's word.

Gospel. The Good News of God's love revealed in the life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Writings of God

Books tell stories of happiness and sadness, successes and failures. The Bible tells the story of God's love for his people and their response to his love. The Bible is God's own word to us. God speaks through the Bible. Sacred Scripture is another name for the Bible. It is a name that means "holy writings." The Holy Spirit inspired, or helped, the human writers of the Bible to faithfully and accurately communicate God's word. We call this truth of our faith the **inspiration of the Bible.**

The Bible is a collection of many writings. The Church divides the Bible

into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word *testament* means "covenant." Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church has identified the forty-six books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament to be the inspired word of God. We call this the canon of Scripture.

Do you know how to look up a Bible passage? Look up Mark 4:37-41. First decide whether the passage is in the Old Testament or the New Testament.

KEY

Mark

= Book of the Bible

Mark 4

= Chapter

Mark 4:37-41

= Verses



The Old Testament

The Old Testament tells the story of the Covenant that God entered into with humankind. The story of the Covenant begins at creation. It continues with the stories of Noah and Abraham and Moses and the prophets. The Old Testament of the Bible has four different kinds of books, or writings.

The Torah

The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. These five books are also known as the Pentateuch, a word meaning "five containers." The Pentateuch contains the Commandments and laws that help God's people live the Covenant.

The Historical Books

There are sixteen historical books. They tell about the struggle of the Israelites to live the Covenant faithfully.

The Wisdom Writings

There are seven wisdom writings. They teach practical ways to live God's Law.

The Prophetic Books

There are eighteen prophetic books in the Old Testament. These books contain the teachings of the prophets. The prophets were people God chose to speak in his name.

Jerome

Saint Jerome (343–420) translated the Bible into Latin. Jerome's translation became known as the Vulgate Bible and was the standard Bible for the Roman Catholic Church for hundreds of years. Saint Jerome is honored as one of the four great Doctors of the Western Church. His feast day is September 30.

The writers of the Bible told stories of God's people. You also have a faith story. Write a table of contents for your own faith story.

My Faith Story



The New Testament

Jesus is the new and everlasting Covenant. The New Testament reveals that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior and Redeemer of the world. Jesus most fully reveals, more than anyone else did or will ever do, God and his love for us. We divide the New Testament into four parts.

The Gospels

The four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the heart of the New Testament. Each Gospel shares, in its own way, the story and meaning of Jesus' life, Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

The Acts of the Apostles

The Acts of the Apostles is the story of how the Church began. It gives an account of the Apostles as they spread the good news of God's love and mercy revealed in Jesus Christ throughout the world.

The Letters

The twenty-one epistles, or letters, of Saint Paul the Apostle and other early Christian writers teach about Jesus and how Christians are to live.

The Book of Revelation

The Book of Revelation is the last book of the Bible. In it the Holy Spirit encourages Christians who are suffering to remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

*Design this emblem
with words and symbols
for Jesus Christ.*

Our Church Makes a Difference



Lectionary and Book of the Gospels

At Mass on Sunday the first two readings are read from the Lectionary. The deacon or priest proclaims the Gospel from the Book of the Gospels.

At every celebration of the Eucharist, we read the word of God aloud, or proclaim it. We carry the Book of the Gospels with dignity in the procession and proclaim the

word of God from a place of honor. That place is called the ambo. This shows the faith of the Church in God's presence in his word.

When we gather with other members of the Church or as a family to read and listen to the Bible, Jesus is there. We listen and ask, What is God saying to us right now? How can the living word of God come alive in our lives today?

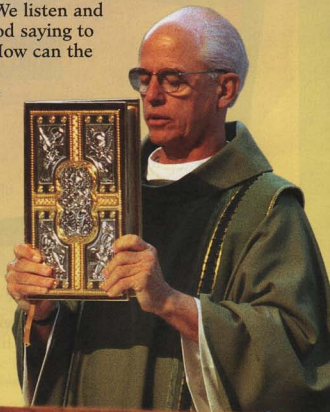
When does your family and parish listen to the word of God?

Reverence for the Bible

The whole Christian life is strengthened by hearing and listening attentively and reverently to the word of God. Saint Jerome reminded us of the importance of the Bible in the life of Christians. He wrote, "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."

Before the printing press was invented in the sixteenth century, scribes copied the Bible by hand. Artists painted pages of the Bible with colors and decorated the edges of the pages with gold. Today the Bible is the most widely read book in the world.

Many Christian families have a family Bible. In it they write down the key events of their family's faith story. They record Baptisms, marriages, and other important milestones in the faith history of the family.

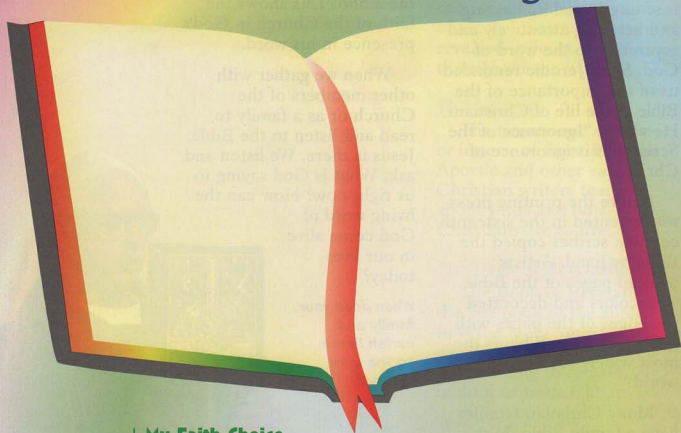


What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

As you listen to the word of God, the Holy Spirit helps you understand what God is saying to you. He gives you the knowledge and courage to put God's word into practice.

Look through your Bible. Take the time to become more familiar with the Old Testament and the New Testament. Select a passage, read it, and think about what God's word means for your life. Write your thoughts on these book pages.

God's Word Is Life-Giving



My Faith Choice



This week I will show that I believe it is important to listen to and live God's word. I will



We Pray



Your Word, Lord, Is a Light for My Path

Praying with the Bible is an important form of prayer of the Church. It is a form of meditation. We spend quiet time with God, reading and listening to his word and trying to understand how to live it.

1. Sit quietly. Close your eyes. Breathe slowly.
2. In your mind, picture yourself someplace where you can talk and listen to God.
3. Open your Bible and read a favorite passage.
4. Take time to talk and listen to God. Say, "Your word, Lord, is a light for my path" (based on Psalm 119:105).
5. After a few quiet moments, ask the Holy Spirit, "What is your word saying to me?" Write down any key words or phrases that you remember.
6. Make a faith decision to put God's word into action.

We Remember

Match the faith terms in the left column with the descriptions in the right column.

Terms

- _____ 1. inspiration
- _____ 2. Sacred Scripture
- _____ 3. Pentateuch
- _____ 4. Gospels
- _____ 5. canon of Scripture

Descriptions

- a. the first five books of the Old Testament
- b. the list of inspired books named by the Church and collected in the Bible
- c. the first four books of the New Testament
- d. the holy writings of God
- e. the help the Holy Spirit gave to the human writers of the Bible

To Help You Remember

1. The Bible is the inspired written word of God.
2. The Old Testament tells the story of God's Covenant with his people.
3. The New Testament reveals that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the new and everlasting Covenant.

This Week . . .

In chapter 2, "The Word of God," your child deepened his or her understanding of the Bible, or Sacred Scripture. The Bible contains the holy writings that the Holy Spirit inspired God's people to write. This list of writings named by the Church is called the canon of Scripture. The Old Testament tells the first part of the story of the Covenant that God made with people and his promise to send a messiah and savior. The New Testament tells about the fulfillment of God's promise and the new and everlasting Covenant that God made with all people in Jesus Christ.

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on Sacred Scripture, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraph numbers 50–133.

Sharing God's Word

Read together 1 Thessalonians 2:13 and 2 Timothy 3:16–17. Emphasize that the Bible is God's word to us.

Praying

In this chapter your child prayed a form of meditation called *lectio divina*. Read and pray together this prayer on page 27.

Making a Difference

Choose one of the following activities to do as a family or design a similar activity of your own.

- Talk with each other about how the Bible can help guide us. How is the Bible a light for our path?
- Choose a Bible story that you are familiar with. Find it in the Bible and read it together.
- Invite each person to share the name of a favorite person in the Bible. Share with each other the stories about these people.

For more ideas on ways your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at www.FaithFirst.com. Click on "Bible Stories" and discuss the Bible story with your child this week.



The Mystery of the Holy Trinity

3

We Pray

"Come," says my heart,
"seek God's face";
your face, LORD,
do I seek! PSALM 27:8

**Glory to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

*What is something in life
that is a mystery to you?*

Life has many mysteries.
A mystery of faith is
something we could not
know unless God revealed
it to us.

*What do you already know
about the mystery of who
God is?*

Celtic cross. The
unbroken circle reminds
us that God created us to
be happy with him forever.

One God in Three Divine Persons

Faith Focus

How did the Church come to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity?

Faith Vocabulary

Holy Trinity.

The central belief of the Christian faith; the mystery of one God in three divine Persons—God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

Annunciation.

The announcement to the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel that God had chosen her to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Trinity

Jesus told his disciples, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). The Church follows that command today.

Every time the Church baptizes a person, we name the mystery of who God is. We baptize in the name of the one God who is the **Holy Trinity**. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the deepest and central belief of the Christian faith. This is a truth about God we could have never known unless God revealed it.

The Old Testament

In the Old Testament we read the beginning of the story of God’s revelation of himself. This story is filled with people of faith.

God first revealed himself at creation to Adam and Eve. God made an everlasting covenant with Noah and with all living beings. Years later God came to Abraham and Sarah and revealed that he alone is God. Abraham came to believe in and trust in one God. His descendants, the Israelites, shared their faith in the one true God through many generations.

Check (✓) the ways you express faith in the Holy Trinity.



- ☐ Bless myself
- ☐ Pray the creeds of the Church
- ☐ Pray the Glory Prayer

☐ _____

(another way)



Council of Nicaea, 325. Cesare Nebbia (1534–1614), Italian painter.



The Nicene Creed

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, two early councils of the Church taught about this great mystery of the Holy Trinity. These were the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 and the Council of Constantinople in A.D. 381. The Nicene Creed, which we profess at Mass, comes from these two councils.

We can never fully understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity. When our life on earth is completed, we will live forever with God in heaven. We will see God in a way we have never seen or known him before.

Use each letter in the word TRINITY. Write a word that tells something about the Trinity. Use the words to summarize what the Catholic Church teaches about the Trinity.

T
R
I
N
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T
Y

Our Church Makes a Difference

Legend of Saint Augustine

Many Christians have tried to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity. You may remember reading about Saint Augustine in chapter 1. There is a famous legend about him and his efforts to learn more about God.

One day Augustine was walking on the beach. The vast ocean inspired him to think about God. As he was walking along, he met a young boy who was taking water from the sea with a small bucket. Augustine watched as the boy kept pouring the water, one bucket at a time, into a hole he had dug in the sand.

Augustine became very curious and asked, "Why do you keep pouring water into the hole?" The boy answered, "Isn't it plain to see? I'm putting this ocean in the hole."

Augustine began to laugh. "That's impossible," he told the boy. "The great sea is way too large for that small hole." With loving eyes, the boy looked up and said, "And God is too big for your little mind." Suddenly, the boy disappeared.

Little by little with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can come to know the mystery of God the Holy Trinity in whose image we have been created.

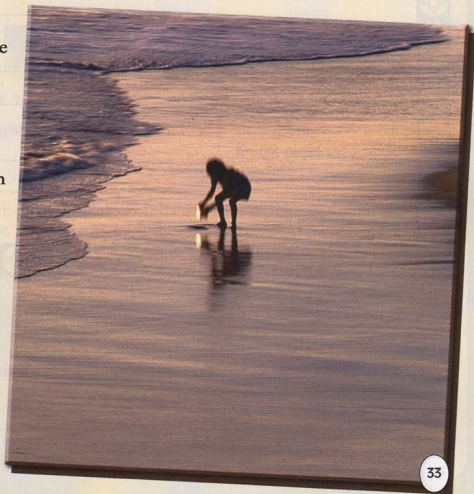
What lesson did Saint Augustine learn? How can that lesson help you come to grow in your faith in God?



Our Catholic Identity

Holy Water

Blessing ourselves with holy water and saying, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" is a sacramental of the Church. Each time we bless ourselves, we remember our Baptism and profess our faith in the Holy Trinity.



What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

You believe there is one God in three Persons, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Little by little the Holy Spirit helps you understand this wonderful mystery about God.

Many people have helped you grow in your knowledge and love of the Holy Trinity. In the space below write one way you show your love for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Mystery of God

God the Father _____
_____.

Jesus, the Son of God _____
_____.

The Holy Spirit _____
_____.

My Faith Choice



This week I will profess my faith in the Trinity.
I will _____
_____.

We Pray

Renewal of Faith

At Baptism we profess our faith in the Trinity. Each year at Easter the baptized renew the faith they professed at Baptism.

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I do.

We Remember

Circle whether each statement is true or false.

1. The Holy Spirit is the mystery of one God in three divine Persons.

True

False

2. The Gospel account of the Annunciation tells us about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

True

False

3. Jesus never spoke to his disciples about the Holy Spirit.

True

False

To Help You Remember

1. The Holy Trinity is the central belief of the faith of the Church.
2. The mystery of the Trinity was most fully revealed in Jesus Christ.
3. We profess our belief in the Holy Trinity when we pray the Nicene Creed at Mass.

This Week . . .

In chapter 3, "The Mystery of the Holy Trinity," your child learned more about the Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity is the mystery of one God in three Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The mystery of God the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith. It is a truth about God that we could never have known unless God revealed it. God revealed this mystery over a long period of time. We profess faith in the Trinity at Baptism. Each time we pray the Nicene Creed at Mass we renew and profess our faith in this great mystery.

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the mystery of the Holy Trinity, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraph numbers 232–260.



Sharing God's Word

Read together Matthew 28:16–20, the Gospel account of Jesus commissioning the disciples. Emphasize that we profess our faith in the Holy Trinity and remember our Baptism when we pray the Sign of the Cross.

Praying

In this chapter your child prayed a prayer renewing their baptismal promises. Read and pray together this prayer on page 35.

Making a Difference

Choose one of the following activities to do as a family or design a similar activity of your own.

- When we pray the Nicene Creed, we profess our faith in the Holy Trinity. Make Nicene Creed puzzles to help you memorize this important prayer of the Church. Write the Nicene Creed on a piece of paper. Cut the paper into small pieces. When you assemble the pieces, you will become more familiar with this creed.
- This week when your family takes part in Mass be sure to bless yourself with holy water as you enter and leave the church. Pray the Sign of the Cross and remember that you were baptized with water "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
- Talk about how your family is an image of the Holy Trinity. Name ways that your actions and words are signs of your love for one another.

For more ideas on ways your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at www.FaithFirst.com. This week pay special attention to "Questions Kids Ask."



Unit 1 Review

Name _____

A. Best Response

Read each statement and circle the best answer.

- In whom does God reveal himself most fully?
 - the prophets
 - the baptized
 - Jesus Christ
 - the Church
- Where in the Bible do you read about the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus?
 - Psalms
 - Gospels
 - Proverbs
 - Torah
- What is the central belief of the Christian faith?
 - Annunciation
 - Our Father
 - Holy Trinity
 - Ascension
- Which one of the following is not an attribute of God?
 - holy
 - powerless
 - truth
 - almighty
- What mystery of faith tells us Jesus is true God and true man?
 - Annunciation
 - Creation
 - Holy Trinity
 - Incarnation
- What are the most important events of Jesus' life?
 - the Paschal Mystery
 - the Last Supper
 - the Annunciation
 - Pentecost
- Which of the following is not an image of the Holy Spirit?
 - a rainbow
 - the breath of God
 - a mighty wind
 - a dove
- Who are not ordained ministers of the Church?
 - bishops
 - deacons
 - priests
 - lectors
- What are the four Marks of the Church?
 - one, holy, joyful, catholic
 - holy, faithful, catholic, apostolic
 - one, holy, catholic, apostolic
 - one, holy, diverse, catholic
- What is Mary's relationship to the Church?
 - Mother of God
 - Mother of the Church
 - Mother of Jesus
 - all of the above

B. Matching Words and Phrases

1. Use the terms in the word bank to finish these sentences from the Nicene Creed.

Father Son Holy Spirit Lord creator

- a. We believe in one God, the _____, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
- b. We believe in one _____, Jesus Christ, the only _____ of God.
- c. We believe in the _____, the Lord, the giver of life.
2. Match the faith terms in column A with their descriptions in column B.

Column A

- _____ 1. miracle
- _____ 2. Evangelists
- _____ 3. Sacred Tradition
- _____ 4. Church
- _____ 5. charisms

Column B

- a. teachings of Christ passed on by the Church
- b. graces given by the Holy Spirit to build up the Church on earth
- c. the new People of God, or the Body of Christ
- d. an action that goes beyond the laws of nature
- e. the writers of the four Gospels

C. What I Have Learned

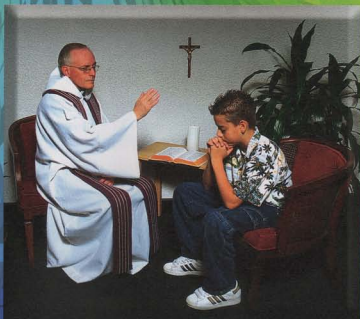
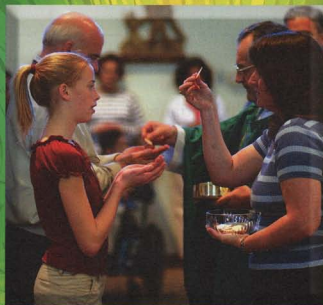
1. Write three things you learned in this unit. Share them with the group.

2. Look at the list of faith terms in "Words to Know" on page 12. Circle the terms you know now.

D. From a Scripture Story

The story of Jesus calming the storm at sea invites us to believe and trust in him. Write two more ideas that you learned from this Gospel story.

Unit 2 • We Worship



What works of the Church do these pictures show?

Getting Ready

What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these three faith terms?

The Eucharist

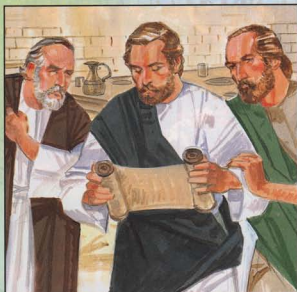
The Sacraments of Healing

The Christian vocation

Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about the Eucharist?

A Scripture Story



Christians reading a letter from Saint Paul the Apostle

Why did Saint Paul write letters to the Christians to whom he had preached the Gospel?

Words to Know

Put an X next to the faith terms you know. Put a ? next to the faith terms you need to know more about.

Faith Vocabulary

- _____ liturgy
- _____ Baptism
- _____ Confirmation
- _____ Pentecost
- _____ Eucharist
- _____ sacrifice
- _____ breaking of bread
- _____ epistle
- _____ Reconciliation
- _____ Anointing of the Sick