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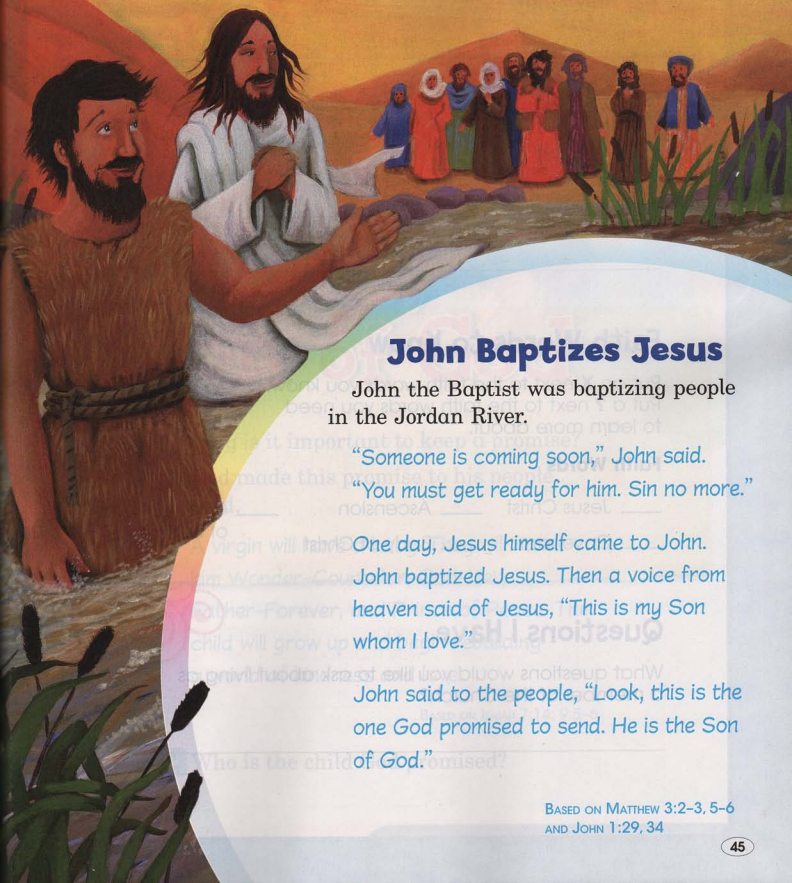
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## John Baptizes Jesus

John the Baptist was baptizing people in the Jordan River.

“Someone is coming soon,” John said.

“You must get ready for him. Sin no more.”

One day, Jesus himself came to John.

John baptized Jesus. Then a voice from heaven said of Jesus, “This is my Son whom I love.”

John said to the people, “Look, this is the one God promised to send. He is the Son of God.”

BASED ON MATTHEW 3:2-3, 5-6  
AND JOHN 1:29, 34



## What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these faith concepts?

### The Holy Spirit

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### The Church

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## Faith Words to Know

Put an **X** next to the faith words you know.  
Put a **?** next to the faith words you need to learn more about.

### Faith Words

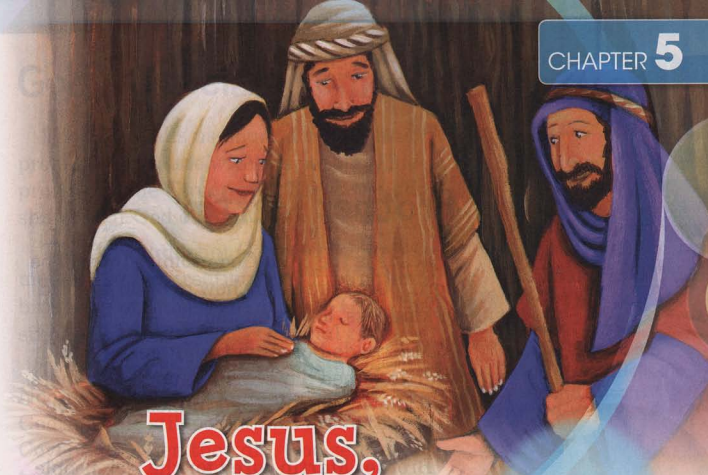
_____ Jesus Christ	_____ Ascension	_____ Communion of Saints
_____ Covenant	_____ Body of Christ	

## Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about living as a member of the Church?

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# Jesus, Son of God

? Why is it important to keep a promise?

God made this promise to his people.

He said,

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

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

? Who is the child God promised?



## Disciple Power

### Mercy

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



## The Church Follows Jesus

### Brother Martin

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

Martin de Porres did what Jesus asked. Martin joined a group of religious brothers and showed people the kindness and love of God.

Brother Martin cared for the sick people in Peru. He helped children who had no parents. He brought food and clothes to people in need.

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

### Activity

Write how the people in the pictures are building a world of mercy, kindness, and love. Write one more way that you could help.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# God's Special Promise

The Bible tells us about a very special promise God made with his people. This promise is the **Covenant**. The Covenant shows that God always loves people.

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

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

God then promised to send someone who would make God and people friends again. God kept his promise. He sent his Son, **Jesus Christ**.

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

**?** Why did God send his Son, Jesus?

## Faith Focus

How did Jesus show that God always loves people?

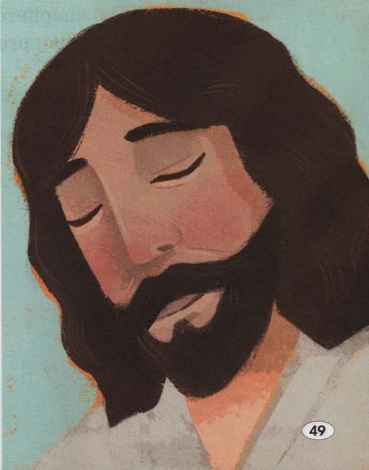
## Faith Vocabulary

### Covenant

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

### Jesus Christ

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



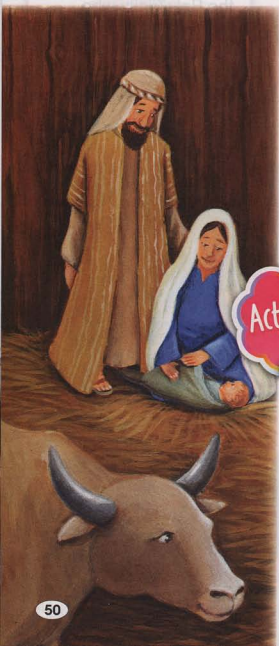




## Faith-Filled People

### The Blessed Virgin Mary

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



## The Birth of Jesus

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

**Narrator** Just before Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

**Action** *Joseph knocks and the innkeeper opens it.*

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

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

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

BASED ON LUKE 2:4-7

The Bible tells us that angels told shepherds about the birth of Jesus. The shepherds saw him and were filled with joy! They praised God for keeping his promise.

### Activity

Write the words of joy the shepherds might have said. Write your own words of joy. Give praise and thank God for sending Jesus.

### Shepherds' Words

### My Words

## God Cares for All People

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

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

Many people had followed Jesus all day long. As nighttime came, Jesus saw that the people were hungry. But there were only two fish and five loaves of bread to feed all the people. Jesus took the food, looked to heaven, and blessed the food. Then he gave the bread and the fish to his disciples and told them to give the food to the people. Everyone had enough to eat. There was even food left over.

BASED ON MATTHEW 14:13-20

**?** How did Jesus show that God is kind to people? How are you kind to your family and friends?

## Catholics Believe



### Works of Mercy

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



# I Follow Jesus

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

## Activity

### Signs of God's Love and Mercy

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



## My Faith Choice

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



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



## Chapter Review

Add letters to complete the words in the sentences.

1. M \_\_\_\_\_ is the mother of Jesus.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ s \_\_\_\_\_ is the Son of God.
3. Jesus showed us God's love and \_\_\_\_\_ r \_\_\_\_\_ y.

## The Angelus

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

**Leader**

The angel spoke God's message to Mary,

**Group 1**

and the Holy Spirit came upon her.

**All**

**Hail Mary...**

**Leader**

"I am the lowly servant of the Lord:

**Group 2**

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

**All**

**Hail Mary...**

**Leader**

And the Word became flesh

**Group 3**

and lived among us.

**All**

**Hail Mary...**

### TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

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





# With My Family

## This Week...

In chapter 5, "Jesus, Son of God," your child learned that:

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

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

## Sharing God's Word

**Read together** Luke 2:1–14, about Jesus' birth. Or read the play about the Nativity on page 50. Emphasize that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus' birth is one of the most important signs that God always keeps his promise to love us.

## We Live as Disciples

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

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

## Our Spiritual Journey

**Devotion to Mary** is a hallmark of Catholic living. Mary is an exemplar of holiness and hope, and a witness to faith. Include a devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, in the spiritual journey of your family. In this chapter, your child prayed part of the Angelus. This prayer was traditionally prayed three times a day. Read and pray together the prayer on page 53.



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

[www.BeMyDisciples.com](http://www.BeMyDisciples.com)