

# Contents

Program Overview ..... iv

Opening Prayer and Music Lyrics ..... xix

## CHAPTER 1

God Calls Us Friends ..... 1a–10z

## CHAPTER 2

Jesus Saves Us ..... 11a–20z

## CHAPTER 3

Jesus Forgives Us ..... 21a–30z

## CHAPTER 4

Jesus Heals Us ..... 31a–40z

## CHAPTER 5

The Holy Spirit Guides Us ..... 41a–50z

## CHAPTER 6

God Is Always with Us ..... 51a–60z

I Live My Faith ..... 61

I Know These Words ..... 69

Catechist Handbook ..... 71

CD Scripts ..... 77

Blackline Masters ..... 85

Answer Key ..... 101

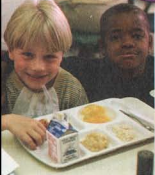
Index ..... 106

Acknowledgments ..... 110



## 2

# Jesus Saves Us



## FAITH FOCUS

God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

## 3-Minute Retreat

As you begin, pause for a few moments. Relax. Take several deep breaths and grow still. Be aware of God's loving presence.

### Matthew 1:20–21

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

### Reflection

Imagine Joseph as he is receiving this message in a dream. After hearing that Mary is with child, he is personally devastated. The Scriptures tell us that he was a fair man and would not act in a way that would embarrass Mary. Then in the midst of his troubles, he hears these words of salvation. Jesus is coming to save us from our sins. We can find it difficult to forgive ourselves for some of our actions. The good news Joseph received is for our sake. Jesus has come to forgive us and to save us. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we celebrate his forgiveness and saving love.

### Questions

Am I open to hear the word of God's saving grace in Jesus? What steps can I take to celebrate God's forgiveness in my own life?

### Prayer

*Loving God, help me to know that in the midst of all difficulties, I can rely on your forgiving presence in my life.*

## Catechist Background

### New Life in Jesus

Scripture reveals Joseph as a man who lived in faithfulness to God and cooperated in God's plan of salvation. Joseph learned in a dream that Mary's child was from the Holy Spirit. She would bear a son, who would save people from sin.

Jesus entered his ministry based on the foundation of love he experienced in his family. He proclaimed that God is the Father of us all. He called all to become members of his kingdom and to act in service to the world. In response to his efforts, Jesus was arrested and crucified. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, he was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. From there, the Holy Spirit was sent to bring new life to all (John 20:19–23).

We enter into this new life in the Sacraments of Initiation. In Baptism, we receive forgiveness of sins and new life in Christ. In Confirmation, we are strengthened through the outpouring of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, we celebrate Jesus Christ's real presence.

Mary and Joseph received the child Jesus in faith and made possible his earthly ministry. We receive Jesus in faith so that his ministry can be continued in he world.

### Celebrating Our Faith in Liturgy

In the Sacrament of Baptism, we receive the saving grace that Christ has won for us. We are marked with the Sign of the Cross, the sign of our salvation. It is also a sign of our belonging to the Church. It marks us as children of God. When we turn away from the dignity given to us through Christ, God welcomes us to return to his friendship in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament, the Sign of the Cross is a sign of God's welcome and of the grace of forgiveness granted to us.

### Scripture in This Chapter

Joseph learns from an angel that Mary's child will save people from sin in Matthew 1:18–21. Jesus promises to be with us until the end of the age in Matthew 28:18–20.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

The fulfillment of God's promise of salvation in Jesus is described in CCC 73, 452, and 620–621. The Gift of the Holy Spirit is addressed in CCC 747, 852, and 1112. Sacraments and the Sacraments of Initiation are discussed in CCC 804, 1275–1279, 1316, and 1407.

## Catechist Preparation

### Before You Begin

- Review the content and activities in this chapter and the additional features provided for your background.
- Decide if you will use any of the Choices or Review activities on pages 20x–z.
- Gather the necessary materials.
- Prepare the CD player for the opening song and for the ritual for moving to and from the Prayer Center.
- Remove from each child's book the Chapter 2 Scripture story stickers, or allow time during the session for the children to remove them.
- Hide the Catechist Guide as indicated on page 11.
- Set up a portion of your room for the Respond step as described on page 20.
- Decide whether you will use Learning Reinforcement BLM N, which covers Chapters 1–2.

### Prayer in This Session

- Prepare a portion of your meeting space as a Prayer Center as indicated on page 73. You may wish to include a cross or crucifix.
- Review the directions on page 73 for leading the prayer experience using a Recorded Guided Reflection.
- See the suggestions on page 18 if you choose to lead the Guided Reflection yourself.
- Review the ritual for guiding the children to and from the Prayer Center (page 73).

### Music in This Session

- Opening Song: *Make Us One*, Track 1 on the CD.
- Music for the procession to [Peace Walk, Track 2] and from [We Go Forth, Track 3] the Prayer Center.
- Reflective Music can be found on CD Track 4. Make use of this music if you lead the Guided Reflection yourself.







### Program Components

Throughout this session, reference *My Own Reconciliation Booklet* and incorporate activities and ideas found at <http://GodsGift.LoyolaPress.com>. Also be sure to encourage the children to explore with their families *Together: Preparing at Home for First Reconciliation*. Coordinate with your Program Director on ways to incorporate the *Come and See DVD*.



# Chapter 2 Jesus Saves Us

## Focus: God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

Chapter Step	Outcomes <small>At the end of this chapter, the children will be able to</small>	Action Plan	Materials	Choices & Review Activities	
<b>ENGAGE</b>  5 minutes Child's page 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify experiences of needing help</li> <li>name the focus of this session</li> </ul>	Opening Song <b>Focus:</b> Saved Again! Opening Prayer	Catechist guide, hidden CD player <b>CD Track 1:</b> <i>Make Us One</i>		
<b>EXPLORE</b>  10 minutes Child's pages 12–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tell the story of Joseph's dream</li> <li>explain that Jesus is the Savior promised by God</li> </ul>	<b>Scripture story:</b> <i>Jesus, Our Savior</i> Sticker activity	Bible Stickers	Jesus Shows Us God's Love, page 20x	
	 10 minutes Child's pages 14–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe Jesus as present with us in the sacraments</li> <li>discuss the importance of Baptism</li> <li>write a prayer of thanksgiving</li> <li>define <i>Baptism</i></li> </ul>	<b>Discussion:</b> Welcomed into God's Family <b>Activity:</b> An Email to God	Bible Pencils	The Sign of the Cross, page 20x
	 10 minutes Child's pages 16–17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe the sacraments as helps we are given for the life of faith</li> <li>identify the Sacraments of Initiation</li> <li>explain that God forgives our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation</li> <li>define <i>Confirmation, Eucharist, sin, Reconciliation, Sacraments of Initiation</i></li> </ul>	<b>Discussion:</b> Friends with God <b>Activity:</b> On My Way	Drawing materials	Sacraments of Initiation, page 20y; The Act of Contrition, page 20y
<b>REFLECT</b>  10 minutes Child's pages 18–19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reflect prayerfully on the Sign of the Cross</li> </ul>	<b>Prayer:</b> A Welcoming Sign	<b>Prayer Center items:</b> cloth, Bible, cross or crucifix CD player <b>CD Tracks 2, 3:</b> <i>Peace Walk and We Go Forth</i> <b>CD Track 8:</b> <i>A Welcoming Sign</i> (Recorded Guided Reflection)		
<b>RESPOND</b>  5 minutes Child's page 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify the Sacrament of Reconciliation as making things right again with God</li> </ul>	<b>Connection to life:</b> <i>I Live What I Learn</i> Closing Prayer	An area of the room, prepared in advance as described on page 20	Review Activities, page 20z	

### Family Connection

Together: *Preparing at Home for First Reconciliation* reminds us that the sacraments, like family traditions, help us to know who we are and to whom we belong.


## 2

# Jesus Saves Us

## Saved Again!

Sometimes you forget what to do for homework and have to call a friend for help. Or maybe you forget your lunch or lunch money and have to ask your classmates to share with you.

Have any of these things ever happened to you? How did you feel when someone came to your rescue?



*Jesus, our Savior, help me to remember that you are always ready to help me.*

11

## Saved Again!

### Introduce

Before the children arrive, hide your Catechist Guide where they will be able to find it. When you are ready to begin, ask the group for their help in searching for your Catechist Guide. Show your appreciation after they have found it.

**Say:** Thank you. You really helped me. I would have had a difficult time without my book.

### Build Background

Have the children open their books to page 11. Ask volunteers to take turns reading aloud the text. Encourage the children to respond to the questions.

**Say:** It feels good when someone helps us just like you helped me. God sent someone special to help all of us. Today we'll learn more about our Savior.

### Pray

Direct the children's attention to the prayer.

**Say:** Let's prepare to pray. Fold your hands, and take some quiet time to remember how much Jesus loves you.

Invite the children to pray the prayer aloud together. Pause for a few seconds and close by praying **Amen**.

## Take Note

**Play the opening song.** *Make Us One*, Track 1 on the CD. As the children become familiar with the words, invite them to sing along.

**When you prepare your Prayer Center,** add a cross or crucifix to the prayer table.


## Jesus, Our Savior

### Introduce

**Say:** We talked about God's promise to send a Savior, and that God chose Mary to be the Savior's Mother. Today we'll learn about another person who was an important part of God's plan.

### Present

**Say:** God told Joseph in a dream about Mary's baby. This story is in the Bible, in the Gospel according to Matthew.

 Lift the Bible from its place in the Prayer Center and open it to Matthew 1:18–21. Raise the Bible for the children to see and set it back in place, open to the passage.

**Say:** Let's read about Joseph's dream and what happened next.

Ask volunteers to read aloud the text on pages 12–13.

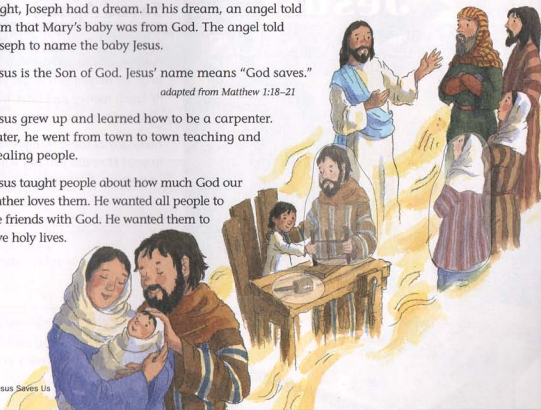
## Jesus, Our Savior

Like Mary, Joseph knew of God's promise to save us. One night, Joseph had a dream. In his dream, an angel told him that Mary's baby was from God. The angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus.

Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus' name means "God saves."  
*adapted from Matthew 1:18–21*

Jesus grew up and learned how to be a carpenter. Later, he went from town to town teaching and healing people.

Jesus taught people about how much God our Father loves them. He wanted all people to be friends with God. He wanted them to live holy lives.



12

Chapter 2 Jesus Saves Us

## Take Note

**For extra review practice,** invite volunteers to "teach the class." Have them lead a brief review of Chapter 1 at the beginning of your time together using page 10 in their books.

**The illustrations on these pages** give an overview of the fulfillment of Salvation History. They show that Jesus saved us through his life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension into heaven.

But because of original sin, people still turned away from God. They did not like what Jesus was teaching. They had him arrested.

Jesus suffered and died, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven to save us from sin. He offered his life so we could be reconciled with God our Father. He offered his life because he loves us.



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13

## Take Note

### Stories about Jesus

may be more familiar to some children than to others. Invite the children to tell what they know about Jesus as they add stickers to the illustration.

## Understanding This Scripture

The Gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke each approach the story of the birth of Jesus in a distinct way. Luke tells the story from Mary's perspective. Matthew tells the story as revealed to Joseph.

Joseph was disturbed when he heard that Mary, his betrothed, was to have a child. But he was a just man and did not want Mary to be treated as an outcast. Joseph had decided to send her quietly away. Then in a dream, Joseph learned that Mary's child was from the Holy Spirit. Joseph was told to give the child the name Jesus, a name that means "God saves." In Jesus, God's promise of salvation is fulfilled.

### Check for Understanding

Use these questions or your own to review with the children.

- What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's baby? (*Jesus*)
- Why is this a good name? (*It means "God saves." Jesus is our Savior.*)
- Why did people still turn away from God? (*because of original sin*)

### Do the Sticker Activity

Distribute this chapter's stickers, or help the children remove them from their books. Lead the children in completing the Scripture illustration with the stickers, as indicated by the outlined spaces.

Note that extra stickers are often provided. The extra stickers can be applied to the Scripture story illustration, or they can be used in other activities. See page 75 for additional ideas.

Divide the group into pairs. Ask each pair to name one thing that Jesus did to show his love. (Responses may include *healed people who were sick; forgave sinners; taught people about God's love; died on the cross*, and other reasonable answers.)

### Connect to Everyday Life

**Say:** In all his actions and words, Jesus showed us how much God loves us. Jesus offered his life to save us from original sin and to make us once again friends with God. That's why we call him our Savior.

Explain that sometimes to help a person we must give up something important to us.

**Say:** To help a friend who forgets his or her lunch, we might give up some of our own lunch. What are other times we might give something up to help others? (*Accept all reasonable responses.*)

Explain that we give what we have out of love for others.

- To further reinforce these concepts, see Choices, page 20x.

## Welcomed into God's Family

### Make a Bridge

Talk about family and friends who live far away.

**Ask:** What are some things we do to stay close to them?  
(visits, phone calls, letters, e-mail)

### Present

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph on page 14.

**Say:** Jesus returned to heaven to be with the Father, but he gave us the sacraments so that he could remain with us.

Tell the children to read the second paragraph silently and to highlight or underline what happens when we're baptized. Then have volunteers share their answers.

Explain that at Baptism, the Sign of the Cross is traced on our forehead. Remind the children that we still pray the Sign of the Cross when we bless ourselves.

Have a volunteer demonstrate to the group the gestures and words for the Sign of the Cross. Then have the rest of the group practice it several times.

**Say:** Whenever we pray the Sign of the Cross, we remember our Baptism.

### 1 Listen to God's Word

Gesture toward the Bible enthroned at the Prayer Center.

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the feature on page 14.

**Say:** The Catholic Church baptizes today to continue what Jesus told his disciples to do.

## Welcomed into God's Family

Jesus Christ lives in heaven with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave us the sacraments in order to be with us today. He gives us his grace, especially in the sacraments.

The grace of Jesus Christ comes to us in **Baptism**. When we are baptized, we receive the Holy Spirit. Baptism frees us from original sin and all personal sin. We are welcomed into God's special family, the Catholic Church. We become children of God.



### 1 Listen to God's Word

*Jesus told the disciples to baptize people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

adapted from Matthew 28:18-20



14

Chapter 2 Jesus Saves Us

## Take Note

**If** some children have memories of a Baptism, whether it be their own (if they were baptized at an older age) or that of a younger family member, **then** invite these children to describe what they remember about the celebration of the sacrament.

**Prayerfully demonstrate** how the cross is traced on the forehead during Baptism.

### Word to Know

Check the children's understanding of this word. Refer them to the glossary definition as needed.

### Baptism



## An E-mail to God

Write a message to God. Thank him for all the good things he does for you.

Don't forget to thank God for puppies.



From: \_\_\_\_\_

To: God

Subject: Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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God's Gift Reconciliation

15

## An E-mail to God

### Do the Activity

**Say:** When we were baptized, we were welcomed by God as members of his family. Our Baptism was a celebration of God's love for us. Let's thank him for welcoming us and for all the wonderful things that he does for us.

Have a volunteer read the activity directions on page 15. If needed, help the children work the activity. When everyone has finished, have volunteers share their responses.

### Check for Understanding

Use these questions or those of your own to check the children's understanding.

- Why did Jesus give us the sacraments? *(to be with us)*
- What is the first sacrament that gives us God's grace? *(Baptism)*
- What does Baptism do? *(frees us from original sin, makes us members of the Church, makes us children of God)*

■ To further reinforce these concepts, see Choices, page 20x.

## What We Know in Faith

Jesus saved us through his life, suffering, death, Resurrection, and Ascension and calls us to live in union with him. He sent the Holy Spirit to create the Church to proclaim salvation through Jesus.

The sacraments are the means by which the grace won by Christ is made available to us. Our life in Christ begins in the Sacrament of Baptism when we receive the grace that frees us from original sin and makes us members of the Church.

## Take Note

If time allows, then brainstorm with the children some of the wonderful things God does for them. You might want to write on the board words the children may have difficulty spelling.

## Friends with God

### Make a Bridge

**Say:** When we go on a trip, we often pack things that will help us along the way. Let's play a game naming things that we might pack for a trip.

Have each child name an item that would be helpful on a trip, after first repeating the items already named. Continue playing until everyone has had a turn.

### Present

**Say:** Our Baptism is the first step of a journey called our life of faith. At Baptism, we received the gift of grace to help us on our journey.

Have volunteers take turns reading aloud the text on page 16.

**Say:** God continues to help us all along our journey. He gives us his grace and help in each of the sacraments.

Discuss with the children the symbols of the sacraments shown on the page.

Have a volunteer copy the title *Act of Contrition* on the board and underline the word *contrition*. Explain to the children that it means "apology" or "sorrow." Guide them to find the word *contrition* in the glossary and to read its definition. Tell them that they will learn this prayer as part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### I Think About This

Read aloud the feature on page 16. Discuss the meaning of initiation. (accepting or welcoming a member of a group)

**Say:** We're full members of the Church after we have celebrated all three sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

### I Think About This

Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are **Sacraments of Initiation**. They make us full members of the Church.



16

Chapter 2 Jesus Saves Us

## Friends with God

As we grow, God continues to help us with his grace. He gives us help in the sacraments.

During the Sacrament of **Confirmation**, we are anointed with oil. Confirmation makes us stronger in our faith. It gives us the strength to be followers of Jesus.

Jesus gives us the gift of his Body and Blood in the **Eucharist**. Receiving Holy Communion helps us stay close to him and grow in holiness.

Sometimes we **sin** and turn away from God. We celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of **Reconciliation**.

What is one way I can tell God I'm sorry when I sin? I can pray the Act of Contrition.

## What We Know in Faith

Jesus gained salvation for us, and in Baptism, we receive the grace we need to be saved. But the journey is not over. We still suffer from the effects of original sin, have a tendency to turn away from God, separate ourselves from others, and need God's help along the way. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are strengthened by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Eucharist sustains us in our journey as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ as our food. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we find the grace that forgives our sins and restores us to friendship with God.

### Words to Know

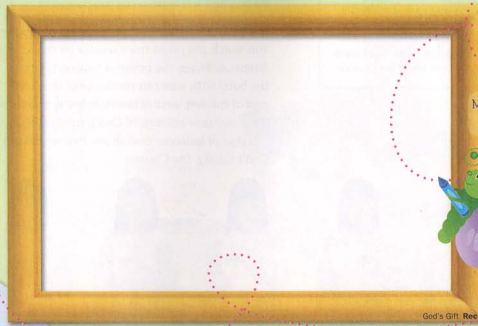
Check the children's understanding of these words. Refer them to the glossary definitions as needed.

**Confirmation**  
**Eucharist**  
**sin**  
**Reconciliation**  
**Sacraments of Initiation**

## On My Way

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

I will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this year.  
This is a picture of my family. They will help me prepare for the sacrament.



God's Gift, Reconciliation

17

## Take Note

If you have not begun teaching the children the Act of Contrition to prepare them for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, **then** this is a good time to start. (Refer to the prayer in the I Live My Faith section.) Encourage the children to ask their families to help them learn the prayer as well.

## On My Way

### Do the Activity

**Say:** Your first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important event for your whole family. They will help and encourage you as you continue to learn about the sacrament.

Have a volunteer read aloud page 17. Tell the children to write their name on the line and to draw their families in the picture frame. When everyone has finished, invite volunteers to share their drawings and to explain how the people in the drawing will help them to prepare.

Talk with the children about additional ways their families can help in their preparation. (*Pray for them, review what they're learning, read the student book with them, help them learn the Act of Contrition.*)

### Check for Understanding

Use these questions or those of your own to check the children's understanding.

- How does God continue to help us with his grace? (*through the sacraments*)
- Who besides your family can help you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation? (*a catechist, priest or deacon, godparents, grandparents*)

■ To further reinforce these concepts, see Choices, page 20y.

## A Welcoming Sign: A Recorded Guided Reflection

### Prepare for Prayer

Have the children open their books to page 18 and identify the pictures. (a child praying the Sign of the Cross, babies prepared for Baptism)

### The Sign of the Cross

Introduce the prayer by reading aloud this paragraph. Review how to be reverent when praying the Sign of the Cross.

**Say:** In our prayer today, we will use our imagination as we reflect on the Sign of the Cross, the sign of welcome we received at our Baptism. Then we will sit quietly with God in prayer.

### Gathering for Prayer

Review with the children the steps for how the group will proceed to the Prayer Center. [See page 73.] Play *Peace Walk* on Track 2 of the CD as they process to the Prayer Center following the ritual. Note that the children will not need their books.

### Lead the Prayer

When the children are settled and quiet, play the Recorded Guided Reflection, *A Welcoming Sign* on CD Track 8.

As you play the Recorded Guided Reflection, it is important that you pray along with the children. Your attitude and posture will model for them how to act and respond during reflective prayer.

### The Sign of the Cross

We were welcomed into God's family at our Baptism. The priest traced a cross on our forehead. When we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest welcomes us in God's name. Then we make the Sign of the Cross together. It reminds us that we are followers of Jesus and members of the Church.

## A Welcoming Sign

**Prayer Leader:** We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross. We remember that we belong to God's family, the Church.

Be still and talk with Jesus in your heart.

Imagine that you are at the Baptism of a baby. You watch the priest trace a cross on the baby's forehead. When the priest or deacon baptizes the baby with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, you know this baby now belongs to God's family. The cross is a sign of welcome and shows that we belong to God's family, the Church.



18

## Take Note

**If** you choose to lead the reflection yourself, **then** follow the script provided on page 80 of your Catechist Guide. Listen to the Recorded Guided Reflection in advance to help you set the tone and pace for this prayer. Playing reflective music softly in the background as you lead the reflection enhances the sense of prayerfulness. Music can be found on CD Track 4.

**If** you choose to use the prayer on pages 18–19 for your prayer time, **then** invite the children to sit in a comfortable position. Ask them to close their eyes if they wish. Establish a rhythm by silently counting to three while breathing in and out. This will help the children focus and become still.

Lead the prayer slowly, allowing time for reflection after each paragraph. Pause briefly before praying the closing blessing.

You want to offer a welcome to this baby too. Come close. What welcoming message would you like to share?

Ask Jesus to bless this baby and all who are baptized in his name. Be still with Jesus, and let him speak to your heart, friend to friend.

May the God who created you and welcomed you into his family be in your mind and heart, now and forever. We ask this . . .

**All:** . . . in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



### When I Pray

*I don't always need to use words.  
God knows what is in my heart.*



19

## Take Note

**Most children respond well** to the invitation to pray quietly; others, however, may have difficulty remaining still for extended periods of time. Encourage the children to be respectful of one another as they learn to pray and reflect.

## Background for Prayer

At our Baptism, the Sign of the Cross was traced on our foreheads. With this sign, we were welcomed into the Church and claimed for Christ Jesus. In the waters of Baptism, we died and rose again with Christ, becoming members of God's family. Throughout our lives, we continue to pray the Sign of the Cross and remember that we are called to live always in God's friendship.

### Bridge to Closure

Review with the children the steps for how the group should return to their seats. [See page 73.] Then play *We Go Forth*, Track 3 on the CD, and invite the children to return to their places following this ritual.

### When I Pray



Ask a volunteer to read aloud the feature on page 19.

**Say:** When we pray, we often use words. But sometimes we just sit quietly with God. That's prayer too.

**I Remember What I Learn**

Present this section and, as time permits, do the review activity on page 20z.

**I Know These Words**

Confirm the children's understanding of these words. As time permits, do the word review activity on page 20z.

**I Live What I Learn**

In advance, prepare an area of the room to look messy and disorganized. Then tell the children that many things are out of place and that you need their help to make things right again. Have the children work together to identify the things that are out of place and to restore order.

**Ask: What have we just done? (*made things right again*)**

Explain that this is what Jesus did for us when he died. And this is what Jesus continues to do for us in the sacraments. We are children of God. When we turn away from God, Jesus helps us to make things right again. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are able to be friends with God again.

Have a volunteer read aloud *I Live What I Learn* on page 20.

**Say:** Praying the Sign of the Cross reminds us that God wants us to be his friends.

**I Share with My Family**

Encourage the children to share with their families how God helps them.

**Closing Prayer**

Conclude the chapter by praying together the prayer on page 20.

Visit <http://GodsGift.LoyolaPress.com> for more ideas and information.

**Living My Faith****I Remember What I Learn**

- The name *Jesus* means "God saves."
- I received new life in the Sacrament of Baptism.
- I am strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- I am nourished in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
- I am reconciled with God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**I Live What I Learn**

I live as a child of God.

I follow Jesus.

I pray the Sign of the Cross.



What does the name Jesus mean?

**I Share with My Family**

We place our trust and hope in God. Ask your family members to share ways that God helps each of them.

**I Know These Words**

Baptism	Reconciliation
Confirmation	Sacraments of Initiation
Eucharist	sin

**Closing Prayer**

*Loving God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Help me to stay close to him.*

**Chapter Summary**

At the end of this chapter, the children will have learned the following about their faith:

- Jesus is the Savior whom God sent to free us from original sin.
- In the sacraments, Jesus is present to us.
- We are reconciled with God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Chapter Checkpoint**

- Do the children give evidence that they recognize Jesus as the promised Savior?
- Can the children name the three Sacraments of Initiation?
- Can the children identify the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the sacrament in which we are reconciled with God after we have sinned?

## Choices

### Jesus Shows Us God's Love

**Time** 20 minutes

**Relates to** pages 12–13

**Outcome** Identify specific ways that Jesus shows God's love

**Materials** chalkboard and chalk or chart paper and markers

**Directions** Have the children refer to pages 12–13 as you ask the following questions:

**Ask:** What does the name Jesus mean? (*"God saves."*) Why is this a good name for Jesus? (*He is the Savior God sent to save us from original sin.*)

**Ask:** What are some things that Jesus did to show God's love? (*healed people, forgave sins, taught people how to live in God's love, offered his life for us*)

Write the word SAVIOR on the board or chart paper as shown in the example below. Work with the children to prepare an acrostic naming ways that Jesus showed us God's saving love.

healed the Sick

Announced Good News

forgaVe sinners

Invited all to love God

Offered his life for us on the cross

Rose from the dead

### The Sign of the Cross

**Time** 15 minutes

**Relates to** page 14

**Outcome** explain the significance of the Sign of the Cross and make a cross for home

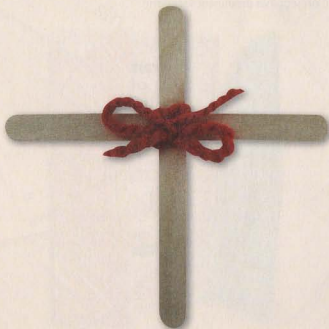
**Materials** two craft sticks per child; yarn; optional: clay, magnet

**Directions** Ask a volunteer to read aloud the feature box on page 14.

**Say:** These words are from Scripture. They recall a prayer that we pray. What is it? (*the Sign of the Cross*)

**Say:** When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we remember our Baptism and the grace we received. The Sign of the Cross helps us to remember that Jesus freed us from original sin and wants us to live holy lives.

Tell the children that they will make wooden crosses to help them remember this prayer and its importance. Demonstrate by wrapping yarn around two craft sticks. You may wish to give each child a small piece of clay to hold the sticks together as the yarn is wrapped. Glue a small magnet to the back of the cross so that it can be easily displayed at home.



## Sacraments of Initiation

**Time** 15 minutes

**Relates to** page 16

**Outcome** review the Sacraments of Initiation and their symbols

**Materials** BLM B *Sacraments of Initiation*; scissors; crayons or markers

**Directions** Review page 16 and read aloud the feature. Remind the children that God gives us help in the sacraments and that the three Sacraments of Initiation make us full members of the Church. Ask the following questions:

- What do we call the first sacrament that we receive? (*Baptism*) What happens at Baptism? (*We are freed from original sin and all personal sin; we receive God's grace; we become members of the Catholic Church.*)
- In what sacrament are we anointed with oil? (*Confirmation*) What happens at Confirmation? (*We become strong in our faith and strong followers of Christ.*)
- Soon you will prepare for another Sacrament of Initiation. In this sacrament, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. What sacrament is this? (*the Eucharist*)

Distribute BLM B. Review with the children the symbols for each of the Sacraments of Initiation. Have them color the symbols, cut along the dotted lines, and fold along the solid lines. Show them how the sides fold together to make doors. Invite the children to decorate them like doors to a church. Display the finished project in a prominent location.



## The Act of Contrition

**Time** 10 minutes

**Relates to** *I Live My Faith*, Catechist Guide page 68

**Outcome** learn about the Act of Contrition

**Materials** none

**Directions** Discuss with the children how we can make things right again after we hurt someone with what we say or do. (*ask for forgiveness; say "I'm sorry"*)

Tell the children that a special prayer, the Act of Contrition, is prayed during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Explain that it tells God we're sorry.

Have the children turn to page 74. Ask volunteers to take turns reading aloud each line of the long form of the Act of Contrition.

**Ask:** Which words tell God how we feel about hurting our friendship with him? (*"I am sorry for my sins"*) Which words tell God how we will try to do better? (*"I firmly intend . . . to do penance . . . to sin no more . . . to avoid whatever leads me to sin"*) Who will help us do better? (*God*) In whose name do we ask for forgiveness? (*in Jesus' name*)

**Say:** We pray the Act of Contrition when we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can also pray it at the end of each day. Pray it often as you prepare for First Reconciliation, and learn the words by heart.

Have the children stand and pray the Act of Contrition together.



## Review Activities

### Reach the Top

**Time** 10 minutes

**Relates to** *I Remember What I Learn*

**Outcome** recall facts learned in this chapter

**Materials** chalkboard and chalk or flip chart and markers; questions based on *I Remember What I Learn*

**Directions** Draw a hill with a cross at the top. Write the numbers 1 through 6 up one side of the hill, with 1 at the bottom and 6 next to the cross.

**Say:** We'll work together to try to reach the top of the hill. Each time a correct answer is given, we'll draw a line from one number to the next and get closer to the top.

Ask a question. If the correct answer is given, allow that child to draw a line from number 1 to number 2. If an incorrect answer is given, encourage that child to work with the rest of the group to find the correct answer.

Use the following questions, based on the statements in *I Remember What I Learn*.

1. What does the name Jesus mean? ("**God saves**")
2. Which sacrament welcomes us into God's family? (**Baptism**)
3. Which sacrament gives us strength? (**Confirmation**)
4. In which sacrament do we receive the Body and Blood of Christ?  
(**the Eucharist**)
5. Which sacrament restores our friendship with God? (**Reconciliation**)

Continue until all the questions have been answered. When the top of the hill has been reached, congratulate all of the children on how much they have learned.

### Pick a Card

**Time** 5 minutes

**Relates to** *I Know These Words*

**Outcome** review terms learned in this chapter

**Materials** BLM K

**Directions** Photocopy and cut out the vocabulary cards for this chapter, which are shown on BLM K. You may also wish to include previously learned terms. Shuffle the cards. Have a volunteer choose a card from the pile and read the word aloud. Then ask a second volunteer to tell what the term means. Finally, have a third volunteer use the word in a sentence.

Congratulate the children when all the words have been defined and used correctly in a sentence.

