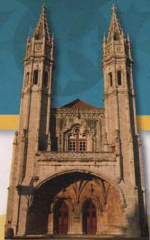


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God Is Great and Good

*For the LORD is the great God, the great king over all gods,
Whose hand holds the depths of the earth;
who owns the tops of the mountains.
The sea and dry land belong to God, who made them,
formed them by hand.*

Psalm 95:3–5

A Letter Home

Dear Parents and Family,

Getting to know God is a lifelong adventure. So much about him is revealed in Scripture, in our Catholic tradition, and in the life stories of saints. In Unit 2, the children will study the basic truths of our faith in the Apostles' Creed. They will learn some of the characteristics of God, then discuss how to respond to him with love and respect.

The children will meet God as Creator, and they are encouraged to trust his will. They will hear Old Testament accounts of God's relationship with his people whom he created and the saving deeds he performed for them. The lessons establish the connection between God as visible in creation, then as perfectly revealed in the teachings and saving deeds of Jesus, which are articulated in the New Testament.

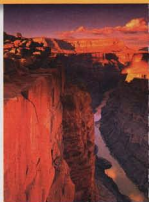
In Chapter 6, "We Believe in God," the children will learn the Apostles' Creed and the central mysteries of our faith. You might add the Apostles' Creed to your own family prayers. You can find it on the inside front cover of your child's book. You can also find it under Catholic Tradition within the Resources section at www.ChristOurLife.org.

Trust in God is encouraged in the story of his promise to Moses and the Israelites. The children learn the wisdom of relying on God, who is both powerful and loving. They also come to know God as holy, great, all-knowing, and all-present. They will grow in reverence for him and his name as they review the Second Commandment. (You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.)

The unit concludes with an examination of justice and mercy, both characteristics of God's everlasting love for us. The children will learn that God shares with us today the same justice and mercy that he granted the Israelites so long ago. They will also discover examples from Jesus and the saints. If you use the words *justice* and *mercy* to identify these concepts when they are lived out in your family, you will help make them real for your child.

At the end of each chapter in this unit, the children will bring home a review of the chapter along with the Building Family Faith feature. This feature gives you a quick review of what your child has learned and offers practical ways to reinforce the lesson at home so that the whole family may benefit. At the end of the unit, the children will bring home the Family Feature handout to help nurture the family's faith at home.

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





We Believe in God

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from
the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

We Profess Our Faith in the Creed

At each Sunday Eucharist the priest invites us to profess, or declare, our faith. We, as people of God, stand and pray the Creed.

The form of the Creed that we pray at Mass is called the Nicene Creed. Another form is the **Apostles' Creed**.

A **creed** tells what we believe as Catholics. By praying the Creed, we profess our belief in the great mysteries of our faith.



Mysteries of Our Faith

A **mystery** is a religious truth we cannot completely understand with our minds. With God's help we can begin to understand it with our hearts.

Everything that we believe, say, and do as Catholics comes from these great mysteries.

Complete the missing words to tell the main truths God has revealed.

1. God is the F _ _ _ _ _ , who created all things.
2. God is the S _ _ _ , who redeemed us by his death and Resurrection.
3. God is the Holy S _ _ _ _ _ , who makes us holy.
4. The C _ _ _ _ _ was founded by Jesus to teach us and to make us holy.

God Is Three Persons in One

One of the great mysteries of our faith is that there are three Persons in God. We call this the mystery of the Trinity. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All three Persons are great, good, and loving. We praise and thank the one God in our prayer.



A Moment with Jesus

Read the Scripture passage quietly.

As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:9

Thank Jesus for helping us know God's mysteries better.

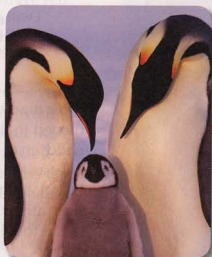
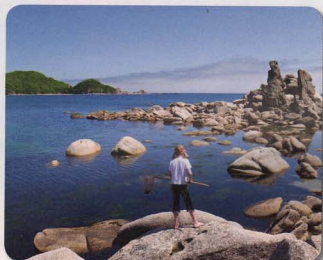


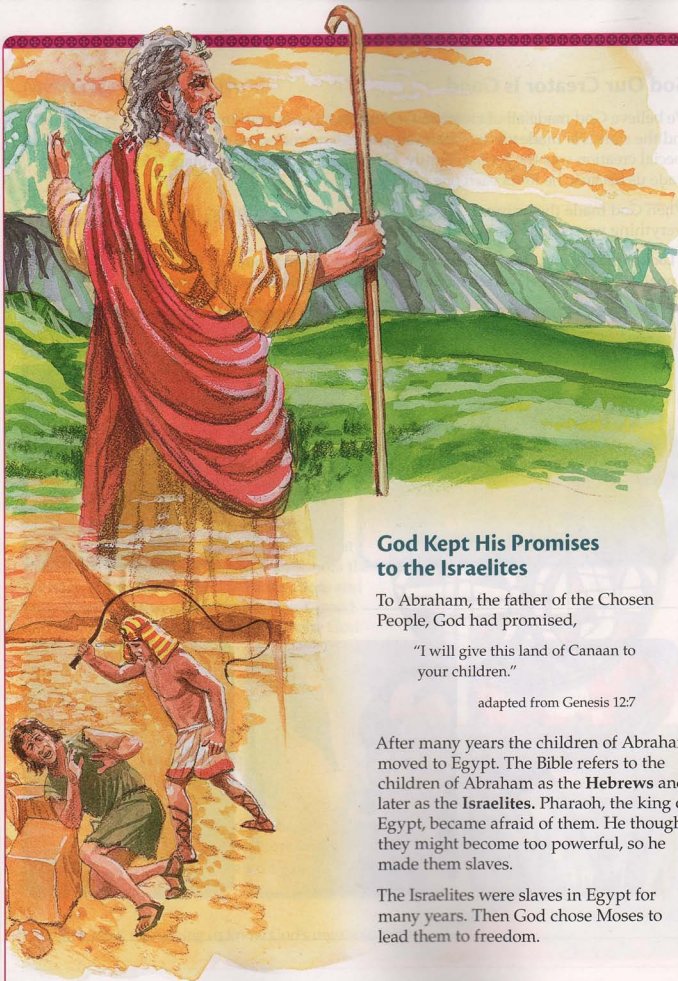
God Our Creator Is Good

We believe God made all of creation. God made the universe and the planets and the stars. He made all the creatures, plants, and rocks on earth. His most special creation was the human family. God made us in his own image. He made us because he loves each one of us.

When God made the universe, he was happy with all his creation. So everything we see tells us something about him.

Look at the pictures of God's creation. What can you learn about God from each one? Write a word below each picture that says how it makes you feel about God.





God Kept His Promises to the Israelites

To Abraham, the father of the Chosen People, God had promised,

"I will give this land of Canaan to your children."

adapted from Genesis 12:7

After many years the children of Abraham moved to Egypt. The Bible refers to the children of Abraham as the **Hebrews** and later as the **Israelites**. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, became afraid of them. He thought they might become too powerful, so he made them slaves.

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for many years. Then God chose Moses to lead them to freedom.

The story the Jewish people tell about their escape is in the Bible. In this story God spoke to Moses from a flaming bush. God said,

"I have seen how my people suffer in Egypt. Now I have come to free them. I will bring them into a good land, the land of Canaan. You must lead my people out of Egypt. Tell Pharaoh what I have said."

adapted from Exodus 3:7–10

Moses told Pharaoh God's message, but Pharaoh wouldn't let the Israelites go. Instead he made them work even harder. Moses warned Pharaoh that terrible things would happen, but Pharaoh still refused to free his slaves.

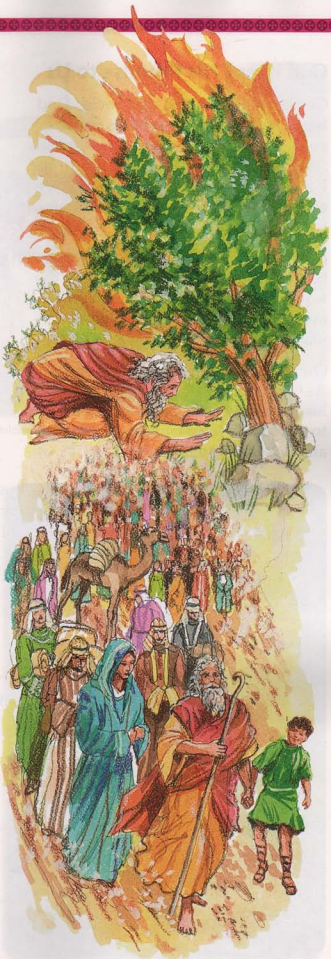
God sent many signs of his power. Even then, Pharaoh wouldn't let God's people go. Finally, God told Moses to prepare his people for one more sign. Each family should kill a lamb and put its blood on the door of the house. God said,

"It is the Passover of the LORD! This night every first-born son will die. But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Death will pass over you."

adapted from Exodus 12:11–13

That night every oldest son died—even Pharaoh's son—but the Israelites were passed over. Then Pharaoh and all the Egyptians begged them to leave. God helped Moses lead his people across the Red Sea through the desert to Canaan.

God is good and faithful to all of us. He made promises to us that he will keep, just as he kept his promise to the Israelites.



God Keeps His Promise to Us

God promised to send us a Savior. God kept this promise. He sent his Son to save us from sin. His name, *Jesus*, means "God saves." Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection freed us from sin. He won eternal life for us. That means that we can live forever with God.

Now we are God's people, on a journey to be with him forever. Jesus shows us the way through the Holy Spirit. He helps us overcome temptations. Jesus has a place ready for us in heaven.

Our journey is like that of the Israelites. As God kept his promise to them, he will keep his promise to us. God will lead us to eternal life if we trust in his promise and do what he tells us.



We Can Grow in Faith

Complete these sentences about ways we grow in faith. Use the words in the Word Bank.

WORD BANK

profess
help
obey
Bible

Holy Communion
pray
Church

1. We read God's Word in the _____.
2. We receive _____ at Mass.
3. We listen when the _____ teaches us.
4. We tell what we believe as Christians, _____ or _____ our faith.
5. We exercise our faith when we _____ God.
6. We live our faith when we _____ others.
7. We speak to God and listen to God _____ when we _____.

Studying your faith helps it grow. This book will help you learn what Catholics believe.



These children are living their faith by participating in a religious procession.

Stand Up for Your Beliefs

We are called to profess our faith by what we say and do. Sometimes this takes courage. What are some times when we need courage to profess our faith? Who are people that showed courage by living their faith?

Checking Your Understanding

Put the words in order to form sentences about God. Write the sentences on the lines.

1. _____
created One everything God almighty
2. _____
Persons God three There are in one
3. _____
promises keeps God his all
4. _____
God us trust wants to him obey and

We Remember

Where are the main truths of our faith found?

The main truths of our faith are found in the Creed.

What does God promise us?

God promises that those who believe in him and obey him will live with him forever in heaven.

Words to Know

Apostles' Creed

creed

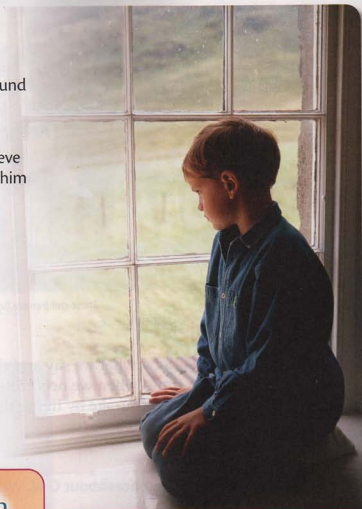
Hebrews

Israelites

mystery

We Respond

Jesus, I hope in you.



Building Family Faith

CHAPTER SUMMARY The chief truths of the Catholic faith are found in the Creed. One of the most important of these truths is that God is faithful to us. He keeps his promises.

REFLECT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25–26

- What is the right response to a God who keeps his promises?

PRAY

"The promises of the LORD I will sing forever,"
Psalm 89:2

DISCUSS AS A FAMILY

- Choose one of the statements of belief in the Apostles' Creed (page 37). Discuss what it means.
- Talk about a time when someone kept a promise they had made to you. How did you feel when the promise was kept? What did you say to the person?

DO

Pray the Apostles' Creed together.

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



God Is Powerful and Loving

The Bible has many stories about how God shows his power and love. This story is about Moses and the Israelites at the Red Sea.

God Saves the Israelites with His Power

Pharaoh changed his mind about letting the Israelite people go. He sent his army to bring them back.

The Israelites were afraid when they saw Pharaoh's army. "Do not be afraid," Moses told them. "The Lord will win a great victory for you today." God said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea and split it so that the people may pass through it."

Moses did what God told him. All night God sent a strong wind. He made a path of dry land. The Israelites marched into the sea with the water like walls on both sides of them.

All of Pharaoh's horses and soldiers went into the sea after the Israelites. God said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea again." Moses did, and the sea flowed back upon Pharaoh's army.

The Israelites rejoiced. Their all-powerful God had saved them.

based on Exodus 14:10–28



Moses and the men sang a song of victory and praise to God while the women danced.

Moses' Song of Victory

I will sing to the LORD, for he has won a great victory!

The horses and their riders he has cast into the sea.

The LORD gives me strength and courage, and he has been my Savior.

Who is like you, O LORD?

Who is like you, worker of wonders?

In your mercy you led the people you saved; in your strength you guided them to their own land.

adapted from Exodus 15:1-2,11,13



We Trust God's Power

Just like Moses and the Israelites, we also trust in God's power. God is all-powerful and frees us from our greatest enemy, sin. God helps us win battles against it. He keeps us safe on our journey to him.

Fill in the missing words.

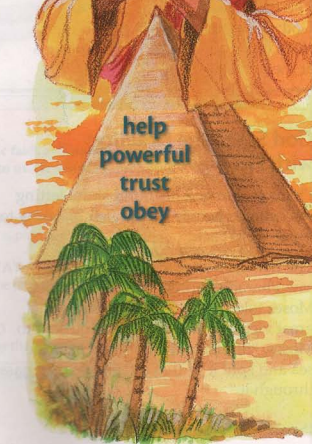
You can find them on the pyramid.

God is all _____.

God helps those who _____.

and _____ him.

I will ask God to _____ me.



God Fed the Israelites

After the Israelites escaped Pharaoh's army, they had to travel a long way through the desert. They felt tired, hungry, and thirsty. God said, "I will rain down bread from heaven."

The next morning something that looked like frost covered the ground. "What is this?" the Israelites asked. Moses told them, "This is the bread the Lord has given you to eat."

Each morning this white bread covered the ground. The Israelites called it manna. The Lord told them, "Take only what you need for one day." He wanted his people to trust in his care. They showed their trust by doing what God told them.

God fed his people manna until they came to Canaan. He looked after them like a loving father and a caring mother.

based on Exodus 16:1-35



God Feeds Us

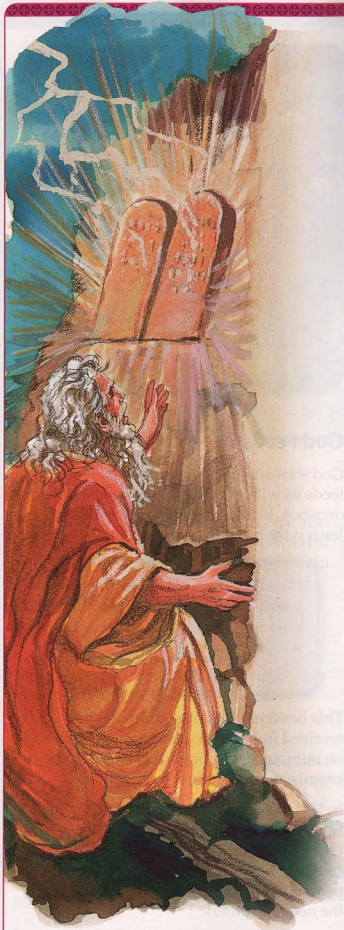
God shows loving care for us today. He feeds us with the Body and Blood of his own Son, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus is the bread from heaven. Once he said,

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

John 6:51

This heavenly food nourishes the life we received in Baptism. It strengthens us on our journey through this world to the promised land of heaven.

In Holy Communion we are united with Jesus. He shares himself with us in love. He makes us more like himself. He also comes to make us more united as his people. God feeds us so that we can serve the needs of others.



God Makes a Covenant of Love

God made a **covenant** with the Israelites. He would be their God, and they would be his people. The Bible tells us about this important agreement.

The Israelites came to Mt. Sinai in the desert and set up camp. Then Moses climbed the mountain to God. God gave him this message for the people:

"You have seen how I saved you. If you listen to my words, you shall be dearer to me than all other people. You will be a holy nation."

On the third day God gave the people the commandments. They answered,

"Everything the LORD has said, we will do."

Later God gave Moses the law written on stone tablets. The people loved God's law. They knew it would guide them to happiness. It showed God's love for them.

The Israelites were joined to God as his own people. He was their God, and they belonged to him. They would **worship** him and obey his laws. God would bless them and care for them. God and his people were united in a covenant of love.

based on Exodus 19:1–20:17; 24:1–12

We Have a Covenant with God

We are the people of God today. We too are joined to God in a covenant of love. Through Baptism, God has made us his own children. We have received a share in his life. We have promised to live by his laws and to follow Jesus. God has promised that we will live with him forever in heaven.

Keeping the Covenant

How are these children keeping their covenant of love? What are some things that you can do?



An Acrostic on Covenant

Write the words where they belong in the puzzle.

God c _ _ _ _ _ us to have faith in him.

God showed his _ o _ _ _ _ in saving his people.

God made a covenant of _ _ _ v _ _ with us.

We are God's holy _ e _ _ _ _ _ .

God makes us his _ _ _ _ n people.

The commandments are God's _ a _ _ _ _ .

Our agreement with God is a _ _ _ _ _ n _ _ _ _ of love.

We became God's children at our _ _ _ _ t _ _ _ _ .

A Moment with Jesus

What is one thing that you can do today to show that you are thankful?



Complete the Sentences

Write the letter of the word that correctly completes the sentence.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| a. Jesus | b. Moses |
| c. Israelites | d. Pharaoh |

_____ led the people to the promised land.

_____ sent an army after the Israelites.

_____ said "I am the living bread."

Moses and the _____ received manna from heaven.

We Remember

What is our covenant of love with God?

Our covenant of love is our agreement with God. God makes us his children, and we obey his laws and follow Jesus.

What are the commandments?

The commandments are God's laws of love.

Words to Know

covenant

worship

We Respond

**I will celebrate your promises forever, Lord.
I will always proclaim your love.**

adapted from Psalm 89:2

**Building Family Faith**

CHAPTER SUMMARY God saved his people from oppression, fed them when they were hungry, and made a covenant of love with them. We recall these deeds when we celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

REFLECT

In your mercy you led the people you redeemed;
in your strength you guided them to your holy dwelling.

Exodus 15:13

DISCUSS AS A FAMILY

- We have many agreements with friends, teachers, adults. Which are the hardest ones to keep? Which are the easiest?
- What is God's part of the covenant we have with him? What is our part?
- How is our covenant with God like the agreements we make with each other in our family?

PRAY

Praise the LORD, who is so good;
God's love endures forever.
Psalm 136:1

DO

Make a written agreement, or covenant, with a family member to exchange services or favors this coming week. Each evening check on how each person has kept his or her part of the bargain.

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

What Is God Like?

In the box below are some of the wonderful truths about God. Next to it are passages from the Bible. Write the phrase from the box that matches what each passage tells us about God.

God is love

1 John 4:8



God

Keeps his promises

is almighty

is just and merciful

cares for his people

knows all things



1. "I will save you with my mighty acts."
(adapted from Exodus 6:6)

God _____.

2. "I will give you the land of Canaan as I promised your father, Abraham."
(adapted from Exodus 6:8)

God _____.

3. "Pharaoh would not listen just as the LORD had foretold." (adapted from Exodus 7:13)

God _____.

4. "This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat." (Exodus 16:15)

God _____.

5. "The LORD is a merciful God, slow to anger and rich in kindness, forgiving sin."
(adapted from Exodus 34:6-7)

God _____.

We Celebrate

The Greatness and Goodness of God

Introduction

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Leader: We have come to worship the Lord together. Let us sing to God with joy!

Song

Reading

Leader: Long ago God revealed his greatness and goodness in the wonderful things he did. He freed the Israelites from slavery and saved them from their enemies. He invited them to be his people and to let him guide them.

Reader: Give thanks to the LORD,
call his name,
proclaim his deeds
to the people!
Sing to him, sing his praises,
tell about all his wondrous
deeds!
Glory in his holy name.
Rejoice, O hearts, that seek
the LORD!

adapted from Psalm 105:1-3

Psalm Prayer

Group 1: Sing joyfully to the LORD,
all you lands.

Serve the LORD with
gladness.

Come before him with
joyful song.

Group 2: Know that the LORD is God.
He made us.

We belong to him. We are
his people, the sheep he
tends.

Family Feature

Merciful Acts

In Matthew 25:35–40, Jesus speaks to some righteous people. He tells them that acts of mercy, even the smallest kindnesses are holy and pleasing to God.



*"For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a
stranger and you welcomed me, naked and
you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in
prison and you visited me."*

*Then the righteous will answer him and
say, "Lord, when did we see you hungry
and feed you, or thirsty and give you
drink? When did we see you a stranger and
welcome you, or naked and clothe you?
When did we see you ill or in prison, and
visit you?"*

*And the king will say to them in reply,
"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for
one of these least brothers of mine, you did
for me."*

Matthew 25:35–40



Family Feature

Mercy in Everyday Life

It is interesting that the righteous people were surprised to find out that their acts of kindness were important; they had shown love for its own sake. They had not realized that the Son of Man was present in every person who received their acts of mercy.

Parents do such acts of mercy every day. Raising children involves feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick. And those acts of mercy teach children how to show mercy themselves as they grow up and go out into the world.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit those in prison
- Bury the dead



These works of mercy flow from the Church's reflection on Scripture. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* also notes that "Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God" (#2447).

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

