

Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life

Seventh Grade Student Textbook

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Updated Second Edition

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UNIT 1: GOD

Vocabulary

God: the supremely transcendent and perfect being who created us and keeps us in existence
transcendent: beyond what we normally experience

LESSON 1: THERE REALLY IS A GOD

Looking at the natural beauty and order in the world, we see many things that amaze us. A huge forest, a tumbling waterfall, a colorful sunset, and a full moon on a clear night all demonstrate the majesty, the splendor, and the sheer vastness of the world of nature.

Even more amazing are the people we meet every day—our family members, our friends, our teachers, our coaches. How about ourselves? When we think about it, we are pretty amazing, too! In fact, all human beings are remarkable.

We are remarkable because each of us has two great powers: the power to reason and the power to choose. We call the power to reason or think the intellect, or mind, and we call the power to choose the will. No other creature on this planet of ours has even one of these powers. As human beings, we have both.

There are times when we wonder: Where did it all come from? Where did our planet, our solar system, our galaxy, and our universe come from? Where did human beings come from? Did all of this come about by mere chance? Or is there an intellect and will behind it all? Is there evidence that there is some thought behind all that we see around us? Is it possible that someone chose to make us and the natural beauty that surrounds us?

It seems reasonable that we and the world in which we live are the thoughtful choice of someone, but of whom? Which one of us, or which group of us, could ever make a universe or construct a human being? Such things are not possible for us. Certainly this someone is much greater than any one of us or any group of us.

Who is this someone who is much greater than us? This someone is God. God is the supremely transcendent and perfect being who created us and keeps us in existence.



★ **Learn more by reading YOUCAT 4.**

When we think about ourselves, we understand and perceive that we have bodies. This is obvious. Our bodies are the physical, material part of us. We can see and touch them. We know, from what we perceive, that they exist.

UNIT 1: GOD



If we think further, we can also perceive that there is something about us that is not material. For instance, our thoughts and choices are not material.

We cannot see or touch them. Our thoughts and choices are not physical or material.

Where do they come from, then? Our thoughts and choices come from our intellects, or minds, and wills, which are the powers of our souls. Our souls are the invisible, spiritual, and immortal gift from God that gives us life as well as the power to reason or think, and choose. Our thoughts and choices are not material, because they come from our spiritual souls.

Human beings can make many, many things. But there has never been a human person who has made a human soul. We are not capable of doing such a thing. The soul can come only from God. Only he can create the spiritual human soul.

★ **Learn more by reading YOUCAT 63.**

We can come to the conclusion that there is a God from observing the things and the people around us and thinking about their origin. As Saint Paul wrote, “Ever since the creation of the world his [God’s] invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made” (Romans 1:20).

By reflecting on the majesty and splendor of nature and of ourselves, we can come to the conclusion that there is a God. Is there any other way that we can come to know that God exists? Yes, we can know that God exists because he has told us so. God witnesses to his own existence.

God spoke to Moses more than three thousand years ago. Speaking from a burning bush, God revealed his existence. “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM’” (Exodus 3:14). What God meant is that he is existence, or life itself, and that he is the source of all life. God is the one who exists above and before all other persons and things. There is no limit to God’s life.



*Speaking from a burning bush,
God revealed his existence to Moses.*

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Besides telling us of his existence, God has also revealed that he is love. In 1 John 4:16 we find “God is love”. Understanding that God is existence and love is critically important for a proper knowledge of God. As Saint Pope Paul VI wrote about God, “*He is He who is*, as He revealed to Moses; and He is *love*, as the apostle John teaches us: so that these two names, being and love, express ineffably the same divine reality of Him who has wished to make Himself known to us, and who, ‘dwelling in *light inaccessible*’ (cf. 1 Tim. 6:16), is in Himself above every name, above every thing and above every created intellect.”¹

In fact, it was because of his love that God created or gave existence to the world and everything in it. God especially created us out of love. Saint John Paul II summarized this point well: “To create means to give (especially to give existence). And he who gives, loves.”²

- In the first two chapters of the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis, we read that it was God who created the world from nothing. Psalm 104 echoes the teaching of the first two chapters of Genesis in a poetic form.

Read Psalm 104. Choose three or four lines from the psalm. In your own words, write the meaning of the lines that you chose.

Review Questions

1. What two powers do human beings possess that other creatures on earth do not?

2. What do we call the power to reason or think?

3. What do we call the power to choose?

4. What do we mean when we say that God is eternal?

5. What attribute of God is described in Psalm 139:1–6?

6. The physical, material, and visible parts of us belong to what?

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Review Questions (continued)

7. The spiritual and nonmaterial parts of us belong to what?

8. List several ways that we can come to the conclusion that there is a God.

9. What did God mean when he said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14)?

LESSON 2: GOD DOES NOT CHANGE

We know from experience that people can change. For example, over time, some people change and become more loving and generous. Others change over time and become less loving and more selfish. If we can change over time, is it possible for God to change also? For example, can he stop loving us?

 **Learn more by reading YOUCAT 33.**

God does not change. God was and always will be the way he is now. Because God is love, he loves us. His love will never change. He can never stop loving us. God says to each of us what he said to the ancient Israelites through the prophet Jeremiah: “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3).

Usually we change because we want to make things better. If we are not doing well in school, we might change our study habits in hopes that we will improve our school work. If we are weak physically, we might change our exercise habits and work out in a gym in order to strengthen our muscles.

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But God doesn't need to change. He is existence and love. He is all that is good. There is no way that God can improve himself. There is no way that God can get better. As an early Christian writer said, "God, the Lord and maker of all things, who created the world and set it in order, not only loved man but was also patient with him. So he has always been, and is, and will be: kind, good, free from anger, truthful; indeed, he and he alone is good."³ God does not need to change, and he does not change.

The Attributes of God

You have learned that there are many attributes of God. Throughout the Bible, God is described in many different ways. Look up the scriptural references given below. Then write the attribute, using one word or a short phrase, which describes God. Hint: There are six references from the Old Testament and six from the New Testament.

1. Deuteronomy 7:9 _____

2. 1 Corinthians 1:9 _____

3. 1 John 4:8 _____

4. Psalm 46:1 _____

5. Psalm 139 _____

6. Romans 15:5 _____

7. Genesis 17:1 _____

8. Revelation 1:8 _____

9. 2 Chronicles 30:9 _____

10. Deuteronomy 32:4 _____

11. Acts 3:14 _____

12. Hebrews 1:12 _____

UNIT 1: GOD

Review Questions

1. Does God change?

2. List some of the attributes of God that do not change.

LESSON 3: WHAT ELSE CAN WE KNOW ABOUT GOD?

We have learned that God is being and that he is love. We have learned that God does not change. What else can we know about God?

We know that God is the Creator and that, as the Creator, he is all-powerful, or omnipotent.



Learn more by reading YOUCAT 44.

When we make something, we must begin with something that already exists. If we bake a cake, we begin with flour, eggs, sugar, and so forth. If we design and build a building, we use materials that already exist—wood, steel, concrete, etc.

God has revealed, however, that when he made the world and everything in it, he began without anything. In other words, God made the world from nothing; he created it. “I beg you, my child, to look at the heaven and the earth and see everything that is in them, and recognize that God did not make them out of things that existed. Thus also mankind comes into being” (2 Maccabees 7:28).

The power to create something from nothing is beyond our power of understanding, and it is absolutely foreign to our experience. Nevertheless, God has this stupendous power, and so we call him all-powerful.

But, someone might ask, where did God come from? The answer is that



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God didn't come from anywhere. God always was. There never was a moment when God didn't exist. Nobody created God. Nobody caused God to come into existence. Remember, God revealed to us through Moses that he is Existence. Therefore, we say that God is the uncaused Cause.

God is uncaused because nobody caused him to exist. Yet God is the cause of everything else that exists.

No one gave God existence, but can God cease to exist? Can God die? No. As we have learned, God *is* Existence; therefore, he can never die. God always was, he is now, and he will be forever. In other words, God is eternal.

Is there any limit to God at all? Does God lack anything? Astounding as it might seem, God does not lack a thing. He is perfect, and he possesses all perfections. For example, we have learned that God is existence and love. We have also learned that God cannot change and that he is all-powerful, uncaused, and eternal. In addition, God is all-knowing and all-present.

There is not a thing that God does not know. He knows what happened in the past, he knows what is going on now, and he knows now what will happen in the future. God knows each one of our deepest secrets and brightest dreams.

Read about God's knowledge in Sirach 42:18–25 and Psalm 139:1–6.

Knowing that God knows everything might make some people nervous. They might fear that God would use his knowledge against them in order to keep them subject to him, as a master does a slave. But God isn't like sinful mankind. God never uses his knowledge against us. He uses his knowledge to help us and to invite us to come closer to him. We should not fear God's knowledge of us. Thinking about God's love for us might help us not to be afraid of God.

Finally, we know that God is all-present. God is everywhere. But, even though he is all-present, we cannot see him, because God is a pure spirit. God does not have a material body as we do, and so he is not directly perceivable to our senses. We can see our brothers and sisters and parents and friends because they have bodies. But we cannot see God because, in and of himself, he is not physical or material.

▲ **The fact that God is all-present is revealed in a beautiful psalm. Read Psalm 139:7–18. Based on what you have learned about God in this lesson, compose a psalm praising God for his greatness.**

Review Questions

1. What do we mean when we say that God is omnipotent?

2. Define the word “create”.

3. What do we mean when we say that God is the uncaused Cause?

4. What attribute of God is described in Psalm 139:1–6?

5. How does God use his knowledge?

6. Why shouldn't we fear God's knowledge of us?

7. What do we mean when we say that God is all-present?

8. Why can't we see God?

LESSON 4: INTERPRETING THE WRITTEN RECORD OF GOD'S REVELATION

Throughout our lives, we should read the Bible, God's love letters to us. It is part of God's revelation of himself to us, and it is true. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament together comprise the Bible. Because the human authors were so inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is God who is the author of the Bible.

 **Learn more by reading YOUCAT 14.**

In order to receive the full benefit of reading a Scripture passage, you should also read the footnotes accompanying the passage.

Most Bibles have extensive footnotes. Some people might think that reading footnotes is useless, extra work. They might ask, "Why read the footnotes? Since the Bible is the written record of God's revelation, isn't the Bible itself good enough?"

Certainly it is essential to concentrate on reading the Bible itself. However, sometimes we find that we are not sure what the Bible means in certain places. Reading the footnotes helps us to understand the meaning of difficult passages. Remember, too, "The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him" (CCC 100). So, it is important to read Catholic Bibles, with approved translations.

 **Learn more by reading YOUCAT 16.**

Read the following stories and complete the exercises that accompany them. Together, these stories illustrate how important it is for us to have additional information about what an author from an earlier time has written.

The Navigatio: A Sixth-Century Story

Saint Brendan was living at Clonfert (Ireland) as the head of a community of three thousand monks, when he was visited by a monk named Barrind. Barrind told Brendan that he had visited Saint Mernoc, who had invited Barrind to go with him by boat to the Promised Land of the Saints—a land to which Saint Mernoc had often sailed. Setting out westward, Barrind and Saint Mernoc had passed through thick fog and reached a wide land, rich in fruits and flowers, the Promised Land of the Saints.

Intrigued by Barrind's adventure, Saint Brendan picked fourteen monks from his own community to sail to the Promised Land of the Saints. In order to make the journey, Saint Brendan and his monks built a wooden-frame boat, covered it in oak-bark-tanned ox hides, and smeared the joints of the hides with fat to seal them. They put on the boat a mast, a sail, and steering gear, and they put aboard supplies for forty days, spare hides, and fat for dressing leather.

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The monks sailed westward from Ireland for fifteen days. Then they lost their bearings after a calm and were blown to a tall, rocky island with streams tumbling down the cliffs. Their next landfall (a sighting of land after a voyage) was the Island of Sheep. The travelers stayed on the island for four days. An islander brought them food and prophesied that they would visit an island not far to the west called the Paradise of Birds.

Next the sailors journeyed to a stony “island without grass”. Beaching their boat, the monks lit a fire to cook meat from the Island of Sheep. But, as their pot began to boil, the island started to shake and move, and the monks scrambled back to their boat in panic. They watched as the “island” moved off to sea, the fire still burning on it. Saint Brendan told the monks that the “island” was Jasconius, the biggest fish in the ocean.

The monks sailed on to the Paradise of Birds, an island with a multitude of birds. Then the travelers sailed for three months with only sea and sky around them.

After spending some time on another island and then sailing for forty days, the crew saw a beast of huge size. He spouted foam from his nostrils. Then the beast came even closer, pushing great waves before him, right up to the boat.

Another day, they saw a pillar in the sea, with a wide meshed net wrapped around it. The boat could pass through an opening in the mesh, which was the color of silver but harder than marble. The column was of bright crystal.

On still another day they came to a rocky, rough island, full of slag and forges, and they heard the thud of hammer and anvil. Therefore they called this island the Island of Smiths. An islander hurled a great lump of slag at them. It flew two hundred yards over their heads, and where it fell the sea boiled. It looked as if the whole island was on fire, and there was a great stench. Saint Brendan said that they had reached the edges of hell. The monks sailed on, and finally they reached the Promised Land of the Saints.



List below three of the events described in the Navigatio that seem unbelievable.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Voyage of the *Brendan*

In 1976, Tim Severin and a small crew set out from County Kerry in western Ireland in an attempt to prove that it was possible for sixth-century Irish monks to have sailed a *curragh* (a wood-framed, leather-hulled boat) to North America. The boat, aptly named the *Brendan*, was constructed as closely as possible to a medieval *curragh*. It remained to be seen whether such a vessel could withstand the rigors of the North Atlantic and whether the voyage would be similar to the seemingly wild tales of the *Navigatio*.

The voyage of the *Brendan* proved to be remarkably similar to that narrated in the *Navigatio*. The landfalls made by the *Brendan* crew enabled them to gain insight into the medieval descriptions of Saint Brendan and his monks. For example, the Hebrides Islands were comparable to the Paradise of Birds, both in physical description and in the abundance of birds. The Faroes Islands resembled the Island of Sheep in physical description and in the abundance of sheep.

Iceland during one of its frequent volcanic eruptions paralleled the Island of Smiths, and an iceberg in the fog banks off Newfoundland could have been the crystal pillar in the sea. Finally, the crew found that the leather hull of their boat attracted whales in considerable number, probably explaining the story of Jasconius, the “biggest fish in the ocean”.

The *Brendan* ended its voyage by landing on Peckford Island, some 150 miles northwest of Saint John’s, Newfoundland. Tim Severin and his crew had demonstrated that the voyage narrated in the *Navigatio* could be made. They also were able to gain some understanding of the places and things that Brendan and his monks encountered and described in such colorful terms.

Application

These two stories taken together show that the *Navigatio*, which seems to be an imaginative tale, could be an accurate description of a voyage written in the language and style of the sixth century. If Tim Severin had not made his voyage, the *Navigatio* might still be considered a tall tale.

This exercise demonstrates that, if we are seriously interested in discovering the meaning of what has been written in the distant past, we must examine those writings in their proper context. Language, manner of expression, and the circumstances of the author’s time and place must all be taken into account if we wish to interpret writings properly.

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Creation

God divided his creative work into six days. Read Genesis 1:1–31 and 2:1–3. After each day numbered below, write a short description of what God created on that day. Give the chapter and verse numbers of the source of your answers.

	Description	Source
Day 1	_____	_____
Day 2	_____	_____
Day 3	_____	_____
Day 4	_____	_____
Day 5	_____	_____
Day 6	_____	_____
What did God do on Day 7?	_____	_____

Review Question

1. Why is it important to read the footnotes in the Bible?

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Vocabulary

person: someone who has a mind and a will; who someone is

nature: what something or someone is

Blessed Trinity: three persons in one God

LESSON 5: THREE PERSONS, ONE GOD

We know from Jesus that there are three persons in one God. Before his Ascension into heaven, Jesus said to his Apostles, “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). In God, there is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

 **Learn more by reading YOUCAT 35.**

Jesus himself is God. He is God the Son. As the Nicene Creed states, “I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God. . . . God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God”. The Nicene Creed is an ancient summary statement of what Catholics believe. It comes from the first two councils, the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) and the Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381). It can be found in any missalette. Another familiar ancient statement of the faith is the Apostles’ Creed.

There were many times when Jesus taught about his Father and prayed to him. The Father, too, is God. Again, the Nicene Creed states, “I believe in one God, the Father almighty”.

 **Learn more by reading YOUCAT 37.**

Finally, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would come after Jesus’ Ascension into heaven. The Holy Spirit is also God. Going to the Nicene Creed for a third time we find, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified”.

So, God the Son is God; God the Father is God; and God the Holy Spirit is God. Since the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all God, does that mean that there are three Gods? No, there aren’t three Gods. There is only one God. But in the one God there is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

But even though there are three persons in the one God, the three act as one when God acts outside of himself. For example, sometimes, we think of God the Father as the maker of heaven and earth, as we recite in the Nicene Creed at Sunday Mass. But, even “though the work of creation is attributed to the Father in particular, it is equally a truth of faith that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit together are the one, indivisible principle of creation” (CCC 316). In other words, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit act as one in the act of creation.

If what you have just read is difficult to understand, you have read it correctly. Three persons in one God is the deepest mystery of the Catholic faith. No one except God himself understands it totally.

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD



Three persons in one God is the deepest mystery of the Catholic faith.

Review Questions

1. What two short prayers do we say that express our belief that there are three persons in one God?

2. Read Matthew 10:20. How does this verse point to the doctrine of three persons in one God?

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Blessed Trinity Scripture Search

Find the following Scripture passages in the Bible. Fill in the blanks and answer the questions.

1. Matthew 28:19–20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”.
2. Matthew 10:20: “For it is not you who speak, but the _____ of your _____ speaking through you.”
3. Matthew 3:13–17, Mark 1:9–11, Luke 3:21–22, John 1:32–34.
What is the main event in all four Gospel passages?

How is the Blessed Trinity present in these passages?

4. John 14:8–9. How does Jesus answer Philip when Philip asks him to show the Father to the Apostles?
5. John 14:16–17. Who is the Counselor Jesus promises to ask the Father to send?
6. John 16:13. Who will guide us to the truth? _____.
7. John 20:22. Jesus breathed on the Apostles and said: “_____”.
8. Luke 24:49. Who is the “promise of my Father” that Jesus is sending to the Apostles?

9. Acts 1:8. From whom will the Apostles receive the power to witness to the world?

10. Acts 2:1–4. In what three ways did the Holy Spirit make his presence known to the Apostles?

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Review Questions

1. What do we mean when we describe God as the “Blessed Trinity”?

2. Name the three persons in one God.

3. What is another name for God the Son?

4. What prayers of faith summarize what we believe?

5. Why can't we understand fully the concept of the Blessed Trinity?

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

LESSON 6: PERSON AND NATURE

Even though we cannot fully understand the mystery of the three persons in one God, we can understand it a little if we keep in mind the distinction between person and nature.

Person is *who* someone is. Names are given to persons, and a name tells who a person is. For example, if you are asked who you are, you respond with your name: Joe, Jennifer, Maureen, John, or whatever your name is. A name names your person. A name tells others who you are.

On the other hand, nature is *what* something or someone is. For example, each of us is human. We say that we are human beings. As a human being, each of us has a human nature.

There are certain capacities that belong to human nature. Two essential capacities are the capacities to reason or think, and to choose. In other words, as human beings, each of us has a mind or intellect, and a will. We don't all have the exact same mind and will, but each of us, individually, has a mind and a will.

Further, the human body is part of human nature. Each of us, individually, has a body. No two of us share the same body. As human beings, then, each of us is one person (one name, one *who*), possessing one nature (not the exact same nature, but individual repetitions of the same nature).

Using the concepts of person and nature in reference to God, we can say that God is three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), but that each person possesses one and the same nature (not individual repetitions of the same nature). Essential to God's nature is the capacity to reason or think, and to choose. God has a mind or intellect, and a will.

In God, then, there are three persons, but each person possesses the exact same mind and will as the other two persons. There are not three minds or intellects, and three wills in God, but one mind and one will. In other words, each person in God reasons or thinks with the same mind and chooses with the same will.

The names Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each name a person (each name tells who one of the persons is), and each person has the exact same nature (there is only one divine nature). We call the mystery of three persons in one God the mystery of the Blessed Trinity.



Learn more by reading YOUCAT 36.

In Luke 3:21–22, each person of the Blessed Trinity made himself known. Read this passage and answer the following questions.

How did God the Father make himself known? _____

How did God the Holy Spirit make himself known? _____

How did God the Son make himself known? _____

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

When we say that God has a mind and a will, we are not saying that his mind and will are the same as our minds and wills. Recall that in the discussion of God, we learned that God is transcendent. That means God is far beyond us in every aspect of his being. Consequently, he is infinitely more intelligent than we are. He is infinitely more loving than we are. He is infinitely more powerful than we are.

Review Questions

1. What do we mean by “person”?

2. What do we mean by “nature”?

3. What are the two essential capabilities that belong to human nature?

4. In addition to the mind and the will, what else is part of human nature?

5. As a human being, each of us is _____ person possessing _____ nature.

6. God is _____ persons, each possessing _____ and the same nature.

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Review Questions (continued)

7. If there are three persons in one God, are there three minds and three wills?

8. What do we mean when we say that God is transcendent?

9. Describe several ways by which God transcends us.

LESSON 7: GOD’S POWER, WISDOM, AND LOVE

The communion of persons of God is fundamental to all human communions of persons because the three divine persons are consubstantial with one another and human persons are created in the image of God. The communion of persons of God expresses itself in the perfect love that the three persons have for one another. In one of his apostolic exhortations, Saint John Paul II wrote, “God is love and in Himself He lives a mystery of personal loving communion.”¹ Here, Saint John Paul II teaches us that among the persons of the Blessed Trinity there is a perfect bond of love. The Father loves the Son and the Holy Spirit; the Son loves the Father and the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit loves the Father and the Son. There are three persons in one God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that is, God is personal); the Blessed Trinity is loving (each of the persons loves the other two perfectly); and the Blessed Trinity is a communion—consubstantial; that is, “We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons, the ‘consubstantial Trinity’” (CCC 253).²

In himself God lives a mystery of personal loving communion. How does God act toward us? God acts in power, wisdom, and love.

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

God's power is demonstrated in creation. No one has ever made something from nothing, except God. God made the entire universe, all the human beings who ever lived, and the world of angels. To create all of this entails unspeakable power.

A priest and early writer in the Church, Saint Hippolytus, who lived around the year 235, said about the creation from nothing by God, "God was all alone and nothing existed but himself when he determined to create the world. He thought of it, willed it, spoke the word and so made it. It came into being instantaneously, exactly as he had willed. It is enough then for us to be aware of a single fact: nothing is coeternal with God. Apart from God there was simply nothing else. Yet although he was alone, he was manifold because he lacked neither reason, wisdom, power nor counsel. All things were in him and he himself was all. At a moment of his own choosing and in a manner determined by himself, God manifested his Word [God the Son], and through him he made the whole universe."³

God's wisdom is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Wisdom is the knowledge of the greatest things. Jesus revealed the knowledge of the greatest things. He revealed everything that we need to know about God and about ourselves. In fact,

Jesus is called the wisdom of God. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:24.**

God shows his love for us by coming to live within us. God wouldn't give himself to us if he didn't love us. But God does give himself to us, especially in the sacraments. When we receive the sacraments worthily, God comes to dwell in us and to share his life with us. We call the gift of God's life that he shares with persons grace.

We can say that God shows his power through creation, his wisdom through Jesus, and his love by coming to live in us. And even though all three persons of

the Blessed Trinity act toward us in power, wisdom, and love, we can associate power with the Father, wisdom with the Son, and love with the Holy Spirit.

We profess in the Nicene Creed that we believe in God the Father, maker of heaven and earth. The Father acted in power to create heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, who is Light from Light (light lights up the dark, and Jesus enlightens our minds with wisdom). And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life (grace). The Holy Spirit gives us God's life because he loves us.

Within himself God lives a mystery of personal loving communion, and toward us God shows his power, wisdom, and love. By knowing these things about God, we know a great deal. But there is so much more to know about God that we will never know it all. We can only hope that each day our appreciation of who God is and what he is doing for us will grow.



UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Read the quotes and answer the questions that follow.

The Holy Spirit is the giver of life (grace). In fact, through the sacraments the Holy Spirit truly comes to live in us; for during the Liturgy of Pentecost, the Church prays: “Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.”

Consider these words of Pope Saint John Paul II and of Sacred Scripture:



“Fill the hearts.” Consider, young friends, how great is the human heart, if God alone can fill it with the Holy Spirit.

Pope John Paul II⁴

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. . . . When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:14–17

Is God someone who wants to remain far away from us and uninvolved in our lives? Explain. What difference does God make in your life right now?

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Sacrament Crossword Puzzle

Look ahead in your textbook to pages 265 and 266. On these two pages you will find information on the Seven Sacraments that will help you solve the puzzle.

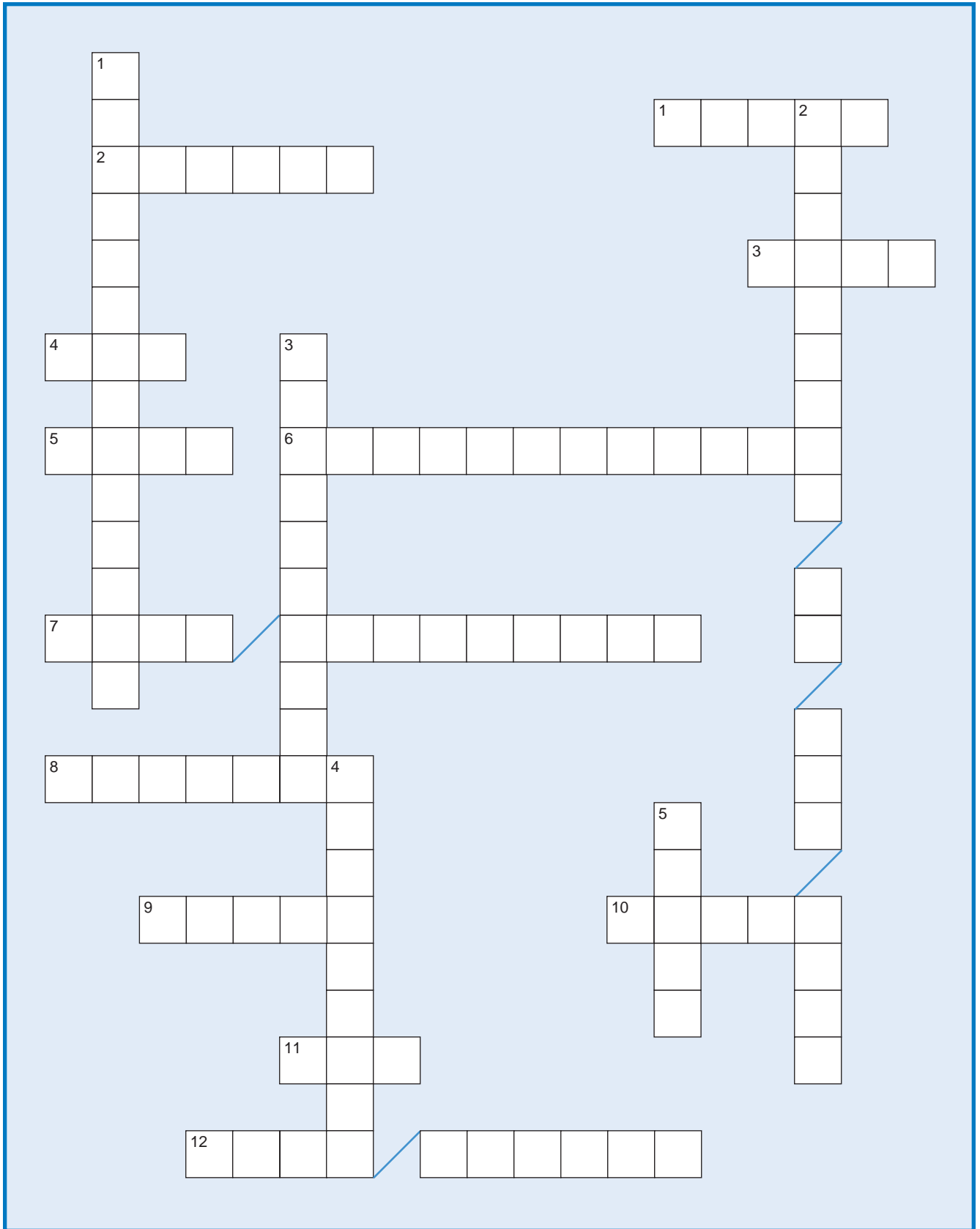
Across

1. A sign of Christ's Body, used in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.
2. A special oil used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.
3. A sign of Christ's Blood, used in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.
4. Another name for sacred chrism.
5. Our _____ are forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
6. In this sacrament our faith is strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit.
7. In this sacrament we receive Jesus as our spiritual food and drink.
8. In this sacrament Original Sin is taken away, and we become members of the Church.
9. The physical sign of Baptism.
10. One of the physical signs of Holy Orders is the imposition, or laying on, of the bishop's _____.
11. A promise.
12. In this sacrament men are ordained bishops, priests, and deacons.

Down

1. The sacrament in which our sins are forgiven.
2. The sacrament in which Jesus meets us and heals us spiritually and sometimes physically.
3. Instituted by Jesus to give us grace.
4. The sacrament in which a man and a woman say Yes to one another through their vows.
5. In the sacraments we receive _____.

UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD



UNIT 2: THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Review Questions

1. Explain how the Blessed Trinity is a communion of persons.

2. How does God act toward us?

3. Where does God demonstrate his power?

4. Through whom is God's wisdom revealed to us?

5. What is wisdom?

6. Why is Jesus called the Wisdom of God?

7. Name several ways that God shows us his love.

8. Explain how each person of the Blessed Trinity is associated with power, wisdom, and love.

9. Why is the Holy Spirit called the Lord and giver of life?
