

Understanding the Home Guide

The **Lesson Goals** section identifies the key desired outcomes of the chapter.

The **Parent Preview** section offers steps parents can use to prepare for the lesson.

The **Discover!** part of the lesson involves a short reading to support understanding.

Go! (10 minutes)

- Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.
- Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.
- Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared. Explain that each week your child will pick a new mission challenge to complete. Tell your child that this is an opportunity to put faith into action and also to reflect on that experience.
- Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet (in the folder) the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.
- Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.

The **Go!** part of the lesson invites the child to recall what they learned and closes the lesson with a fun activity and a prayer.

Discover!
Finding Faith in Life

We Come to Jesus

Scripture Focus: John 3:1-20

Lesson Goals

- to explain that Christians follow Jesus, who is the light of the world
- to state that we are born again of water and the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation
- to identify the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1651 and 1656 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 3:1-20).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.
- Cut out the mission strips from the handout "Living the Mission: Faith in Action" found on the third page of this home guide chapter. Mix them randomly in a hat or bowl.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

- Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- Discuss** with your child the kinds of actions we prefer to hide from others, versus actions we are happy for all to see.
- Tell** your child that today's lesson focuses on how Christians follow Jesus, the light of the world, who guides us to do what is true or right.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

- Read** the Scripture on pages 120-121 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Exodus 14:1-31).
- Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.
Answers: 1. the Egyptian army, 2. They had been slaves. 3. Don't be afraid. 4. The Lord drove the sea back with an east wind. 5. They stood in awe of the Lord; they had faith in the Lord and in Moses.
- Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.
- Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 2 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.

The **Dive In!** part of the lesson involves direct use of *The Catholic Children's Bible* and learning through a key Bible story.

The **Get Ready!** part of the lesson begins with an opening prayer and an activity that will spark interest in the lesson focus.



The reading on this page relays important information related to the lesson.



Sacraments of Christian Initiation

The Jewish leader Nicodemus is confused when Jesus says we must be born again. How can someone be reborn? Jesus explains: We are born physically from human parents. But we must be born again spiritually to enter his Kingdom.

Jesus is describing an **initiation** process that truly makes us his followers. *Initiation* refers to the steps needed to join and commit to a group and its beliefs. The Church has three **sacraments of Christian Initiation** that make us full members of the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

Baptism is the first sacrament that brings us into the Church. We are reborn of baptismal water and the Spirit—just as Jesus describes in today's reading. Choosing to be a Christian means starting a new life.

Confirmation deepens our relationship with the Church and with Jesus. We renew the promises we made in Baptism, when we were born again of water and the Spirit. Confirmation strengthens the Holy Spirit within us and helps us to live the mission of Christ and the Church.

The Eucharist is the third Sacrament of Christian Initiation. We thank and praise God for all that he gives us. The Eucharist is a memorial of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. When we receive the Body and Blood, under the appearances of bread and wine, we receive Jesus Christ, who

All the sacraments celebrate the **grace** of God, the gift of God through physical signs. We will study the sacraments in future lessons.

The **Key Words** section highlights any words in the reading that may need additional definition.

Key Words

grace God's free and undeserved gift of his life to us.

initiation Process by which someone joins a group and shows commitment to the beliefs and goals of the group.

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, which together make us full members of the Catholic Church.

We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Christ Works in the Liturgy" (first paragraph), page 22
- "The Sacraments," page 28

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

The **Review** section offers several questions that reinforce key concepts from the lesson. Answers are provided.

Review

1. What are the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation?
2. What do the Sacraments of Christian Initiation do?
3. What is grace?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.
2. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation make us full members of the Catholic Church.
3. God's free and undeserved gift of his life to us.

The **We Know and Live Our Faith** resource provides additional content that can be used to support the lesson.