

Family Page

Background Reflection

We become children of God by being born again in Baptism. Through Baptism, we enter into the New Covenant established by Jesus. This covenant asks us to respond to God through faith—a response that we must live out every day of our lives.

Those who were baptized as infants or young children might not remember their Baptism, but that does not mean they are not graced with abundant new life or are not bound by the promises made on their behalf. At Baptism, parents and godparents make serious promises to God to nurture the spiritual life of the child to grow in faith.

Every Easter, Catholics personally renew their baptismal promises before God. This renewal reminds us that God expects our participation in this New Covenant. As God's children, we must live out our faith in our lives through our choices, thoughts, and actions. In this lesson, your child will have the opportunity to renew his or her baptismal promises and say "yes" to God once again. We are so blessed to have a loving Father who calls us to participate in his plan for us!

Family Activities

- Read together the Featured Story on page 1658 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 3:4–6), or read the fuller passage at John 3:1–21. Invite your child to explain the meaning of being born again, in his or her own words.
- Share pictures of your child's Baptism and discuss how excited you were to celebrate this special day of him or her becoming a child of God. Mark the date of your child's Baptism on the calendar and celebrate it every year—a Baptism anniversary is a spiritual birthday!
- Watch the video "Sacraments 101: Baptism (why we baptize)" (YouTube, 6:29) together. Discuss the importance of belonging to God's family—namely, this means we are never alone.

People of Faith

Saint Paul the Apostle (first century)

Saint Paul tried to stop Jesus' message from spreading. But the Risen Jesus appeared to Paul in a bright light and asked, "Why are you persecuting me?" Paul was changed. He preached the Gospel with love and enthusiasm. Many people believed in Jesus and were baptized because of Paul's preaching. We celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on January 25.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Loving Father, we thank you for making us your children. Please guide us in our choices and help us to always remember that no matter what, we are loved by you. Amen.

