

# Chapter 3

# Knowing and Loving God

## CHAPTER SUMMARY

God invites us into a loving relationship. God's plan of love is to share His love with us now and forever. The more we know God, the more we are able to love Him. God makes Himself known to us in many ways. One way is through creation. Another way is through other people who love God. Jesus Christ reveals God in the fullest way because He is the Son of God, who became man. We learn about Jesus and come to know God through the Bible and the Church. The Bible is God's Word; it is God speaking to us. The first part of the Bible is the Old Testament, where God makes promises to us. The second part of the Bible is the New Testament, where Jesus fulfills all God's promises. In Baptism, we become God's children and He gives us the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity so that we can believe, trust, and love Him.

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (CCC) REFERENCES

God reveals His plan: 74, 112, 302–6

God is the author of Sacred Scripture: 104–8

Sacred Scripture in the life of the Church: 131–32

Old and New Testaments: 121–25, 128–30

Faith as a response to revelation and gift from God: 142–43,  
150

Theological virtue of faith: 153, 1814–16

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS

God wants us to know His love for us. Far from being remote or disengaged with human affairs, God is integrally involved in guiding human history, working to redeem mankind from sin. The Bible is a testament to God's words and action in history as He rehabilitates fallen mankind from sin.

The Bible is *inspired*, but if you have ever read the Bible—particularly the Old Testament—not every Scripture passage is *inspiring*. The Bible narrates the tragedy of sin in all its gory detail. Mankind seems hopeless in many passages in the Bible, and God often seems justifiably frustrated.

As challenging as these passages may be, the Old Testament reminds us of several key ideas. First, God is faithful even when His people are not. Second, God does have a progressive and developmental plan to heal mankind from sin. Finally, God's relationship with His people is not disconnected from human history; rather, God works *in* human history, and the events recorded in the Bible pertain to actual people in the real world.

The Bible tells us of God's trustworthiness to save real people as they experience trial and doubt. How fitting, then, that Scripture should guide us as we experience God's salvation in our lives, even amid our trials and doubts. God knows how to speak to our hearts. How blessed we are by the treasure of Sacred Scripture!

*Are there any books of the Bible you've never explored or don't recognize that you could familiarize yourself with?*

*What is a way you can incorporate more Scripture into your prayer life?*

<b>Chapter 3:</b> Knowing and Loving God	<b>Lesson 1:</b> Let's Learn about God's Word: Philippians 2:16	<b>Lesson 2:</b> God's Loving Plan	<b>Lesson 3:</b> The Bible	<b>Lesson 4:</b> Faith	<b>Review</b>
<b>Words to Know</b>	creation			saint	
<b>Materials</b>	All lessons: Bible, writing materials, whiteboard. See Optional Activities on page 42 of the Teacher Manual for more.				
<b>Chapter Aims</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will know that God reveals Himself to us so that we can know Him and love Him.</li> <li>Students will know that God's plan of love is revealed to us in the Bible.</li> <li>Students will begin to recognize the three theological virtues we receive in Baptism.</li> <li>Students will begin to understand there are two parts to the Bible: the Old and New Testament.</li> <li>Students will know that we are called to respond with faith in God's love for us.</li> </ul>				
<b>Activity Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Lesson 1 Activity:</i> Students will identify ways God reveals Himself to us in creation.</li> <li><i>Lesson 1 Let's Live:</i> Students will discuss that when God tells us more about Himself, we are able to love Him more.</li> <li><i>Lesson 2 Activity:</i> Students will recognize that they are a part of God's plan.</li> <li><i>Lesson 2 Let's Live:</i> Students will discuss the role of Baptism in God's plan for them.</li> <li><i>Lesson 3 Activity:</i> Students will identify the two parts of the Bible.</li> <li><i>Lesson 3 Let's Live:</i> Students will discuss ways in which the theological virtues make it possible for them to live as holy children.</li> <li><i>Lesson 4 Activity:</i> Students will identify that the theological virtue of faith helps them believe in God and love Him more.</li> <li><i>Lesson 4 Faith Alive:</i> Students will reflect on ways to grow in faith.</li> </ul>				
<b>Preparation</b> <i>Let's Prepare Our Hearts</i>	Opening Prayer in Student Text	Sacred Art: <i>Virgin Mary with the Apostles and Other Saints, Fra Angelico</i> 	Scripted Prayer	<i>Lectio Divina:</i> 1 John 4:16 	
<b>Proclamation</b> <i>Let's Proclaim the Good News</i>	God reveals His loving plan to us.				
<b>Explanation</b> <i>Let's Learn about Our Faith</i>	<b>Focus:</b> God desires that we know Him and have a loving relationship with Him, so He reveals Himself to us.	<b>Focus:</b> The account of God's loving plan is in the Bible.	<b>Focus:</b> The account of God's loving plan in the Bible has two parts. 	<b>Focus:</b> God reveals His love, and we respond with faith.	<b>Chapter Review</b>
<b>Application</b> <i>Let's Live Our Faith</i>	I Love God Because I Know Him	My Part of God's Plan of Love	Saint Rose of Lima	Faith Alive: Knowing and Loving God More	<i>Gabriel's Quest:</i> Links to Any Lesson 
<b>Celebration</b> <i>Let's Celebrate Our Faith</i>	Sign of the Cross	Prayer followed by the Sign of the Cross	Prayer followed by the Sign of the Cross	Prayer followed by the Sign of the Cross	

Chapter 3

# Knowing and Loving God

"We know and believe the love God has for us." (1 John 4:16)

### Let's Pray

Dear God, we are thankful for Your love. We want to know You more so we can love You more. Amen.



**Let's Proclaim the Good News**  
God reveals His loving plan to us.

To reveal something means to make it known.



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## Optional Preparation Activities

### Prepare Our Hearts Song

#### "God the Father Loves the Children"

(Sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves the Little Children")

God the Father loves the children,  
All the children of the world;  
All created out of love,  
He protects them from above;  
God the Father loves the children of the world.

### Bible Fun! Activity

The Bible verse we are learning in this chapter is the following: "We know and believe the love God has for us" (1 John 4:16).

- When we say "**We know**," point to your head to show that you know God's love.
- When we say "**and believe**," point to your heart to show that you believe with all your heart.
- When we say "**the love**," give yourself a big hug.
- When we say "**God has for us**," point to yourself because God loves you!
- Let's practice it together.

### Words to Know

**creation:** Everything that God has made. The visible and invisible world.

**saint:** A person who died in God's friendship and is now with Him in Heaven.

## Let's Prepare Our Hearts

### Prayer

Read the Opening Prayer on page 27 of the Student Text. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

**Dear God, we are thankful for Your love. We want to know You more so we can love You more. Amen.**

### Review Chapter 2

**Who is our Father in Heaven? (God.)**

**Can we always trust God as our Father? (Yes.)**

**God is almighty because He created what? (Everything.)**

**What do we call it when we talk and listen to God? (Prayer.)**

**What virtue does God give us to help us pray? (Charity.)**

**When we love God, do we have a friendship with Him? (Yes.)**

**Whom does God love? (All His children.)**

**Whom should we love and respect? (All God's children.)**

### Introduction

Turn to page 27 of the Student Text.

**What do you think might be inside the young girl's gift? (Answers may vary.)**

When the girl opens her gift, what is inside will be revealed to her. To reveal something means to make it known.

## LESSON 1

### Let's Learn about God's Word

God tells us we should be “holding fast [to] the word of life” (Philippians 2:16).

God invites us to know Him. We can know God through creation. **Creation** is everything that God has made. We can know God from other people who love God. Jesus reveals God in the fullest way. He is the Son of God. He became man. We learn about Jesus in the Bible. We learn about Jesus from the Church.



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God reveals Himself through His creation.

- Creation is everything that God has made.
- We see the things in nature have a certain order and follow patterns. Every morning the sun rises and every evening it sets. This shows us that God is wise and has a plan for everything He creates.
- When we stand by a giant ocean, waves crashing big and mighty, we know the strength of God.
- When we see a colorful butterfly land on a flower, we know the gentleness of God.
- **What things have you seen in nature that make you think of God's love and goodness? (Answers may vary.)**

God also reveals Himself through other people who love God.

- When someone in our family gives us a hug and we feel safe, we know that God is the source of all love and this person is sharing God's love with us.

The one Person who makes God known to us the most, however, is Jesus Christ.

- Jesus Christ reveals God to us in the fullest way because He is the Son of God, who became man.

Let's read from the Bible. God tells us to “[hold] fast the word of life” (Philippians 2:16).

- “Hold fast” means to stay close. **Whom is God telling us to stay close to when He says “word of life”? (Answers may vary.)**
- He is telling us to stay close to Jesus, who is the Word of God who makes God known to us!
- **Do you know where we learn about Jesus? (Pause.)**
- We learn about Jesus in God's written word in the Bible, and through the Church.
- The Bible tells us about Jesus and God's plan for us.
- Jesus gave us the Church so that His truth can be taught throughout history.

So if we want to learn and love God more, we should read about Jesus in the Bible and learn from the Church.

**Conclusion:** God invites each of us to know Him. We can come to know God through creation and through other people. We come to know God most fully through Jesus. We learn about Jesus and what He revealed about God by reading the Bible and learning from the Church.

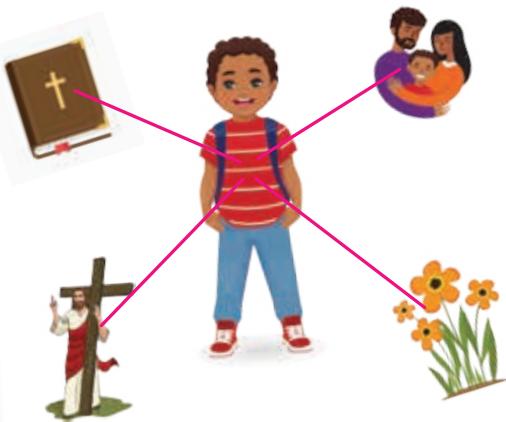
### Activity: We Can Know God

Turn to page 29 of the Student Text.

life"  
creation.  
God  
the fullest  
about  
ch.

### We Can Know God

Draw a line from the child to the pictures that show ways to know God.



### Faith Challenge

Go outside and look for one thing in creation. It could be a plant, sunrise, or cloud. Tell God "thank You" for creating it.

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## Let's Live Our Faith

**I Love God Because I Know Him:** God reveals Himself to us so that we can know Him and then love Him more. He *wants* to be known by us so He tells us about Himself, especially in the Bible. Let's think about all the things we have learned about God. Write these on the board or draw symbols. Solicit ideas from the students; if necessary, prompt them to include the following:

- God loves us and takes care of us.
- God is almighty and all-knowing.

• God gave us our lives, His love, the Church, the sacraments, the sunshine, and the land with trees and plants to grow. He gave us the love of our parents, friends, and bodies to move around in and do everything we need to do.

- **How does God reveal Himself to us in His creation and other people?** (*Answers may vary.*) The more we recognize the many ways God reveals Himself to us and the many gifts He gives us, the more deeply we will come to know and love Him.

Choose one thing you know about God that helps you love Him more. Repeat this phrase and finish the sentence.

- I love God more because I know He \_\_\_\_\_. Encourage students not to repeat answers.

**Challenge:** Go outside and look for one thing in creation. It could be a plant, sunrise, or cloud. Tell God "thank You" for creating it.

### Review Chapter 3, Lesson 1

**Knowing God helps us do what?** (*Love Him.*)

**Who reveals God in the fullest way?** (*Jesus.*)

**Where do we learn about Jesus?** (*The Bible and the Church.*)

**In what other ways does God reveal Himself to us?** (*Through His creation and through other people.*)

**What is creation?** (*Everything God has made.*)

## Let's Celebrate Our Faith

Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

**Dear God, thank You for revealing who You are and inviting us to know and love You. Amen.**

## LESSON 2

### God's Loving Plan

God tells us His plan of love in the Bible. The Bible is God's Word. God's plan of love is that we share His love now and forever in Heaven.



## Let's Proclaim the Good News

Let's quiet our hearts and minds to hear the truth we believe:

**God reveals His loving plan to us.**

## Let's Learn about Our Faith

**Lesson 2 Focus: The account of God's loving plan is in the Bible.**

See "Digging Deeper: God Speaks to Us in the Bible" and "Digging Deeper: The Inspired Word of God" sidebars on page 40.

God has a plan of love for each of us.

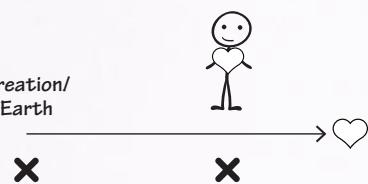
- God reveals His loving plan through the Holy Bible. (Hold up Bible.) The Bible is a sacred book. "Sacred" means that an object is very holy, or something that is set apart by God or for God.
- The Bible isn't just a book—it is God's Word; it is God speaking to us. In the Bible, God tells us about His plan of love.
- God's plan of love for each of us is that we will be in communion with Him now and forever.
- **If we are in communion with God, what does that mean?** (Answers may vary.)
- Being in communion with God means that we are closely united to God, that we love Him, and that He loves us.

God gives Himself to His children.

- **Do you know how we become children of God?** (Pause.) The Bible tell us we become children of God at our Baptism.
- At our Baptism, we receive the *three theological virtues*—faith, hope, and charity.
- The most important virtue is *charity* because it is by the virtue of charity that we are able to love God above all else and to love others like God does.
- **Do you love God?** (Yes.) Charity is the virtue of love. All love begins with God.
- *Faith* is a theological virtue that helps us believe in God and what He teaches us.
- **Do you believe that God loves you? Do you believe all that He teaches?** (Pause.) If so, then you have faith! If not, then ask God for greater faith.
- *Hope* is the theological virtue that makes it possible for us to trust in God and trust that He has prepared a place for us in Heaven.
- **Do you want to go to Heaven?** (Yes.) Then we must always hope in God and trust that He will always lead us to Heaven if we love Him.
- God helps us grow in the virtues of faith, hope, and charity so that we can be His holy children and do good actions.

The Bible tells us about God's plan of love. This love continues in Heaven forever. See doodle. Draw a long timeline on the board with an arrow on the right, indicating that Heaven is forever; place an X at the beginning of the line and write "Creation/Earth" above it.

Creation/  
Earth



### Let's Prepare Our Hearts

**Prayer: Sacred Art Reflection: Virgin Mary with the Apostles and Other Saints, by Fra Angelico**

Direct the students to look at the artwork on page 30 of the Student Text. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

**Dear God, as we reflect on this beautiful work of art, help us see that those who love You will be happy in Heaven.**

Look carefully at this beautiful painting showing us some of the saints in Heaven. (Pause.)

Notice that each of the saints has a gold halo, or round circle, over his head. (Pause.)

Gold reminds us of God because He is our King. The gold haloes show us that the saints are very holy and close to God. If we grow in love while we are on earth, Jesus will lead us to His Father in Heaven.

**Heavenly Father, help us grow in our love for You by believing and trusting in You so that we, too, may be saints in Heaven. Amen.**

### Review Chapter 3, Lesson 1

**Knowing God helps us do what?** (Love Him.)

**Who reveals God in the fullest way?** (Jesus.)

**Where do we learn about Jesus?** (The Bible and the Church.)

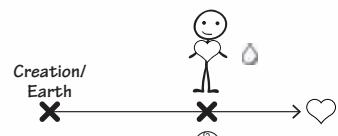
**In what other ways does God reveal Himself to us?** (Through His creation and through other people.)

**What is creation?** (Everything God has made.)

## Let's Live Our Faith

**My Part of God's Plan of Love:** We are all children of God because He created us, but we become His children in a special way through Baptism. In the Bible, God tells us about His plan of love for us now and forever. **Did you know that each of you is already part of God's plan of love?** (Pause.)

- On the timeline in the lesson, mark the symbols for birth and family under the stick figure and for Baptism right next to the stick figure.



- Think about *your part* of God's plan of love and how you have received love from God throughout your life, beginning with your birth, your family, and your Baptism.

- **Do you remember your Baptism?** (Answers may vary.) Imagine you as a baby getting baptized. (Pause.) At your Baptism, you became a child of God and you received the virtues of faith, hope, and charity. (Pause)

- **Demonstrate on timeline:** We received love from God and our family. We received faith, hope, and charity in Baptism.

- God always shows His love for His children.

- **Can you name one person or event in your life that shows how God has given His love to you?** (Answers may vary.) Begin by witnessing one person or event in your life that shows God's love.

**Challenge:** Thank your parents for having you baptized.

### Review Chapter 3, Lesson 2

**What is the sacred book that tells us about God's plan of love?** (The Bible.)

**Who speaks to us in the Bible?** (God.)

**Has God loved us always or just since we were born?** (Always.)

**When do we become children of God?** (At our Baptism.)

**What are the three theological virtues we receive at our Baptism?** (Faith, hope, and charity.)

**Where does God desire that we will be with Him forever?** (Heaven.)

## Let's Celebrate Our Faith

For our prayer today, we're going to read God's Word from the Holy Bible.

- This prayer comes from the Book of Psalms.
- **Can you say "Psalms"?** (Repeat.)

Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

**"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds"** (Psalm 9:1). Amen.

In Baptism, we become children of God. He gives us the three theological virtues:

- With faith, we believe in God and what He teaches us.
- With hope, we trust God and His plan for us.
- With charity, we love God above all else. We also love others like God loves them. Charity is the greatest virtue.



### I Am an MVP in God's Plan!

God has a special part for you in His plan! Draw a picture of yourself. It will show God's "Most Valuable Person." Then write your name on the blank line.

My name is student's name. God loves me! I am a special part of God's plan. He gave me virtues. I can love like God loves.

### Faith Challenge

Thank your parents for having you baptized.

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The Bible is not just about people who lived long ago. (Point to the beginning X.) It teaches us about God's plan for you and for me. In God's plan of love, God created the world. Add an X three-fourths of the way down the timeline and a stick figure above the X.

- The most beautiful part of God's plan is that He desires to have a loving friendship with us. Add a heart to the stick figure.
- **Do you want to be with God forever in Heaven?** (Yes.) The theological virtues we receive at Baptism show us how to follow God's plan of love.
- **Do you remember the three theological virtues?** (Faith, hope, and charity.)
- **Which virtue helps us believe in God and what He teaches us?** (Faith.)
- **Which virtue makes it possible for us trust in God and want to be with Him in Heaven?** (Hope.)
- **Which virtue makes it possible for us love God above all else and other people like God loves them?** (Charity.)
- God wants us to be with Him not only now but also forever in Heaven, His perfect home. (Add a heart to the end of the line.) These virtues help us do that!

**Conclusion:** God reveals Himself to us in the Holy Bible. In the Bible, we learn about God's plan of love—that He has loved us forever and His love will never end.

### Activity: I Am an MVP in God's Plan!

Turn to page 31 of the Student Text.

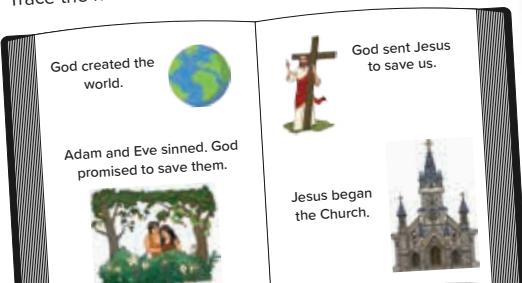
## LESSON 3

### The Bible

We learn about God in the Bible. The Bible has two parts. In the Old Testament, God makes promises to His people. In the New Testament, God keeps His promises through Jesus. We should always treat the Bible with respect.

#### The Bible Has Two Parts

Trace the name of each part of the Bible.



Old  
Testament

New  
Testament

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## Let's Proclaim the Good News

Let's quiet our hearts and minds to hear the truth we believe:

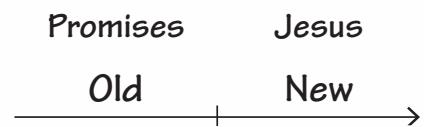
**God reveals His loving plan to us.**

## Let's Learn about Our Faith

**Lesson 3 Focus:** The account of God's loving plan in the Bible has two parts. 

See "Living the Virtues: A Life of Charity" sidebar on page 40.

See doodle. Draw a timeline on the board and divide it in half. Write "Old" in the left half and "New" in the right half; point to these during class discussion.



**Has anyone listened to a story or watched a movie that is in two parts? (Pause.)**

- You watch the first one and then you watch the second one, since it takes place after. God's plan of love is kind of like that.
- **Who remembers what the Bible is?** (God's plan of love that He reveals to us.)
- God tells us about His plan of love in two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- **Do you think we should treat the Bible just like any other book that we own? (No.)**
- We should always hold the Bible carefully and treat it with respect.

There are two parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament. Hold up a Bible.

- The first part of the Bible is called the Old Testament. Hold up Bible and show where the Old Testament begins and ends.
- **Can you say "Old Testament"? (Repeat.)**
- The Old Testament tells us about God's love from the beginning of time.
- In the beginning, we learn that God created us because He loves us.
- Sadly, we hear about people who turned against God.
- Most importantly, we learn that no matter what, God never left His people.
- In the Old Testament, God makes many promises to take care of His people when they had turned against Him. Write "Promises" above "Old."

## Let's Prepare Our Hearts

### Prayer

Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

**Dear God, Your love makes us holy. Help us to be holy and to love as You do so we can be with You in Heaven. Amen.**

### Review Chapter 3, Lesson 2

**What is the sacred book that tells us about God's plan of love? (The Bible.)**

**Who speaks to us in the Bible? (God.)**

**Has God loved us always or just since we were born? (Always.)**

**When do we become children of God? (At our Baptism.)**

**What are the three theological virtues we receive at our Baptism? (Faith, hope, and charity.)**

**Where does God desire that we will be with Him forever? (Heaven.)**

## For the Teacher

### Digging Deeper: The Old Testament

The climax of God's saving work is Jesus in His life, Death, and Resurrection. Yet God began His saving work as soon as Adam and Eve sinned. He promised a Savior (see Genesis 3:15). God's preparation for Jesus' saving work is recorded in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, we see God teaching His people to trust Him and providing Fatherly correction when they chose to sin. The Old Testament reveals God's love, mercy, and protection. Familiarity with the Old Testament helps us understand the richness of Jesus' saving words and deeds.

### Saint Rose of Lima

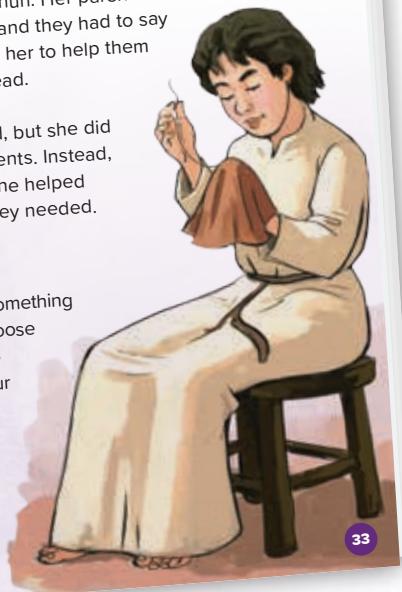
Just like us, Saint Rose received the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity at her Baptism. These virtues always helped her follow God's plan of love.

Rose asked her parents whether she could join a convent and become a nun. Her parents were struggling with money, and they had to say no to Rose. They asked her to help them support the family instead.

Rose was disappointed, but she did not argue with her parents. Instead, she remained joyful. She helped them with whatever they needed.

#### Faith Challenge

Notice the next time something needs to be done. Choose to do it joyfully. Go the extra mile to show your love for God.



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The second part of God's loving plan in the Bible is the New Testament. Hold up Bible and show where the New Testament begins and ends.

#### • Can you say "New Testament"? (Repeat.)

- In the New Testament, God keeps all His promises.
- Do you know who God sent us to keep all His promises? (Answers may vary.)
- God sent us His only Son, Jesus, to keep all God's promises. Write "Jesus" above "New."
- In the New Testament, we hear about God sending His Son, Jesus, to lead all people back to God.
- We hear about the life of Jesus and how Jesus taught the people to love.
- The New Testament also tells us about those who followed Jesus and became the leaders of His Church.
- Jesus is the Good News of the entire Bible!

The Bible is not just about people who lived long ago. It teaches us about ourselves too.

- Like the people in the Old Testament, sometimes we do not always love as God calls us to love. For example, if we disobey our parents or tease our sisters or brothers, we are not loving like God loves.
- When we learn to spend time with God reading the Bible, our relationship with God grows.
- Jesus' followers told everyone about the Good News of Jesus; we, too, should tell everyone about Jesus' love for us.

- Can you name a time when you told someone about God's love? (Answers may vary.)

**Conclusion:** The Bible is God's Word. In the Old Testament, God makes promises to His people who turned away from Him. In the New Testament, God keeps His promises by sending Jesus to lead people back to God.

### Activity: The Bible Has Two Parts

Turn to page 32 of the Student Text.

## Let's Live Our Faith

**Saint Rose of Lima:** Just like us, Saint Rose received the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity at her Baptism. These virtues always helped her follow God's plan of love.

Rose asked her parents whether she could join a convent and become a nun. Her parents were struggling with money, and they had to say no to Rose. They asked her to help them support the family instead.

Rose was disappointed, but she did not argue with her parents. Instead, she remained joyful. She helped them with whatever they needed.

God gave Rose the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity to make her a holy child. These virtues helped her believe and trust in God, love her parents, and support them even when it was not what she wanted to do.

• How can we live the virtue of charity when our parents ask us to do something? (Obey without complaining.)

• Instead of just saying prayers with words, how can you pray with faith and charity? (Think about God while praying, talk to Him, and listen to what He says in your heart.)

• Instead of waiting to be asked to do something that needs to be done at home, what can you do? (Look for ways to help without being asked.)

**Challenge:** Notice the next time something needs to be done. Choose to do it joyfully. Go the extra mile to show your love for God.

### Review Chapter 3, Lesson 3

**Where does God reveal His plan of love to us?** (The Bible.)

**What is the first part of the Bible?** (The Old Testament.)

**What is the second part of the Bible?** (The New Testament.)

**In the New Testament, whom did God send to lead us back to Him?** (Jesus.)

## Let's Celebrate Our Faith

Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

**Dear God, thank You for speaking to us in the Bible and giving us Your plan of love. Help us listen to Your Word. Amen.**

## LESSON 4

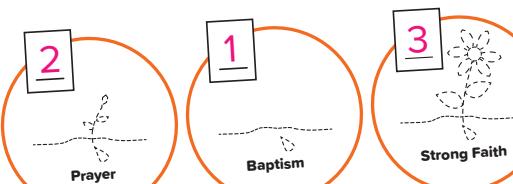
### Faith

Faith is a virtue given to us in Baptism. Faith helps us believe in God and what He teaches us. God can make our faith grow stronger. When we pray, our faith grows. With strong faith, we can become **saints** in Heaven.



#### My Faith Grows

Faith is like a seed. It can grow. Trace the images. Then number the correct order of a growing faith.



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Reflection (If needed, use to prompt students during the meditation step.)

- I know God's love.
- I believe in God's love.

### Review Chapter 3, Lesson 3

**Where does God reveal His plan of love to us? (The Bible.)**

**What is the first part of the Bible? (The Old Testament.)**

**What is the second part of the Bible? (The New Testament.)**

**In the New Testament, whom did God send to lead us back to Him? (Jesus.)**

## Let's Proclaim the Good News

Let's quiet our hearts and minds to hear the truth we believe:

**God reveals His loving plan to us.**

## Let's Learn about Our Faith

**Lesson 4 Focus: God reveals His love, and we respond with faith.**

When we read the Old Testament, we learn about many people who believed in God and trusted that He would keep His promises to them.

- **Do you believe that God will always keep His promises? (Yes.)**
- We have faith like the heroes in the Old Testament when we believe in God and believe that He keeps His promises.

In fact, the more we read the Bible, the more we can grow in faith.

- In the Bible, we learn about people who believed in God and trusted that He would save them from a great flood, slavery, and many other difficult situations.
- **When have you believed in God even when it was hard? (Answers may vary.)**

## Let's Prepare Our Hearts

### Prayer: *Lectio Divina*

Refer to the *Lectio Divina* Quick-Start Guide on page xi of the Teacher Manual. Begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Dear God, help us listen to Your Word in the Bible so that we can begin to know You better. We believe in the love You have for us. We give You all our love in return. Amen.**

Lead students in *lectio divina* on 1 John 4:16: "We know and believe the love God has for us."

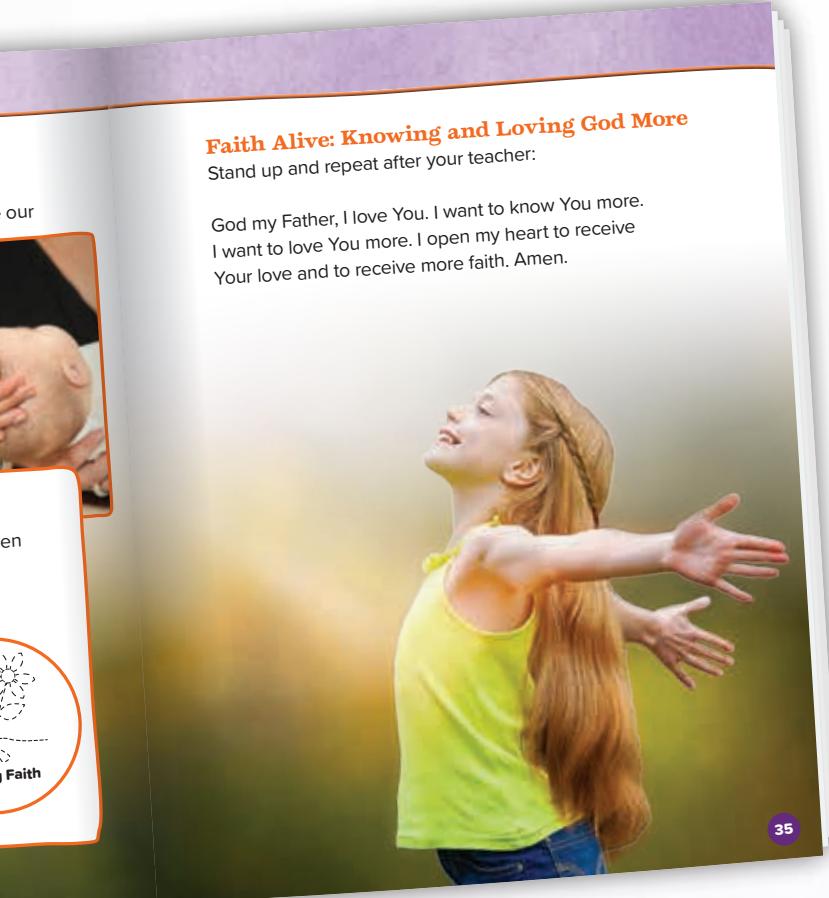
### For the Teacher

#### Living the Virtues: The Virtue of Faith

Man's mind is limited and finite. God is unlimited and infinite. On our own, it is impossible to know the richness of God's perfect plan for us. In His goodness and generosity, God enables us to know Him and love Him beyond what we are able to do on our own by giving us *faith*. This theological virtue is given in Baptism so that we can know and understand the truths that our human reason cannot know without His help. Faith is a gift, but we must *nurture* this virtue by using our minds to learn about God and be obedient to His teachings.

#### Living the Virtues: The Link between Faith and Charity

In order to love our friends properly, we must know them and believe what they say. The same is true with God. Thus, in order to have the virtue of charity, we must also have the virtue of faith. The virtue of faith gives us understanding and belief in what God has revealed to us. Contrary to popular belief, this faith is not truly blind. When we have faith in God's Revelation, we are not abandoning our reason to commit to something we do not understand at all. That would be irrational! Instead, by the light of faith, we believe and will, in fact, grow in understanding of what is beyond our own reason. Through faith, we can see with greater clarity God's presence and His plan of love in creation and in our personal lives. And the more we understand what God has revealed to us, the more we grow in charity.



### Faith Alive: Knowing and Loving God More

Stand up and repeat after your teacher:

God my Father, I love You. I want to know You more.  
I want to love You more. I open my heart to receive  
Your love and to receive more faith. Amen.

We can have even greater faith than the heroes of the Old Testament because at our Baptism we were given a special gift—the theological virtue of faith. Faith helps us believe in God and in His promises that He loves us and wants us to be in Heaven with Him forever!

- **Have you been to a Baptism before?** (Pause.)
- In Baptism, we receive the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. The virtue of faith helps us believe in God and what He teaches us through the Scriptures and the Church.

God gives us faith for our own happiness.

- When we believe in what God tells us and follow His commandments, we will live a happier life here on earth and the happiest life in Heaven!
- **Do you know what we call a person who died in God's friendship and is now with Him in Heaven? (Saint.)**
- You can become a saint by believing and following what God teaches you. God gave you the theological virtue of faith at your Baptism to make it possible and to help you do this!

We should always try to grow in our faith so that we can do what God tells us and become saints. We can ask Him to help us grow in the virtue of faith.

- **Can you name a time when you prayed to God and He answered your prayers? (Answers may vary.)**
- **Can you name a time when you prayed to God and it seemed like He did not hear your prayers? (Answers may vary.)**
- God always answers our prayers according to His plan. Sometimes He does not give us the answer that we want. But with

faith, we can know that God answers our prayers by always doing what is best for us.

- **How do we know this? (Pause.)** One reason we know this is because we can read in the Bible about God caring for His people.
- No matter what happens, we know God loves us. We can have faith that God tells us the truth and keeps His promises.

**Conclusion:** Faith is a theological virtue given by God at our Baptism that helps us believe in Him and what He teaches. Through faith, we know that God loves us and has a plan for us.

### Activity: My Faith Grows

Turn to page 34 of the Student Text.

## Faith Alive

**Knowing and Loving God More:** God gave us the virtue of faith so that we can believe in Him and in what He teaches. Faith helps us grow in our loving friendship with God. The more we believe in God, the more we love Him. The more we love God, the more we will live as children of God and become saints in Heaven.

- **Can you think of something that you will be able to do when you are older? (Answers may include drive a car, have a job, start a family.)** The most important thing we can do is to know God and love God more. But we don't have to wait until we are older to do this!
- **Do you think God wants only older people to have strong faith? (No.)** No, God wants people of all ages to grow in faith and love.
- **Can you think of some ways to grow in faith? (Answers may include praying, reading the Bible, going to Mass.)**

On page 35 of the Student Text, repeat the words after I say them:

God my Father, I love You. I want to know You more. I want to love You more. I open my heart to receive Your love and to receive more faith. Amen.

### Review Chapter 3, Lesson 4

**What is the theological virtue that God gives us to help us believe in Him and in what He teaches? (Faith.)**

**What happens to our faith the more we love and trust God? (It gets stronger.)**

**When do we receive the theological virtue of faith? (In Baptism.)**

## Let's Celebrate Our Faith

Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear God, thank You for the theological virtue of faith. Help us always believe in You and in what You have taught us no matter what. Amen.

## REVIEW

### Chapter 3 Review: Knowing and Loving God

Match each sentence with the picture that shows the missing word. Then use those words to fill in the blanks.

1. Knowing God helps us love Him.



2. Faith will help us become saints in Heaven.



3. The Bible tells us of God's plan of love.



4. The Bible has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.



5. We can learn about God through creation.



36 Chapter 3

## Let's Remember Our Faith

Review the chapter by asking the students the following:

**Knowing God helps us do what?** (Love Him.)

**Who reveals God to us in the fullest way?** (Jesus.)

**Where do we learn about Jesus?** (The Bible and the Church.)

**In what other ways does God reveal Himself to us?** (Through His creation and through other people.)

**What is creation?** (Everything God has made.)

**Where does God want us to become saints with Him forever?** (Heaven.)

**When do we become children of God?** (Our Baptism.)

**What is the first part of the Bible?** (The Old Testament.)

**What is the second part of the Bible?** (The New Testament.)

### Chapter 3 Review: Knowing and Loving God

Turn to page 36 of the Student Text.

## Take Home

The take-home pages are located on pages 37–38 of the Student Text and on the teacher and parent portals. These pages are the story from *Gabriel's Quest* and the Family Faith page. Please send pages 37–38 home with the students.

## For the Teacher

### Digging Deeper: God Speaks to Us in the Bible

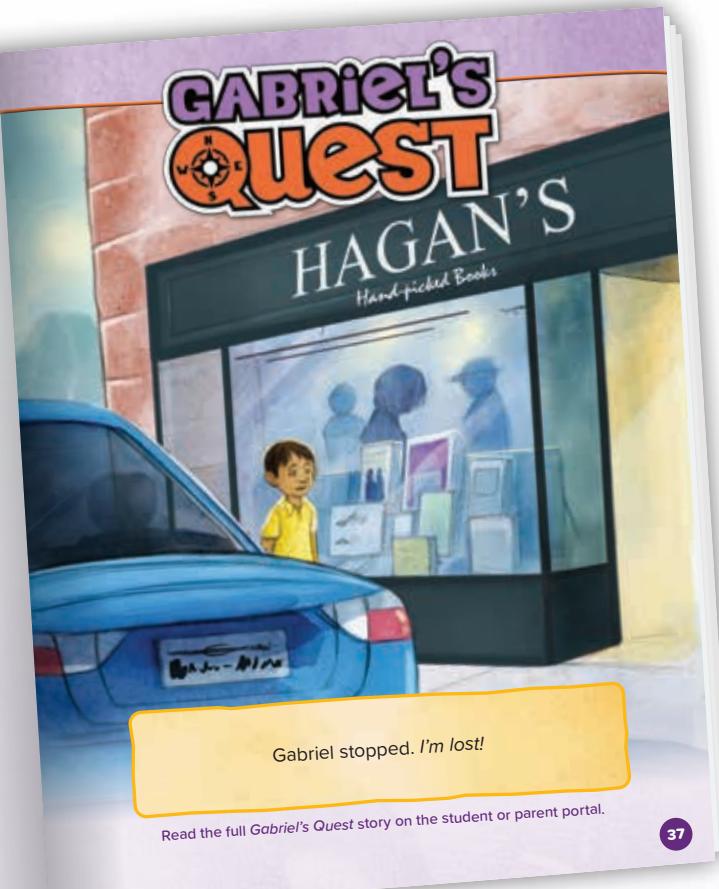
Many people sincerely desire to listen to God but are not sure exactly how to *hear* Him. God gave us the gift of His Word in Scripture. The Bible is God speaking to us. As we say at Mass, it is the “Word of the Lord.” In Scripture, “the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them” (CCC 104, quoting *Dei Verbum*, 21). The ancient practice of *lectio divina* helps us listen to God in Scripture. We read short passages of the Bible slowly and meditatively, listening for God to move our hearts as we pray. These are God’s words to us; let us take and read!

### Digging Deeper: The Inspired Word of God

At Mass, we hear the phrase “the Word of the Lord” after the Bible is read. The Bible is truly the inspired Word of God. We also know that Jesus is the Word of God (see John 1:1). He is the Word-made-flesh! Jesus is both human and divine. The inspired Word of God, the Bible, is also both human and divine. Human authors used their talents, perspective, and gifts as writers. The Bible is also authored by God. Without violating their freedom, God inspired the human authors to write all that He wanted to tell us about His perfect plan of salvation. The Bible is the Word of God, who is the source of truth.

### Living the Virtues: A Life of Charity

The virtue of charity allows us to accept and live God’s plan of love. A life of charity is lived when we love God above all else, love our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God, and love our enemies for the sake of God. This life of charity does not simply mean that we are doing the bare minimum—going to Mass on Sundays, saying grace before meals, going to confession occasionally, and being generally affable. These are all good and necessary things, but charity, which is supernatural, demands more. When we love somebody, we shouldn’t just give her the bare minimum; we should be willing to sacrifice for her good. Likewise, the virtue of charity demands a life of continual self-gift to God and to our neighbor. For children, charity requires not only that they obey their parents but also that they obey them without complaining. It means that they do things like forgive their siblings, say extra prayers to God on their own, or perform a kind deed for their parents without prompting.



## Gabriel's Quest

### Getting from Here to There

**Lesson Link:** God reveals Himself to us through the Bible and through the Church. We respond with faith.

It was Saturday, and some of Gabriel's classmates planned to meet at St. Clare's to play. Gabriel was excited to go. He hoped to make friends. But Gabriel's grandmother was not feeling well. She had a slight fever and sniffles.

"I can't drive you there," Grandma Rosa said.

"I can walk," Gabriel said. Hope Springs was a small town. The school wasn't far from the house.

"Are you sure?" she asked.

"I'm positive," Gabriel replied. "You let me walk to the store on my own. And we drive to school almost every day." Gabriel wanted to show his grandmother how grown-up he was.

"I can draw you a map," Grandma Rosa said as she rubbed her nose with a tissue.

"I don't need a map," said Gabriel.

"Then please be back here by lunchtime," she told him.

Gabriel threw on a coat and raced out. He knew to turn left, walk straight through town, and on to the school. He jogged for a few blocks past the shops and stores. Then he saw a red brick building on a corner. *I remember that building when we drove to school, he thought.*

Gabriel couldn't remember if the building meant they turned right. Or did they stay straight? He turned right. He came to another street and turned left. He walked for several blocks. Nothing looked familiar.

He stopped. *I'm lost!* he thought. *I should go back to the main street.* But he couldn't remember how to get to there. He wished he'd let his grandmother draw him a map.

He was now standing in front of a small shop. A little bell jingled as a woman stepped out. "Hello, Gabriel," she said. It was Sister Lucy from St. Clare's. "Are you all right?" she asked him.

"I was going to play at the school but got lost," he said.

Sister Lucy pointed to a large bag in her hand. "I am going to the school to drop off a few things," she said. "We can walk together."

Gabriel was relieved.

It took longer to get to St. Clare's than Gabriel expected. Some of Gabriel's classmates were already running around in the playground. Gabriel also saw his cousins, Nick and Samantha Perry.

Gabriel thanked Sister Lucy. She smiled and walked into the school.

Gabriel went to the playground and joined his classmates. They played on the swing set and jungle gym and raced around in a game of tag.

After the playing stopped, Gabriel sat down on a bench. It was time to go home, but he was worried about getting lost again. He heard a car horn blast in the parking lot.

Mrs. Perry called out from her minivan, "Get in! I'll take you home."

As they drove home, Gabriel realized that the school was on the same road that led through the town. He did not have to make any turns. He felt foolish.

Grandma Rosa was sitting in her favorite rocking chair when Gabriel arrived home. A leather-backed book sat in her lap. Gabriel knew it was her Bible. She read it every day. She asked if he had fun playing at the school.

"Yes," he said. Then he confessed that he had gotten lost on the way.

"I know. Sister Lucy called to tell me," Grandma Rosa said. "I have lived here all my life and I still get lost."

Grandma Rosa looked down at the Bible on her lap. "This Bible belonged to my grandfather," she said. She waved for Gabriel to come close. She pointed to writing inside the front cover. "He wrote these words: 'Always keep this book close to your heart. God's love and direction are on every page.'"

She smiled at him. "My grandfather knew all about directions. He served our country in two wars as a cartographer," she said.

"A what?" asked Gabriel.

"A man who makes and reads maps," she answered. Then she picked up a small box from the end table. "This is for you."

Inside the box was a gold compass in a worn leather cover. "My grandfather used it when he was in the army. He said, 'You may not always know the way, but God will always give you the tools to find it.'"

The compass was beautiful. Gabriel didn't know what to say. He hugged Grandma Rosa.

Later, when Gabriel was getting ready for bed, he put the compass on his bedside table. Then he saw a folded paper on his pillow. It was a map of Hope Springs.

### Questions:

1. **Have you ever been lost? If so, how did you feel? How did you find your way?** (Answers may vary.)
2. **How are the compass and the Bible similar?** (Both help us know where we are going.)

## Chapter 3 Optional Activities

### “Jesus Loves Me” Song

Hand motions are in parentheses.

Jesus loves me this I know, (Jesus: point to Christ’s wounds in each hand; loves: hug self; me: point to self.)

For the Bible tells me so. (Bible: put hands in front together as if praying, then open like a book.)

Little ones to Him belong. (Little ones: rock arms back and forth as if rocking a baby.)

They are weak, but He is strong. (strong: hold both arms up like you are showing your muscles.)

Yes, Jesus loves me. (Jesus: point to Christ’s wounds in each hand; loves: hug self; me: point to self.)

Yes, Jesus loves me. (Jesus: point to Christ’s wounds in each hand; loves: hug self; me: point to self.)

Yes, Jesus loves me, (Jesus: point to Christ’s wounds in each hand; loves: hug self; me: point to self.)

The Bible tells me so. (Bible: put hands in front together as if praying, then open like a book.)

### The Old or New Testament Game

Materials:

- Pattern is on the teacher portal; one per student
- Craft sticks; two per student
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Bag of pennies; enough for each student to get about five

This activity will help the students identify whether an event took place in the Old Testament or the New Testament.

Have the students cut out their patterns. Then have them glue the New Testament pattern to one craft stick and the Old Testament pattern to another.

Ask the students to put both sticks down on their desks. Begin by telling students that the following narratives take place in the Old Testament: the Creation, man’s first sin, Noah’s ark, and the Ten Commandments. Explain that the following are narratives in the New Testament: Birth of Christ, Death of Christ, Resurrection, Pentecost. Do some drills to help them remember which narrative is from which Testament by saying the name of a narrative and holding up the appropriate stick. Then start the game: give the name of a narrative from the Bible and let the students think about whether the event happened in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Then they should hold up the appropriate stick high in the air and keep them high while you pass out the pennies. Tell them to try not to look at what their neighbor is holding because they might be wrong. If the students are struggling, you can give them the hint that any narrative with Jesus or the Apostles will always be in the New Testament.

### My Little Bible Booklet

Materials:

- Pattern is on the teacher portal; one per student
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Crayons or markers

With this activity the students will form a Bible booklet that will briefly show God’s loving plan for us.

Have the students cut out their patterns. Have them look at the bottom right-hand corner of each page/square for the page number. Help the students place two staples on the left-hand side of the stack to hold the booklet together.

Have them color or decorate their booklets while you explain how the Bible has two parts and shows God’s loving plan for His creation.

### God’s Plan of Love Journal

Materials:

- This chapter’s journal page is on the teacher portal; one per student
- Markers and other decorating materials

Each chapter has a journal page for students to take time to listen to God in Scripture. See page ix of the Teacher Manual for a full explanation of the journal.

Read the Scripture passage and reflection prompt: “Holding fast the word of life” (Philippians 2:16). The Bible is God’s Word. Write, draw, or tell about what you have heard in the Bible.

Give the students time to think about their answer. The page can be done in class or sent home to be done with their families. After the students complete the reflection, make sure their names are on them and pick them up to keep in a special place or to put together in a binder for each student at the end of the year.