

# FAMILY FAITH

## Chapter 3: Knowing and Loving God

*God reveals His loving plan to us.*

### 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.

### More for Parents

Telling your children about their family members helps them know their heritage. We share family stories so our children know the important people in their history, especially if a family member was particularly heroic in war or suffered great trials to make a better life for his descendants. The Bible is the testament of the marvelous things God has done to give us eternal life. When you read the Bible with your children, you are teaching them about God's love and presence throughout history and in their lives today.

### Virtue in the Family

We celebrate birthdays, graduations, and other sacraments, but we often forget to celebrate the most important moment in our spiritual journey: when we are born to new, eternal life with Christ—our Baptism.

### Growing Our Faith

- Have a parent recite Mark 16:16: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved."
- Spend five to ten minutes in prayer, reflecting on Baptism and the virtue of faith.
  - What does it mean to believe in God and what He teaches?
  - Imagine your own Baptism. Imagine God Himself pouring the water over you and giving you the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.
  - Pray for an increase in the virtue of faith.
- Recite as a family each day, "Dear God, I believe in You, I hope in You, and I love You above all things."
- Read Bible accounts of faith to your children, such as Mark 5:21–43. Point out that God never gives up on those who believe in Him.
- Celebrate everyone's baptismal date as his "birthday" into new life in Christ.

### Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **creation**
- **saint**

Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.



For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.