

Family Faith

Chapter 1

The Story of God's Love

We are created by God to love and be loved.

Chapter Summary

God is all-good and all-loving, and all of creation came forth from His love and goodness. The Bible tells us the story of God's plan of love for us and His plan for us to be happy. He created us to share in His life of love (see CCC 1) and has a role for each of us in the plan of His love. God will never create another person like each one of us. God dearly loves us, and He wants to have a loving relationship with us.

Life is a gift from God. He created us out of love, and He gave His love to us as a gift to be shared. God also gave us the ability to choose to love Him and to choose to love one another. When we choose to love God and to be in a loving friendship with Him, we experience true happiness. We are also truly happy when we choose to love one another and share God's gift of love with others.

When we live as God created us to be, we are able to find our greatest happiness. God's plan from the beginning was that we would live in Paradise (Heaven) in a perfect relationship of love with Him and one another.

More for Parents

As parents, we have daily experience with the beauty of human love. Love can be expressed with hugs and smiles, but it also can be expressed by cooking, going to work, cleaning, doing laundry, and grocery shopping. Love is both rewarding and sacrificial. Despite the sacrifice, however, parents experience how satisfying selfless love is because we are made in the image of God, who is love. We are not made in the image of a selfish, narcissistic, or lazy god but are made in the image of the one true God, who gives Himself to others. We are satisfied by loving because we have been made by love and for love. In order to love others better, it is important to be close to God, the source of love. Can we set aside time each day to be with God so that we can more readily share His life-giving love with our families?

Our Family Prays Together

Dear God, you are good and loving. Help us receive Your love. Help us love You more each day. Help us be kind and loving to our families and friends. Amen.

Let's Talk about It as a Family

- *Where does love begin? (God.)*
- *Does God give his love to everyone? (Yes.)*
- *Does God have a plan for us to be happy on earth and to be happy in Heaven forever? (Yes.)*
- *Where do we learn about God's plan of love? (In the Bible.)*
- *How should we care for the Bible? (We should treat it with great reverence.)*

Let's Live Our Faith

- Talk about how your family shares love with one another.
- Discuss how your family can grow in love.
- Talk about what each person in the family can do to help one another become saints.

Family Faith Activities

Choose one or more of the following to do as a family:

- Pray reverently with your heads bowed and hands folded.
- Begin to teach your children how to make the Sign of the Cross. (The students will begin to learn how to make the Sign of the Cross in the first lesson of the following chapter.)
- Set aside time to read a children's Bible story.
- Read and discuss the *Small Wonders* story as a family by going to the parent portal.

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