

Chapter 2: God Is Love

God is love, and He shares His love with us.

Chapter Summary

When Jesus was on earth, He revealed that God is a Blessed Trinity—three Divine Persons in one God. The Blessed Trinity is a mystery of faith. The three Divine Persons are a perfect communion of love and a model of self-giving love. God created us to share in the communion of love of the Blessed Trinity. We receive the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity through Baptism. These virtues enable us to believe, trust, and love God as we ought. In particular, the virtue of charity makes it possible for us to love like God and become a gift to others.

More for Parents

God is love, but what is love? As parents, we have a special insight into the meaning of God's love. Think of how we look upon our children. There is nothing we wouldn't choose or do for their good. This is a glimpse of God's love, which is to choose or act for the good of another. Jesus' Death on the Cross for our salvation is the perfect expression of God's love. As parents, you are called to die to yourselves daily for the sake of your children. You go to bed late and get up early. You spend seemingly endless time, money, and energy on your beautiful children. And despite the work, this sort of selfless love is worth it. Your love reflects God's love for us all.

Virtue in the Family

God's love in us is the virtue of charity. Once we receive charity in Baptism, we are called to share it with others as a gift of ourselves. When we share His love, it is fruitful. For example, as parents, we work each day for our families, and the fruit of our labor is money to provide for the needs of our children so they are healthy and happy.

Sharing God's Love

- Do this prayer activity to grow in self-gift.
 - Reflect on these words from Scripture with your family: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:16).
 - How can you share the free time you have with your family?
 - Take time in silence to reflect on that question. Then have each person share.
 - End your prayer by making a firm resolution to do what was shared.
- Make a campfire or light a candle with your children. Discuss these points with them:
 - Fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Like fire that spreads, the Holy Spirit comes to us to fill us with the fire of God's love.
 - We are also meant to spread the fire of God's love through our lives with the help of the Holy Spirit.
- Have each person in the family make a resolution to do one extra chore around the house as an act of self-gift. Talk about the blessings or fruit that come from love. Write down each person's resolution and put it on the fridge. Write down the blessings that come from these. Maybe it will result in more free time to spend with family or make someone less stressed and happier.
- Donate old toys and clothes to a local charity as a sacrifice for another's good.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

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| • charity | • love |
| • faith | • theological virtues |
| • hope | |

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