



# What's My Child Learning?

This is a review of the information your child is learning in Christ Our Life, Grade 4.

## **Unit 1: We Come to Know God**

### Goals

The children will learn that God is revealed in creation, Sacred Scripture, the Church, and—most perfectly—his Son. They will be motivated to nourish faith through prayer, the sacraments, and obedience.

### **Chapter 1: God Reveals Himself to Us Through His Son**

To help us believe in him and thus attain eternal life, God reveals himself to us in natural and supernatural ways. In this chapter the children learn that God is revealed in creation, his words and deeds, and—most perfectly—his Son. Not only does God speak through Jesus, but Jesus is God, speaking and acting. The children learn that the Apostles came to know Jesus and, through him, the Father. They are introduced to the gift of faith and Jesus' ways of strengthening that faith. They are led to appreciate the greatness and goodness of God in creation and to respond to God's call to faith with a sincere desire to learn more about God.

### **Chapter 2: God Speaks to Us in Scripture**

The Bible, or Sacred Scripture, is the written Word of God. In this chapter the children learn more about Scripture and discover that God's love is the Bible's most important message. They are encouraged to grow in love and respect for the Bible, as well as for the Word of God when it is proclaimed or read.

### **Chapter 3: God Speaks to Us Through the Church**

God continues to speak to us through all people, who form the community of the Church. In this chapter the children learn more about the makeup of this community, particularly the position of its leaders. They discover that the authority Jesus gave to the Apostles is passed on to successive leaders of the Church. The children are encouraged to show their appreciation and love for the Church's leaders by praying for them. They are also taught to use their own talents in helping spread the Good News through prayer, work, and Christian witness.

### **Chapter 4: God Offers Us Eternal Life**

God calls us to believe and trust in him in order to enjoy eternal life with him in heaven. In this chapter the children are led to reflect on the great treasure that awaits them if they respond to God's call. They review the key concepts of this unit and celebrate their faith.

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## **Unit 2: God Strengthens Us to Be Holy**

### Goals

The children will learn about their obligation as Christians to live like Jesus, loving God and others. They will be encouraged to appreciate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, the Eucharist, and the Ten Commandments.

### **Chapter 5: We Are Called to Follow Jesus**

Jesus teaches us how to live. He shows love and concern for others by healing them, forgiving them, and teaching them. He prays to his Father and teaches us the Lord's Prayer. In this chapter the children are encouraged to follow the path of Jesus and to make prayer and good works part of their daily lives.

### **Chapter 6: Jesus Invites Us to Receive God's Mercy**

We are all sinners and in need of God's mercy. In this chapter the children are helped to recognize both their need for mercy and God's readiness to grant it. They learn about conscience and the importance of forming it according to Jesus' teachings so that their consciences may help direct and evaluate their choices. They study the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as a means of overcoming weaknesses and learning to love God more.

### **Chapter 7: We Worship God**

As creatures of God, we acknowledge our Creator through worship. In this chapter the children learn that they can worship God through loving adoration and service. They learn that Jesus offered perfect worship to the Father, and they unite themselves with him. They also learn from the example of the saints how they can use their unique gifts for the worship of God.

### **Chapter 8: God Gave Us Laws for Living**

In the Old Testament God gave his people the Ten Commandments as a pattern for living. The children learn that these laws are a sign of God's love. They are encouraged to recognize the commandments as a guide to a rich, happy life on earth and eternal joy in heaven. The children are motivated to love these laws of love as the Israelites did.

### **Chapter 9: We Honor Mary**

In Mary we find the model for all we are meant to be. Her assent to God's will in the Annunciation is characteristic of the holiness to which we are called. The children learn the *Angelus* and review the key concepts of this unit.

# What's My Child Learning?

## **Unit 3: We Love God**

### Goals

The children will respond generously to God's love by putting God's will first in their scale of values. They will know how to show love for God, as outlined in the first three commandments.

### **Chapter 10: We Show Our Love for God**

God loves us with a love as deep as a father's and as tender as a mother's. This chapter leads the children to realize that occasionally we allow other gods into our lives—persons, places, or things—that claim first attention. Because of this, God commands us to recognize that he is the one true God, whom we must worship accordingly. The children learn that worship is expressed through faith, hope, love, prayer, and sacrifice.

### **Chapter 11: We Love All That Is Holy**

In the Second Commandment God tells us not to misuse the name of God. We discern that we should use it properly and with reverence. The children learn that people who seek to honor God show both reverence for God's name and respect for the persons, places, and things related to his service and worship.

### **Chapter 12: We Keep the Lord's Day Holy**

For Christians the Lord's Day is Sunday, the day on which we commemorate Christ's Resurrection from the dead. The children learn that they should keep Sunday holy by celebrating Mass on Saturday evening or on Sunday and by receiving Holy Communion with others in the Christian community. The children also learn that they should keep Sunday free from any work that interferes with the worship, joy, and relaxation proper for the Lord's Day.

### **Chapter 13: We Grow in Holiness**

Love of God is shown in our openness to God's Word. We must listen to God and put his Word into practice in order to bear fruit. This chapter helps the children review the first three commandments and urges them to carry out these commandments in their lives.

## **Unit 4: We Love God's People**

### Goals

The children will know how the last seven commandments guide us to love our neighbors and ourselves. They will develop reverence for life and for the gifts of the earth.

### **Chapter 14: We Honor and Obey**

In the Fourth Commandment God shows love for the family and protects the relationship between parents and children. This commandment also stresses obedience, love, and respect for parents. The chapter presents the Holy Family as the ideal of family life. The children learn that they should be considerate of and respect the adults who teach and take care of them. The children also reflect on the characteristics of a good leader.

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## **Chapter 15: We Respect the Gift of Life**

God is the giver of life. He sustains it and has absolute power over it. The children learn that in the Fifth Commandment, God forbids any thought, word, or act that could in any way endanger or harm themselves or others. The chapter guides the children to show appreciation for the gift of life by taking care of it and by showing kindness and concern for others.

## **Chapter 16: We Are Faithful to Ourselves and Others**

We all have an inherent dignity and sacredness, because we have been created by God in God's own image and likeness. The children learn that Christians reflect this dignity when they respect themselves and others and when they are faithful in their interpersonal relationships.

## **Chapter 17: We Respect What God Has Given Us**

God gave us the Seventh and Tenth Commandments to ensure every person's right to own property, to receive just compensation for work, and to share in the natural resources of the world. The children learn that they are to respect the property of others, just as other people are to respect theirs. The chapter encourages the children to be satisfied with and grateful for what they have, to be willing to share with those less fortunate than themselves, and to use material things responsibly.

## **Chapter 18: We Respect the Gifts of the Earth**

God created the earth and everything in it for the use of all people. The children learn that God expects the gifts of the earth to be used wisely and responsibly and shared with justice and charity.

## **Chapter 19: We Speak the Truth with Love**

God is faithful to his promises, for God is the God of truth. The children learn that the Eighth Commandment charges us to speak the truth in all things and to keep our promises. The chapter leads the children to imitate Jesus, who came to earth to "bear witness to the truth."

## **Chapter 20: We Live God's Laws**

The Ten Commandments protect our natural rights and govern our duties to God, others, ourselves, and nature. The activities and celebrations in this chapter increase the children's appreciation for the commandments and encourage them to show their love for God by keeping the commandments. The children come to realize that God promises blessings here on earth and for eternity in heaven to those who keep his laws.

## **Unit 5: Jesus Leads Us to Happiness**

### Goals

The children will learn that Jesus gave us the Beatitudes as a guide to happiness both in this life and the life to come.

They will desire to live the Beatitudes, following the example of Jesus, Mary, and the saints.

### **Chapter 21: Happy Are the Poor in Spirit**

By giving us the Beatitudes, Jesus helped us to obtain happiness here and hereafter. The children learn that the first beatitude advises us to be detached from material things and satisfied with what we have. The first beatitude encourages us to share with others and to trust in God for all our needs.

### **Chapter 22: God's Sorrowing and Meek People Receive a Special Promise**

Suffering is part of everyday life. By imitating Jesus, who is gentle and humble of heart, the children learn to meet the challenging situations of life with patience and to comfort others who are suffering.

### **Chapter 23: God's People Long to Be Clean of Heart and Holy**

Christ calls us to purity and holiness so that we may share in his happiness. We can attain this sanctity by seeking God alone. The children learn that seeking God means doing all that he wants, uniting themselves to God by the pure intention, and following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints.

### Chapter 24: God's People Bring Mercy and Peace to Others

Our love must embrace all of God's people. The children learn that being merciful means to express love and compassion for others. The chapter inspires the children by Jesus' Word and example to become peacemakers, who try to bring his peace into their lives, their homes, and the world.

### **Chapter 25: God's People Are Happy**

God can bring good out of evil and happiness out of suffering. The children learn this as they ponder the Crucifixion of Jesus and realize that he enjoyed the glory of the Resurrection only after the sufferings of the Passion. The chapter encourages the children to trust in God's grace for the strength to bear suffering with love, keeping in mind the example of the martyrs and the happiness promised by Jesus. The children review the Beatitudes and hold a celebration that will motivate them to live the Beatitudes.