

God Reveals a Plan of Love

- ✦ Say: Before we start the first unit of your book, let's take turns reading aloud page 2. Ask: What are some ways that God speaks to us? (through creation, the love of others, the Bible, the Church)
- ✦ Say: The Bible tells us how God has revealed himself to us through his great deeds. The Bible teaches us about God's plan to fill our lives with happiness and peace. You already know many things that God teaches us in the Bible. This year you will learn many more.

CHAPTER 1 The Bible Reveals God's Saving Love

Centering PAGE 1

- ✦ Together look at the book cover. Ask: What is your religion book's title? (*God Calls a People*) Say: This year, you are invited to travel with God's Chosen People as you study their sacred writings, the Old Testament, sometimes called the Hebrew Scriptures. Through your study, God will lead you to greater freedom and happiness.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the Scripture passage on page 1. Say: You will learn more about God's plan to save all people.

Sharing PAGE 3

- ✦ Say: Some people read horoscopes, thinking that the movements of the stars and planets affect fate and behavior. As Catholics, however, we believe in an all-powerful God who has revealed himself to us by entering human history. The Bible is a very important source of God's communication with us.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the first paragraph on page 3. After your child writes his or her answer to the question, discuss your child's answer.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the rest of the page. Point out the boldface term and have your child find its meaning in the Glossary.

Sharing PAGE 4

- ✦ Have your child write his or her name on the line within Isaiah 43:1 on page 4 and read aloud the verse. Ask: **What plan does the Old Testament tell about?** (God's plan to save all people) **How was this plan fulfilled?** (through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus)
- ✦ Ask: **What are other ways we come to know what God is like?** (through creation, Scripture, community, and Jesus)
- ✦ Ask: **Per God's message, why shouldn't we be afraid?** (God has redeemed us. God has called us by name, and we are his.)
- ✦ Say: **You will be using the Bible often in class, but you can also let God's Word be the Word of Life for you by reading at least one passage each day at home.**

Sharing PAGE 5

- ✦ Have your child complete the activity Why Study the Old Testament? on page 5. Discuss his or her answers.
- ✦ Have your child read silently the rest of the page. Ask: **Who is with Jesus in the picture?** (disciples on the way to Emmaus) **What is Jesus doing?** (explaining the Scriptures)
- ✦ Ask: **How do we know it was the Old Testament that Jesus taught from and not the New Testament?** (The New Testament hadn't been written yet.) **Why were the disciples filled with joy?** (From the Scriptures, they learned that Jesus' death did not mean he wasn't the Messiah. They could still hope in him.)
- ✦ Say: **The way we handle the Bible and the way we treat it should show our love for God's Word.**

Sharing PAGE 6

- ✦ Have your child read aloud A Sacred Deposit on page 6.
- ✦ Together complete Jesus Fulfilled Old Testament Promises.
- ✦ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to pray quietly.
- ✦ Have your child remove the Scripture prayer booklet God's Word Is Alive in ____ from the back of his or her book. Direct your child to put the pages in sequence, fold them, and staple or tie them with yarn. Have your child write his or her name on the booklet and look through it.

- ✦ Direct your child to page 2 of the Scripture booklet. Pray the prayer together and allow time for your child to find the quotation in the Bible and write a response. Your child may wish to share his or her reflection. You might begin by sharing yours.
- ✦ Tell your child how to work through the booklet and the date(s) it is due. Point out page 12, where your child can record verses, prayers, and reflections during the year.

Acting PAGES 7–8

- ✦ Help your child create a journey log using a folder with loose-leaf paper. The journey log should be divided into the following sections: Vocabulary, Who's Who, Prayers and Reflections, Creations, Projects. Say: **This year you will keep a journey log. You will be learning many new terms and ideas in your study of the Old Testament. To help remember these and the people and events, you will record them in your log. During the year, you can add maps, art, and important words and definitions. You can also complete some activities right in your log.**
- ✦ Lead your child through the Summary and the Review on pages 7 and 8.
- ✦ Encourage your child to share the Things to Do at Home section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 9–10**INSPIRE**

- ♦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 9. Say: **This year, we are studying the Old Testament and what it means for us as Catholics. Jesus asks us to live as his disciples.**

PROCLAIM

- ♦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **When you trace the Sign of the Cross on your forehead, lips, and heart, say to yourself, “May the Word of God be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.”**
- ♦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Knowing our Catholic faith helps us live our faith.**
- ♦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 10. Say: **Like Jerome, we are called to translate the Bible into a life of action.**
- ♦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ♦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ♦ Guide your child to pray. Say: **Pray to the Holy Spirit for the grace to hear God’s message in the Bible.**
- ♦ Challenge your child to adopt a motto. Invite him or her to find a verse from Proverbs chapters 22–24 and make it his or her personal motto.