

STUDY GUIDE  
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# God Is the Giver of Gifts

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 1*.

❖ God made everything. God made us.

PAGE 4

❖ All creation is a gift from God. He loves us very much.

PAGE 4

❖ God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity.

PAGE 4

❖ We give the gift of ourselves to others. We also give the gift of ourselves to God.

PAGE 4

❖ God made us like himself. This is an important gift from God.

PAGE 4

❖ One of God's gifts to us is being able to think. We use our minds to think.

PAGES 4 and 5

❖ Another of God's gifts to us is being able to choose.

PAGES 4 and 5

❖ God has also given us the gift of love. We especially share this gift with others.

PAGES 4 and 5

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# Jesus Is God's Best Gift

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 2*.

❖ Jesus was sent by the Father to save us. Jesus teaches us how to live. He teaches us about God.

PAGE 9

❖ Jesus is God's best gift to us. Grace is the most wonderful gift that Jesus gives us. Grace is new life.

PAGE 9

❖ Jesus suffered and died on the cross. He died for our sins so that we could live forever. Because of Jesus we can go to heaven.

PAGE 10

❖ Jesus' disciples were his friends. They heard Jesus say "Follow me." They became his Church.

PAGE 11

❖ Jesus calls you to be his friend. He also calls you to be his disciple. He wants you to be part of his Church.

PAGE 11

❖ Mary gave birth to Jesus. She is Jesus' mother. Because Jesus is God, she is the Mother of God. She is also the Mother of the Church.

PAGE 11

❖ In John 15:5–7, Jesus says that he is the vine and we are the branches. The branches need the vine to grow. Jesus says that a branch can't bear fruit without the vine. When we live with Jesus, we make much fruit. Those fruits are the good deeds we do in the world.

PAGE 12

❖ When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we remember Jesus' love. We also remember that Jesus saved us.

PAGE 13

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# Jesus Lives in His Church

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 3*.

❖ Jesus gave us grace at Baptism. Jesus took away original sin when we were baptized. Original sin is the result of the sin of Adam and Eve.

PAGE 15

❖ At Baptism we became God's children. We became members of his Church.

PAGE 15

❖ At Baptism we received the gift of faith. Faith helps us believe in God.

PAGE 15

❖ Sacraments are celebrations where we meet Jesus. Baptism is a sacrament. You will celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist this year.

PAGE 15

❖ At our Baptism, our godparents promised to help us live like good Christians. They also helped our parents during the celebration.

PAGE 16

❖ At Baptism the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. We are given a white robe and a candle. The priest says "You have clothed yourself in Christ" when he lays the robe on us. When our candle is lit, he says "Receive the light of Christ."

PAGE 17

❖ Jesus Christ is still present in the Church today. He is the head of the Church. He sent the Holy Spirit to help us.

PAGE 18

❖ The pope and bishops are the leaders of the Church. The priests help them serve the Church. We all help make the Church stronger.

PAGE 18

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# Jesus Shows Us How to Love God Our Father

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 5*.

❖ God gave us the Ten Commandments. They help us live as his children. We are happy when we follow the commandments.

PAGE 29

❖ Jesus always obeyed his Father. He always did what pleased his Father. It is good to follow Jesus' example.

PAGE 30

❖ Jesus told us to love God with all our heart. Celebrating and loving God makes us happy.

PAGE 30

❖ Sunday is the Lord's Day. It is a day of rest from hard work. We spend time with our families on Sunday. One of the commandments tells us to celebrate the Lord's Day.

PAGE 31

❖ God's name is holy. One of the commandments tells us to say his name with love. The first three commandments are all about God. We say his name with love. We pray to him. We keep his day holy.

PAGE 31

❖ We can pray as much as we like. Praying is our way of talking and listening to God. We show love to God when we pray.

PAGE 32

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# Jesus Shows Us How to Love Others

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 6*.

❖ Jesus said you should love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Jesus also said you should love your neighbor as yourself. These two rules are the Great Commandment.

PAGE 35

❖ Jesus went to the house of Peter and Andrew. He healed Peter's mother-in-law when she was sick. Then Peter's mother-in-law got up and waited on Jesus and the others.

PAGE 35

❖ When you are kind to others, you are kind to Jesus. Jesus wants us to love others. He wants us to make sure they are not hungry or thirsty. He wants us to help people who are sick. When we help others, we follow God's law of love. We become more like Jesus.

PAGE 36

❖ When Jesus went to the Temple as a boy, he talked to the teachers. He was doing God's work. Jesus always listened to his Father. When Mary and Joseph asked Jesus to come home, he did. Jesus always obeyed his parents.

PAGE 37

❖ We listen to God our Father when we obey our parents. We follow the Fourth Commandment.

PAGE 37

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## We Give Love to Others

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 7*.

❖ Everything God made is good. We treat God's gifts carefully. We show we are grateful for his gifts.

PAGE 41

❖ Every person is a gift from God. We should respect others. We should be kind to everyone. Everyone is loved by God. The Fifth Commandment tells us to care for others.

PAGE 41

❖ Our bodies are made by God. They are holy. This is why we respect our bodies. The Sixth Commandment tells us to be respectful.

PAGE 42

❖ We are honest when we respect other people's things. We do not take other people's things. We are also careful when we use other people's things. The Seventh Commandment tells us to be honest.

PAGE 42

❖ The Eighth Commandment reminds us to tell the truth. We hurt God and others when we lie. We tell the truth, even when it is hard.

PAGE 42

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# Our Friend Jesus Forgives Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 9*.

❖ Jesus chooses us to be his friends. He wants to share everything he has with us.

PAGE 53

❖ Jesus wants to share his life, love, and heavenly home with us. He wants us to love God and love others.

PAGE 53

❖ When we do something wrong, we don't act like a friend of Jesus. But Jesus is always our friend. He always loves us.

PAGE 54

❖ When we do something wrong, we tell Jesus we are sorry. Jesus forgives us. No matter what, Jesus always loves us.

PAGES 54, 55, and 56

❖ Zacchaeus often cheated people. Jesus forgave him. Zacchaeus was very sorry. He changed his ways.

PAGES 55 and 56

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# Jesus Leads Us to His Peace

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 10*.

❖ God tells us how to be happy. When we love God and love others, we say yes to God.

PAGE 59

❖ When we say no to God, we sin. We choose to be selfish. We don't love God or other people.

PAGE 60

❖ Temptation is not a sin. We sin when we choose to do something wrong.

PAGE 60

❖ Jesus gave his apostles the power to forgive sins. Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to the apostles. The Holy Spirit helped the apostles forgive the sins of others.

PAGE 61

❖ Reconciliation was Jesus' Easter gift to us. Our sins are forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We become friends with Jesus again.

PAGE 61

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# The Holy Spirit Helps Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 11*.

❖ Jesus sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is always with us.

PAGE 65

❖ We received the Holy Spirit when we were baptized. He helps us love God and one another.

PAGE 65

❖ The Holy Spirit is within us. He helps us share his love, peace, and joy with others.

PAGE 65

❖ The Holy Spirit helps us look into our own hearts. He helps us see how we have loved. He helps us learn to be more loving.

PAGE 66

❖ When we look into our hearts and see we are selfish, we are unhappy. Being selfish is not a way we love God or others.

PAGE 68

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# We Meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 12*.

❖ Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

PAGE 70

❖ We meet Jesus through the priest. The priest acts in Jesus' place in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

PAGE 70

❖ The first step of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to confess. We tell our sins to the priest. He keeps them secret. No matter what we tell the priest, he keeps it a secret.

PAGE 70

❖ The second step of the sacrament is penance. The priest gives us a penance to make up for our sins. Sometimes we do a good deed. Sometimes we say a prayer. Penance helps us stay away from sin.

PAGE 70

❖ Before we confess, we pray to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us make a good confession and live holy lives.

PAGE 70

❖ When we ask forgiveness, we ask for pardon. Jesus forgives us our sins through the priest.

PAGES 70-71

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## We Become Better Persons

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 13*.

❖ In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we say we are sorry for our sins. The priest tells us how to be more like Jesus. We confess our sins and pray the Act of Contrition. The Act of Contrition is a prayer we pray to tell God we are sorry for our sins.

PAGE 74

❖ After the priest greets you and you make the Sign of the Cross, he may read aloud from the Bible. You confess your sins. Read the steps for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on page 75.

PAGE 75

❖ The priest gives us a penance. The penance will help make up for our unloving act. It will also help us be more loving in the future. Penance can be either good deeds or prayers.

PAGE 75

❖ The priest says the words of absolution after we pray the Act of Contrition. We make the Sign of the Cross silently when the priest gives us absolution.

PAGES 74 and 75

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# Jesus Promised the Gift of Himself

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 15*.

❖ Jesus took five loaves and two fish from a boy in the crowd. He prayed over them. Then he shared with the entire crowd. With the five loaves and two fish, he was able to feed everyone.

PAGE 85

❖ Jesus said that we will live forever if we eat the living bread that came down from heaven. The living bread is Holy Communion.

PAGE 86

❖ Many people didn't believe Jesus. They said, "How can he give us his body to eat?" The twelve apostles had faith. They believed.

PAGE 86

❖ Jesus comes to us in Holy Communion. He comes to us in the forms of bread and wine. The bread and wine are really Jesus.

PAGE 86

❖ Holy Communion is called the Eucharist, the living bread, and the host. No matter what it is called, Jesus is still present.

PAGES 87

❖ The bread is really Jesus' Body. The wine is really his Blood. When the priest prays over the bread and wine, they become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

PAGE 88

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## We Celebrate God's Love

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 16*.

❖ The Jewish people celebrate Passover. It is a celebration of when God freed his people from slavery. God's people were saved from death by the blood of a lamb.

PAGE 89

❖ Jesus celebrated Passover with his apostles the night before he died. We call this the Last Supper.

PAGE 90

❖ Jesus washed the apostles' feet. When he finished, he taught them an important lesson about loving everyone. He said that we should love one another as he loves us.

PAGE 90

❖ At the Last Supper, Jesus blessed the bread and said it was his body. He gave it to the apostles. He offered the gift of himself to his Father. When Jesus did this, he gave us the Mass.

PAGE 91

❖ A sacrifice is a gift given to God. Jesus gave himself to the Father as a sacrifice on the cross. We give Jesus as a sacrifice to God at every Mass.

PAGE 92

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# Jesus Invites Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 17*.

❖ Jesus wants people to celebrate his victory over sin and death with a celebration. That celebration is the Mass.

PAGE 95

❖ Jesus wants children to come to his celebration. He told his friends to let the children come to him.

PAGE 95

❖ The family of Jesus comes together to celebrate Mass. At Mass we celebrate Jesus' dying and rising.

PAGE 96

❖ We genuflect to show our love for God before we take our place in church. Genuflecting is touching one knee to the ground.

PAGE 96

❖ The Mass begins when the priest walks to the altar. The altar is the table of the Lord.

PAGE 96

❖ We ask God's forgiveness by praying "Lord have mercy." The priest asks God to have mercy on us. He forgives us. We forgive one another. We are ready to celebrate the Eucharist.

PAGE 97

❖ We praise God at Mass. We pray "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth."

PAGE 98

❖ When the priest prays and asks God to help us, we say "Amen." God hears our prayer. To say "Amen" is to say "So be it."

PAGE 98

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## We Listen and Pray

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 18*.

❖ God speaks to us in the two readings and in the Gospel. We want to hear what God says to us. The words of the Gospel are very important to us.

PAGE 101

❖ After each reading, we say “Thanks be to God.” The readings are one of the ways that God speaks to us. We are thankful for God’s love.

PAGE 101

❖ After the first reading, we pray a psalm.

PAGE 101

❖ We get ready for the Gospel by saying or singing “Alleluia.” Alleluia is a word of joy.

PAGE 102

❖ The priest or deacon reads the Gospel from the ambo.

PAGE 102

❖ The Gospel is also called the Good News. The four Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We say “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ” after the Gospel is read.

PAGE 102

❖ We pray the Creed. We believe in God the Father, in his only Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Catholic Church. We believe that God forgives our sins and that we will rise from the dead.

PAGE 103

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## We Prepare Our Gifts

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 19*.

❖ We bring gifts of bread and wine to the altar. Sometimes we bring other gifts such as money. These gifts are signs of ourselves. We offer these gifts to show God our love.

PAGE 107

❖ We pray “Blessed be God forever” after we offer our gifts. We pray this in hopes that God accepts our gifts. They are our sacrifice.

PAGE 107

❖ The word *Eucharist* means “giving thanks.” Jesus is the best gift. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PAGE 108

❖ We sing or say “Holy, holy, holy” to praise God. We do this after we have sent our gifts to the altar but before receiving the Eucharist.

PAGE 108

❖ The bread is made from wheat. It becomes the Body of Christ. The wine is made from grapes. It becomes the Blood of Christ.

PAGE 110

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## Jesus Offers Himself

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 20*.

❖ The priest does what Jesus did at the Last Supper. The priest changes the gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus is with us in a special way.

PAGE 111

❖ Jesus is the perfect sacrifice. He offers himself to his Father for us.

PAGE 112

❖ We pray: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. We remember Jesus with this prayer. We remember that he will come again.

PAGE 112

❖ We offer ourselves with Jesus. We sacrifice ourselves along with Jesus to God the Father.

PAGE 112

❖ The priest holds up the host and the chalice. The wine is in the chalice. The wine becomes the Blood of Christ. The host becomes the Body of Christ.

PAGE 112

❖ We sing or say “Amen” to say yes to what the priest said.

PAGE 112

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# We Receive the Bread of Life

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 21*.

❖ Before Holy Communion we pray the Lord's Prayer to ask forgiveness. We are all brothers and sisters in God's family.

PAGE 115

❖ We fast for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. This prepares us to receive Jesus. However, we can take medicine or drink water.

PAGE 118

❖ When we give one another the sign of peace, we say "Peace be with you." In John 14:27, Jesus said that he was leaving his peace with us.

PAGE 115

❖ When we receive Communion, the priest shows us the host. He says "Body of Christ." We say "Amen." We say "Amen" when he offers us the chalice and says "Blood of Christ."

PAGE 118

❖ We call Jesus the Lamb of God when we ask forgiveness before Communion. We pray "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us."

PAGE 115

❖ After Communion we speak to Jesus. We are united with Jesus and his family. He is within us. He has given himself to us.

PAGE 118

❖ When we look at the host, we say "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you." The Roman soldier said "I am not worthy" when Jesus was going to come to his house. We use this story to help us prepare to receive Holy Communion.

PAGES 115 and 116

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## We Are One in the Church

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 23*.

❖ The Church is like a human body. The Church has a head and many parts. All the parts make up one body. It is the Body of Christ. We are all members of the Body of Christ.

PAGE 129

❖ Through the Eucharist, Jesus connects all the members of the Church. We are one body.

PAGE 129

❖ The pope is the Holy Father. He is the chief shepherd of the Church. The pope teaches all people about God's love.

PAGE 130

❖ Bishops around the world help the pope. Do you know your bishop's name?

PAGE 130

❖ Priests help bishops. What is the name of a priest at your church? Who is the pastor of your church?

PAGES 130 and 131

❖ Deacons help priests and bishops. Along with brothers and sisters, they serve parishes. Some spend their days praying. Some are missionaries. Missionaries spread the Good News near and far. All of them bring Jesus' love to many people.

PAGE 131

❖ John Bosco started a club to help others be one with Jesus. John Bosco had two rules for his club. First, never do anything that a child of God should not do. Second, be cheerful about whatever you do.

PAGE 133

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# Mary, Mother of the Church, Cares for Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 24*.

❖ At the wedding feast, Jesus changed the water into wine. He did this after his mother asked him to help. The chief waiter said, “You have saved the best wine until last!” It was Jesus’ first miracle.

PAGE 135

❖ Mary is the mother of Jesus’ family, the Church. She is our mother too.

PAGE 136

❖ The Church honors Mary in prayer. The Rosary is a favorite prayer to Mary.

PAGE 137

❖ We pray a Hail Mary on each small bead of the rosary. There are 10 small beads in each group of beads. These are called decades. There is a large bead between each group of small beads. We pray an Our Father on those. We pray the Glory Be to the Father at the end of each decade.

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