



Word of Life equips parents as the primary catechists of their children through simple, built-in family faith formation. With both print and digital resources, it engages parents at every level of faith and experience.

FAMILY FAITH

Chapter 6: God with Us
God dwells among His people and shows them how to love and worship Him.

Chapter Summary

God sent the Israelites bread from Heaven called manna to nourish them on their journey to the Promised Land. God told the Israelites to build the Ark of the Covenant. In the Ark, they kept the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments and some of the manna from Heaven. God dwelt among His people through the Ark of the Covenant. Eventually, the Israelites were unsatisfied and wanted to have a king like other nations. So King Saul was chosen, and the twelve tribes of Israel became the Kingdom of Israel. God made a covenant with their second king—King David—that his kingdom would last forever. God kept this promise even after their enemies captured the Kingdom of Israel and destroyed their beautiful temple. The Israelites were left waiting for the Savior, Jesus, the descendant of David who would establish God's kingdom as an everlasting kingdom.

More for Parents

God is present to His people. God makes Himself known to us in many different ways. Many parents attempt to recognize God's presence in their children. God is love, and the love that binds families together is a sign of God Himself. The family home becomes a "temple" in which the love of God is experienced. It is a place of learning to give ourselves out of love for God and one another. Parents have an amazing vocation of making God's presence known to their children. They provide for, care for, support, and nurture their children as God does for His family.

Virtue in the Family

Virtuous living should be nurtured in the home. As Catholic families, we are called to make the home a "domestic church," a place that calls the mind to worship God and to show the love of God to every member of the family.

Building Up Your Domestic Church

- As a family, decide how to make your home a dwelling place for God.
- Have each family member choose a specific decoration to honor God: a different crucifix for each room, holy water fonts, images of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, or sacred art.
- Dedicate a special place in the house just for family and private prayer. Buy devotional candles and have them blessed for use in this space. Decorate with statues of the family's patron saints, the Blessed Mother, and Christ.
- Print out how-to guides for this family chapel to help the family know how to pray such prayers as the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Angelus.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- Eucharist
- manna
- worship

Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.



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

76 Chapter 6

Grades K-5: Each chapter in the student text contains a page for parents that provides a summary of what the child learned in class and a variety of ways to live the faith in daily life. This page can be torn out of the student textbook and sent home, or downloaded and emailed from the Portal or Resource Library.

A Sanctuary at Home



Read

Solomon built the magnificent Temple so that Israel could experience the presence of God on earth and worship him. The splendor of the Temple reflected only a fraction of the glory and beauty of God. The art and design of the building created a space where the worshipper could be drawn into the mystery of God. Catholic churches today continue the tradition of using art—statues, paintings, and stained glass—to connect us with God.

Sacred art is not just for churches. As Catholics, we are encouraged to decorate our homes with sacred art or objects to remind us of God. Some Catholic families even create an altar in their home, where they can gather in prayerful worship.

Reflect

Spend 5–10 minutes reflecting on the following:

- Why is it important for Catholics to have religious art in their homes?
- Which religious picture or item in my home do I like the most, and why?
- What religious picture or item would I like to add to my home, and why?

Pray

When you have some quiet time at home, pray the following:

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this dwelling, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let thy holy angels dwell herein, to preserve us in peace; and let thy blessing be upon us forever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Act

The next time you are at church, spend a few minutes looking at one of the pieces of religious art. Consider what the art is teaching you about the Catholic faith. As you look at the art, say a brief prayer or make the Sign of the Cross.

196 Chapter 15

Grades 6–8: Each chapter concludes with a “Read, Reflect, Pray, Act” page. Consider utilizing this to invite students and parents to grow faith together at home. These reflection and activity pages encourage meaningful family conversation, prayer, and faith-filled action.

More Ideas for Building Holiness at Home:

- Share each lesson's **Lectio Divina** scripture to encourage family prayer at home.
- Include the lesson's **Proclamation of Truth** in a weekly email or newsletter. Invite families to memorize it, pray with it before meals, and/or post it on the fridge.
- Share **lesson enhancement videos** with parents and encourage them to watch and discuss with their child using the provided video discussion questions.
- Encourage families to **read faith-filled stories together at home**, including *Small Wonders* (Kindergarten), *Gabriel's Quest* (Grades 1–2), and *Saint Stories* (all grades). *Small Wonders* and *Gabriel's Quest* include print and video resources in the Portal and Resource Library, while *Saint Stories* are found in the student textbooks.



SAINT

Saint Teresa of Calcutta
 Saint Teresa was born on August 26, 1910. Her parents named her Agnes. She changed her name to Teresa later in life.

Young Teresa learned virtue and prayer from her parents. Her father was a successful businessman. Her mother worked at home caring for the family.

When Teresa was just eight years old, her father died. This left her family in a very difficult position. She grew very close to her mother. She followed her to church. At church, she helped give food and clothing to the poor. Her mother taught Teresa how to live with charity for God and others.

Faith Challenge
 Think of one way you can give yourself as a gift of love to others.

146 Chapter 12

GABRIEL'S QUEST

Call to Order

Lesson Link: God created an ordered world with everything we need to live, love, and be happy.

Gabriel Romero sat at the kitchen table eating breakfast. It was the morning of the first day of second grade. There was a lot of shouting and rushing in other parts of the house. The rest of the kids were getting ready for school.

Uncle Jon Perry stood next to the kitchen counter. He sipped his coffee and laughed. "It's like this every year. They're like a bunch of squirrels," he said.

Uncle Jon wasn't really Gabriel's uncle. Uncle Jon was a distant relative. But he was like an uncle to Gabriel. Just like Belle Perry was like an aunt. And their kids were like very close cousins.

Gabriel had moved in with the Perry family early in the summer because his grandmother had a stroke. She could no longer take care of Gabriel. Now she lived in a special home. Gabriel's mother had died when he was a baby. His father was overseas doing special jobs for the army. He liked living with the Perrys.

Gabriel heard shouts and banging upstairs. Twelve-year-old Andrew called out about a missing shirt. Eleven-year-old Lizzy couldn't find her favorite notebook. Nine-year-old Nick had put on mismatched socks. Nick's twin sister, Samantha, was upset because she had spilled toothpaste on her school uniform skirt.

"Jon!" Aunt Belle cried out.

"Coming!" Uncle Jon called back. He put down his coffee mug and sprinted up the stairs. Gabriel smiled and shook his head.

Gabriel and the Perry family made it to St. Clare's Catholic School just in time for the morning assembly.

Gabriel sat with the other second graders near his new teacher, Sister Teresa. Sister Teresa was a round, cheerful woman. After

the morning assembly, she led the kids to their class. Gabriel walked into the room and was shocked by what he saw.

The desks and chairs were not in rows. They were all pushed to one side of the room. Some were tipped over and upside down. The walls were empty. The window blinds hung topside.

"Come in!" Sister Teresa said as if nothing was wrong.

The kids moved to the middle of the room. They were confused. There was nowhere to hang their coats or put their things.

Sister Teresa stood at the front of the class. She asked, "What's wrong?"

Chapter 1 **WORD of LIFE** Grade 2

