

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

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Our Sunday Visitor

Catholic and Apostolic



Let Us Pray

Leader: Jesus, help us share your message.

“A report goes forth through all the earth, their messages, to the ends of the world.” **Psalm 19:5**

All: We want to spread the Good News of your love with joy to all the world. Give us courage and fill us with desire. Amen.



God's Word

Let the word of Jesus live deeply in you. While you teach, remind one another of his ways. “And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” **Based on Colossians 3:16–17**

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What Do You Wonder?

- How can you bring the Good News of Jesus to others?
- Where are you supposed to bring the Good News of Jesus?



While on journeys and even from prison, Saint Paul wrote letters to new Christian communities.

A Man with a Mission

How did Saint Paul spread the Good News?

An important part of believing in Jesus is sharing his story. Saint Paul was one of the first people to share Jesus' story. This was his mission.

Paul's Mission

Saint Paul was one of the great Saints of the early Church. He traveled far from the Holy Land to preach about Jesus.

Wherever he traveled, Saint Paul tried to gather a group of people. He told them about Jesus. He helped them grow into a community. After staying with them for a while, Saint Paul would leave to tell others the Good News. The communities he left behind missed his guidance and would ask for his help even though he was far away.

Saint Paul wrote many letters to the groups he had started. He used the letters to answer questions, encourage them, and teach them even more about Jesus and his teachings. We still read the letters today. They are part of the Bible. We listen to them at Mass.



Circle the ways Saint Paul helped the early Church.

Sharing God's Good News

When he wrote, Saint Paul used many examples to explain his ideas. In this passage from a letter, he used the example of seeds and plants to show how the Church grew.



God's Word

Doing God's Work

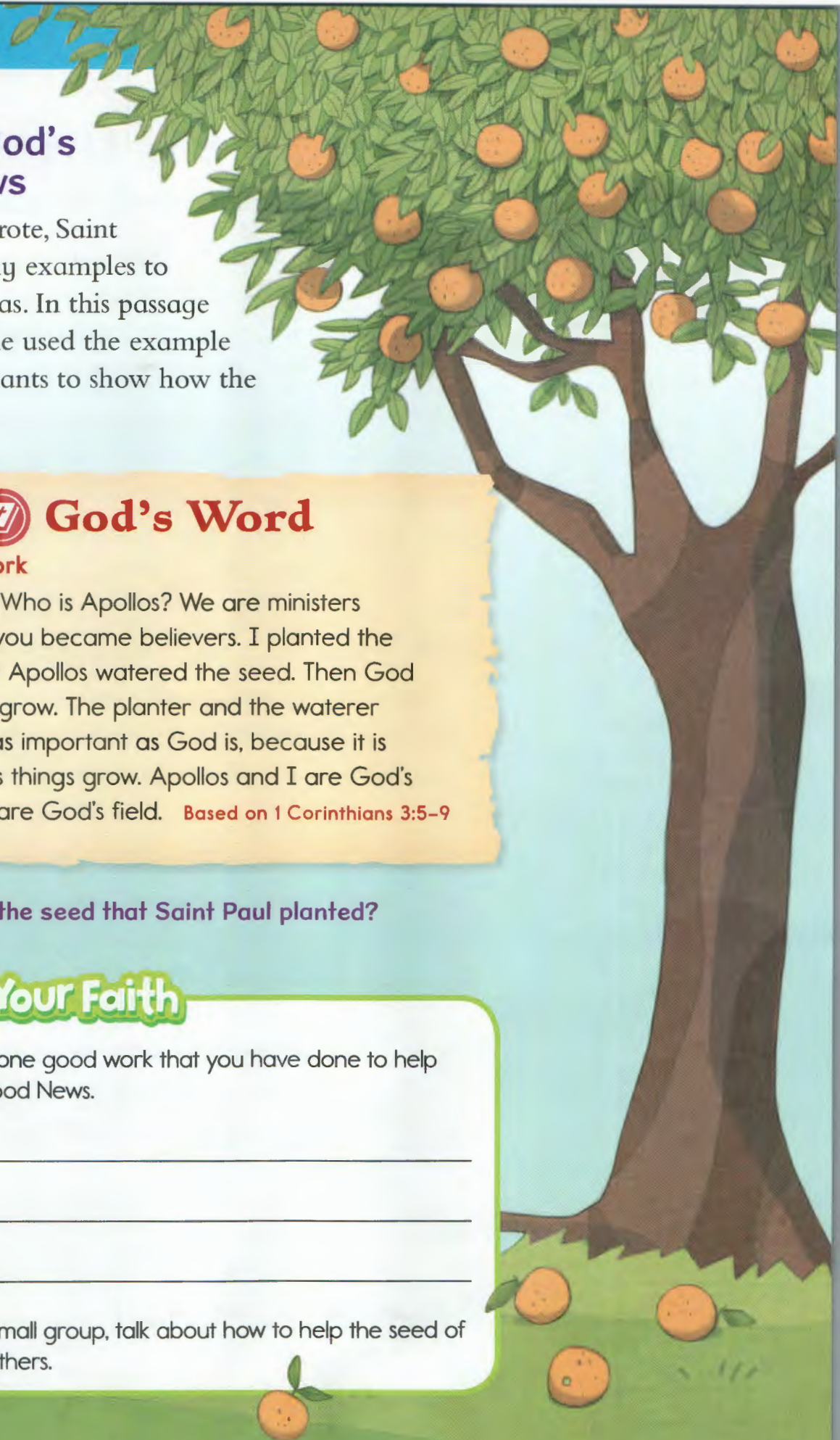
Who is Paul? Who is Apollos? We are ministers through whom you became believers. I planted the seed. My helper Apollos watered the seed. Then God made the seed grow. The planter and the waterer are not nearly as important as God is, because it is God who makes things grow. Apollos and I are God's coworkers. You are God's field. **Based on 1 Corinthians 3:5-9**

➔ What was the seed that Saint Paul planted?

Share Your Faith

Think Write one good work that you have done to help spread the Good News.

Share In a small group, talk about how to help the seed of faith grow in others.



Catholic Faith Words

evangelization sharing the Good News of Jesus through words and actions in a way that invites people to accept the Gospel

mission a job or purpose. The Church's mission is to announce the Good News of God's Kingdom.

missionaries people who answer God's call to bring the message of Jesus and announce the Good News of his Kingdom to people in other places

Universal and Missionary

How does the Church fulfill her mission?

Saint Paul helped the early Christians know that the Church was for everyone. The Church is catholic because she is for all people in all times and places. The word catholic means “universal” or “everywhere.”

The Church is apostolic because Jesus gave his Apostles the mission of sharing his Good News with people all over the world. This teaching authority has been passed on from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops. Jesus calls all of us to invite people to accept the Gospel by sharing the Good News with them. This work is called **evangelization**.

The Church's **mission**, or purpose, is to announce God's Kingdom. Mission can also mean a Church community in another country or in a remote place where people need to hear the Word of God.

Missionaries are people who answer God's call by traveling to bring Jesus' Good News to others, just as Paul did. You can help the Church's missionaries by praying for them and the people with whom they work. You can write letters to them and help raise money for things that the missionaries need.



Underline the things that missionaries do.

Missionaries travel the world and share the Good News with people in far away places.



Missionaries teach about Jesus and help people with their basic needs, such as a safe place to live.



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Sharing with Others

Along with spreading the Good News of Jesus, missionaries also share food, shelter, medical supplies, and other things with the people who need their help. These things are important because they provide for people's basic needs. Christians have always shared with others and been concerned for their needs.

God wants you to share not only physical things, such as food, but also spiritual, or holy, things. That is why Christian missionaries teach people about Jesus and build churches, hospitals, and schools. They want people everywhere to hear God's Good News.

➔ **How can you share the Good News with other people?**

Connect Your Faith

Doing God's Work Find out who in your parish is serving God as a missionary. Write their name, location, and a sentence about what they are doing to spread the Good News.



One way we can help is to write letters to children our own age in our partner parish.

Our Catholic Life

How can partner parishes work together?

Sometimes a parish will have a special relationship with another parish. The two parishes may call each other “partner parishes” or “sister parishes.” Here are some things that partner parishes do with and for each other.



Write one more suggestion that partner parishes can do to work together.

Partner Parishes

If the parishes are near each other, members of one parish sometimes attend Mass at the other parish; they also do activities together.

If the parishes are far apart, the members send letters, pray for one another, and sometimes exchange gifts.

If one of the parishes is a mission parish, the partner parish may send money, medicines, clothing, or send parishioners with useful skills to help the mission parish.

People of Faith

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1774–1821

January 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton is the first Saint who was born in the United States. She was married and had five children. After her husband died, Elizabeth became a Catholic. She wanted to do Jesus' work on Earth by serving others. She knew that people all over the world needed simple things. They need food, clothing, and to be able to go to school. She said that we must "live simply so that others may simply live." One of the things Saint Elizabeth did was open schools for poor children. She helped start the Catholic school system in the United States.



Discuss: How can you help do Jesus' work on Earth?



Learn more about Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton at aliveinchrist.osv.com

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Live Your Faith

Promote Your Parish What's special about your parish? Write, draw, or attach pictures of things that make your parish special.



 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Naming and Blessing

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: God, you have called us, your Church, to spread your goodness in the world. We take the time today to recall the times when we have seen others share your goodness.

As we plant seeds in our “planters,” we will name a good work that we have seen or know is happening somewhere in the world. The seeds will remind us that there is someone sharing the Good News, somewhere the seeds of love and goodness are being planted.

Take turns planting seeds and mentioning good works.

Leader: As our seeds grow, they will remind us of our mission to plant the seeds of faith by praying and doing good works.

Bow your heads as the leader continues to pray.

All: Amen.



Sing “Gathered as One”
Gathered as one, united we stand.
Your chosen people here in this
land. Gathered to hear the Word
of our God.
One Body alive in our faith.

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YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter covers the Marks of the Church: Catholic and Apostolic. The Church's mission is to share Jesus' Good News with the people of all nations.

God's Word



Read **Colossians 3:16–17** to learn how the Word of Jesus can live in you.

Catholics Believe

- The Church's mission is to share Jesus' Good News with the people of all nations.
- The Church is catholic because she is everywhere and she welcomes everyone.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #830, 831 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first Saint born in the United States and the founder of the parochial school system. She said that we must "live simply so that others may simply live."

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Mission of the Church People often ask children what they want to be when they grow up. The idea of a mission, either a personal or collective one, may not be familiar to children in third grade. Encourage them to consider what God is calling them to be. It's never too early for children to begin reflecting on this concept of God-given mission, especially as they begin to learn more about their talents and explore their interests.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Have you ever been to Mass in another country or another state?

No matter where you are in the world, if you go to Mass you can be sure that every person that day is hearing the same Scripture proclaimed and receiving the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It is what we mean when we say we are one, catholic church. Although we are one, we express that diversity in many cultures. "The Catholic Church...continues to live in a diversity of cultures and languages because she is led by the Spirit of Christ to bring the Gospel to all peoples. She has known how to accept what is true and good in all cultures and...to infuse the truth and goodness of her tradition and life into them" (*USCCA, p. 129*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name some ways he or she has shared Jesus' Good News with others.
- Talk about missionaries you have met and the countries they serve.

LET'S PRAY >>>



God, bless and protect all missionaries throughout the world. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 12 Review

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct word from the Word Bank.

1. The Church's _____ is to announce the Good News of God's Kingdom.
2. Jesus gave his Apostles the mission of _____ the Good News.
3. The Apostle Paul planted the seed of _____.
4. _____ bring Jesus' Good News of his Kingdom to people in other places.
5. Some missionaries help build _____, hospitals, and schools.
6. _____ means the teaching authority of the Church that comes directly from Jesus and his Apostles.

Word Bank

.....
faith
churches
mission
sharing
apostolic
missionaries

B Check Understanding Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

7. Saint Paul shared the Good News by writing _____.
 letters to new Christians a newspaper
8. The job of a missionary is to _____.
 give money share Jesus' message
9. You can share in the mission of the Church by _____.
 mailing letters sharing the Good News
10. The Church is called catholic because _____.
 she is universal she is only for some

