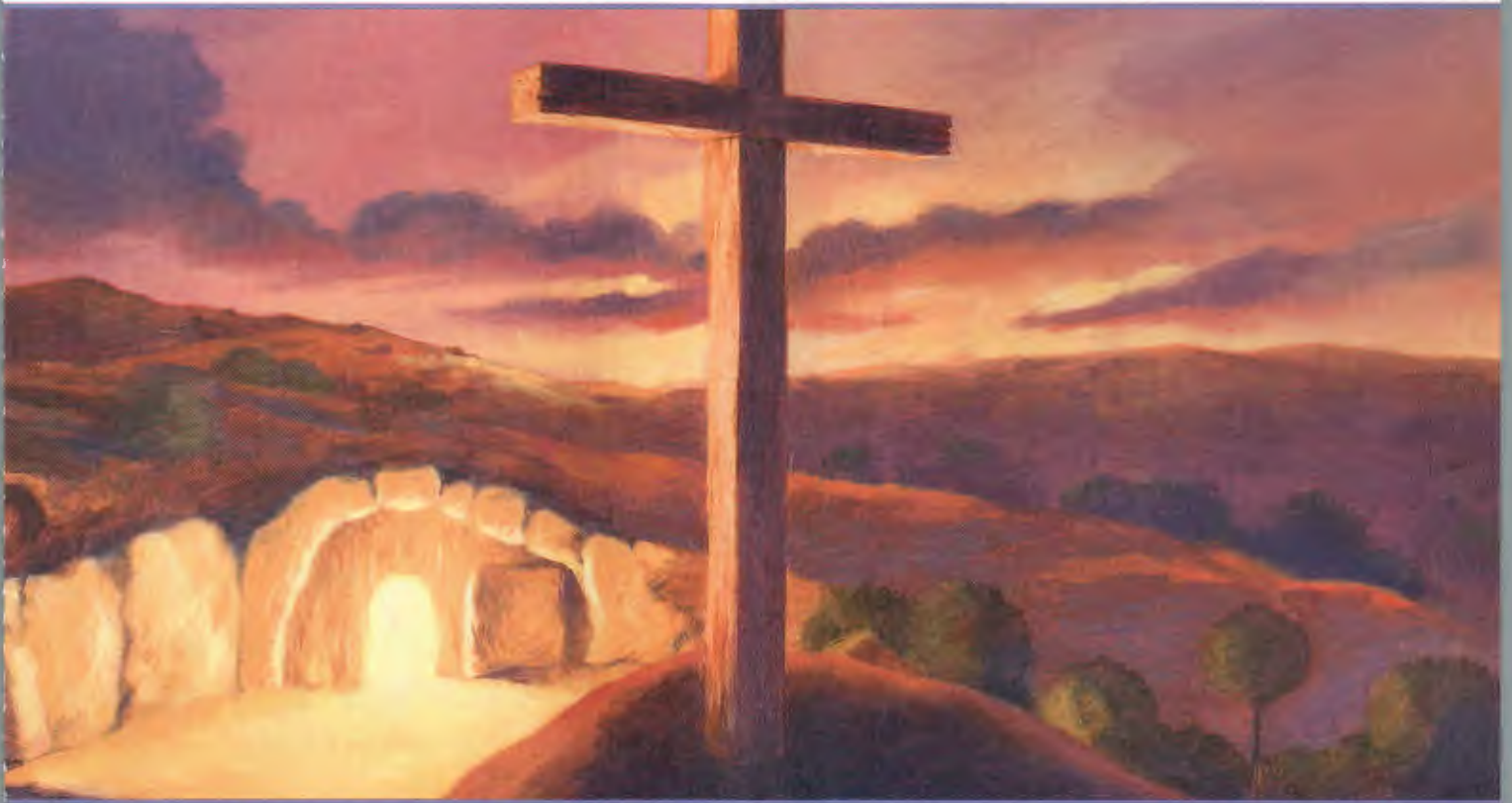


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 7

Jesus Christ and the New Testament

aliveinchrist.osv.com



Our Sunday Visitor

The Subcommittee on the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical series, copyright 2014, to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Nihil Obstat

Rev. Fr. Jeremiah L. Payne, S.Th.L.
Censor Librorum, Diocese of Orlando

Imprimatur

✠ Most Rev. John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando
January 20, 2014

© 2014 by Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division, Our Sunday Visitor.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher

Write:

Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division
Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.
200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, Indiana 46750

Alive in Christ is a registered trademark of Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division, Our Sunday Visitor, 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, Indiana 46750.

For permission to reprint copyrighted materials, grateful acknowledgment is made to the following sources:

Excerpts from the English translation of *Rite of Baptism for Children* © 1969, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL); the English translation of the Act of Contrition from *Rite of Penance* © 1974, ICEL; excerpts from the English translation of *Rite of Confirmation (Second Edition)* © 1975, ICEL; excerpts from the English translation of *A Book of Prayers* © 1982, ICEL; excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.

Scripture selections taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C., and are used by license of the copyright owner. All rights reserved. No part of the *New American Bible* may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church for the United States of America* copyright © 1994, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana. English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church: Modifications from the Editio Typica* copyright © 1997, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Excerpts from the English translation of the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* copyright © 2006 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved. The exclusive licensee in the United States is the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. and all requests for United States uses of the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* should be directed to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Quotations from papal and other Vatican documents are copyright © Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

"Anyway" prayer based on "The Paradoxical Commandments" by Kent M. Keith.

Alive in Christ Grade 7 Student Book
ISBN: 978-1-61278-018-4
Item Number: CU5108

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 015016 22 21 20 19 18
Webcrafters, Inc., Madison, WI, USA; June 2018; Job# 136736

REVELATION



How does Divine Revelation help us live as children of God?

CHURCH HISTORY TIMELINE

- 70 The first Gospels written
- 400 Saint Jerome publishes Vulgate Latin Bible
- 1455 Johannes Gutenberg prints Bible on newly invented press
- 1545 Council of Trent convenes to consider matters of faith

Go to page 348 for more

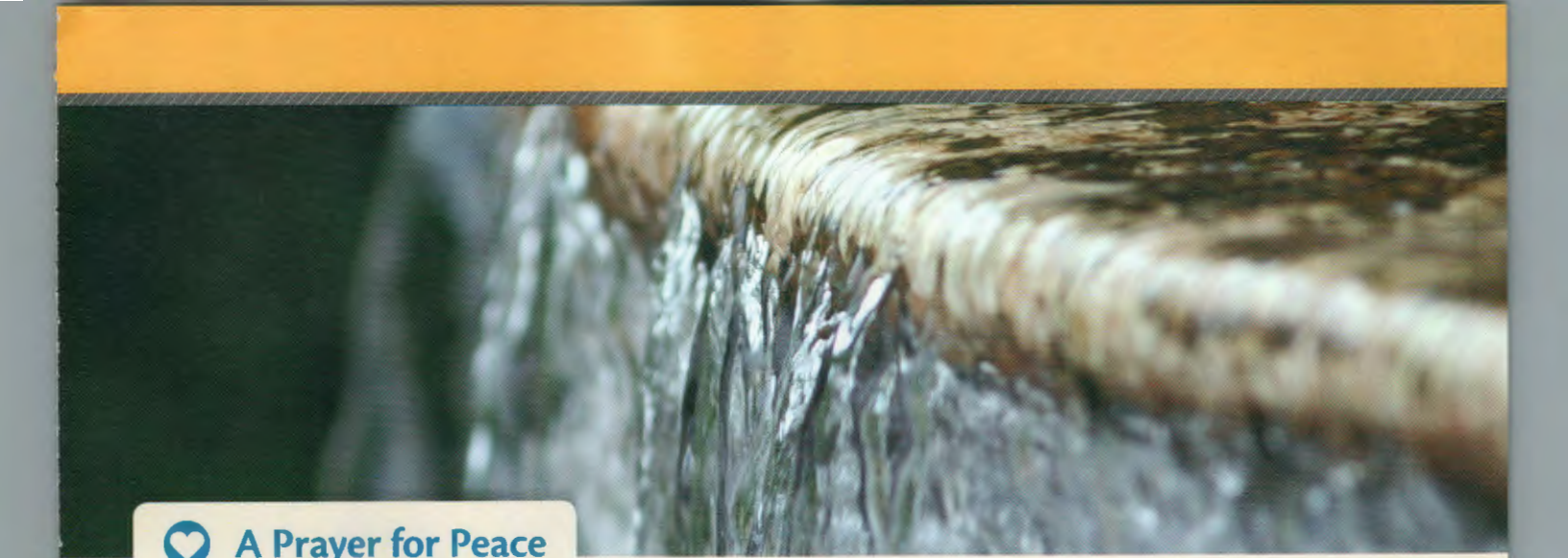



Our Catholic Tradition

- Out of nothing, God created the heavens and the earth, and made humans in his image and likeness. We can come to know God through all that he has created and through human reason. (CCC, 46)
- God speaks to us and tells us about himself and his plan for us. God is the author and inspiration of the sacred words of Scripture that humans have recorded under his guidance and direction. (CCC, 134–136)
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the law, and he perfectly reveals God the Father to us. He has a close and intimate relationship with the Father, and invites us to share in that relationship as God's sons and daughters. (CCC, 65)

Our Catholic Life

- The creation accounts in Genesis reveal a number of truths about God and his creation, including that he created the world from its beginning, for humans to live in harmony and to oversee his gifts of creation. (CCC, 306–307)
- Scripture has an important role in our lives, as God's Word is proclaimed in the liturgy, read and studied personally and in religion class, turned to for wisdom and guidance, and prayed. (CCC, 132–133)
- The many titles of Jesus teach us about him, his mission, and his relationship with God and each of us. (CCC, 429)



 **A Prayer for Peace**

Pray the Sign of the Cross together.

Reader 1: Brothers and sisters,

I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love,

striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.

Reader 2: But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it says:

He ascended on high and took prisoners captive; he gave gifts to men.

What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended into the lower regions of the earth?


The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.

All: And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ. **Ephesians 4:1-13**

Leader: May we use our gifts to bring peace to all people and to lead them to Christ.

All: Our Father ...

Leader: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

 *Sing or play "Go Ye Out"*

The Mystery of God

Let Us Pray

Leader: Your wonderful works surround us, O God. All creation praises you.

“The heavens declare the glory of God;
the firmament proclaims the works of
his hands.” **Psalm 19:2**

All: God our Father, you have given us so much. We are a grateful people.

Scripture

The works of God are all of them good;
he supplies for every need in its own time.

At his word the waters become still as in a
flask; he had but to speak and the reservoirs
were made.

He has but to command and his will is done;
nothing can limit his saving action.

The works of all humankind are present to him;
nothing is hidden from his eyes.

His gaze spans all the ages:
is there any limit to his saving action?

To him, nothing is small or insignificant,
and nothing too wonderful or hard for him.

No cause then to say: “What is the purpose
of this?”

Everything is chosen to satisfy a need.

The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach) 39:16–21

Have you ever thought...

- What was it like at the first moment of creation?
- How did we get here, and why we are here?

Getting Started

In this chapter, you will learn about how we come to know God and how we are made in his image and likeness, and how we fit into his plan. You will also explore some of the things we do know about God and about how he makes it possible for us to know him and share in his qualities.



In each box below, write one thing that you have learned about God through Sacred Scripture, and what account or passage helped you to know it.



What I've Learned

Catholic Faith Words

- Divine Revelation
- mystery
- image of God
- eternal

IDENTIFY

ID a Creation Connection Take a few minutes to reflect on the past couple of weeks. Choose two days and identify a simple "creation connection" for each. Write about one way you experienced God's presence. Where or when did you experience a connection with God's creation? For example, perhaps you saw evidence of the "works of God" (**The Wisdom of Ben Sira [Sirach] 39:16**) when you saw the sun rise or went for a walk. Be sure to explain how you gave praise to God.



Coming to Know God

How do we come to know who God is?

Most people can't help but have a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty and order of the stars, planets, and galaxies, especially when they look at some amazing satellite images. Looking at pictures of the universe can sometimes make us aware of how human beings are a part of "the big picture." And at some point in our lives, most of us ask ourselves what's the reason for it all, and what role do we play in that bigger picture.

The creation accounts in the Book of Genesis tell us something wonderful: Even though humans are a small part of the universe, they have a special place in the eyes of God. And God shows that he wants all humans to know and love him.



Scripture

"In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth ... the earth was without form or shape ..." **Genesis 1:1-2**



Go to the Source

Read *Genesis 1:1-2:4* to find out more about why God created the world and humans.

Seeing God in the Works of Creation

From the beginning of our time on Earth, the natural world has helped humans recognize and acknowledge God. People felt God's power in the forces of wind, fire, and water. They saw God's beauty in the trees and flowers. They got a sense of God's generosity as he gave them the responsibility to be caretakers of his many gifts of creation.

Adam and Eve were able to see these aspects of God because he had given them the gift of human reason. Like all of us, they were given an intellect—the ability to think and make connections. With this gift, we can grow in knowledge and search for the meaning of the things we experience. When we use reason, we discover the power and presence of God even in the most basic parts of his created world.

- **What aspects of nature help you see God as the Creator?**
- **How do you experience God's presence in the world?**

The Vatican Observatory at Castel Gandolfo, Lazio, Italy



Beyond Words

The works of creation are only one way people can learn about God. We can discover more of who God is through the ways he acts in the world and in our lives. Some things we can only come to know because he chooses to reveal them, or make them known to us. We call the process of God gradually revealing himself to us, **Divine Revelation**. In creating Adam and Eve, also referred to as our first parents, God showed his great generosity and love. He made them in his own image so that they could be like him, free to think and choose, able to love, and experience friendship. Out of love God made himself known to them.

Although he shows himself in so many ways through creation and through his relationship with people, God cannot be fully or completely known. Whether we see

God in creation or in relation to a human person, what we see is only a small aspect of who God is.

This is why we call God a **mystery**, because the depth of who God is cannot be seen or fully understood by humans. Human expressions of God are limited because we are human. We will never know all about God's nature while on Earth. We will only know God completely when we know him in Heaven.

Catholic Faith Words

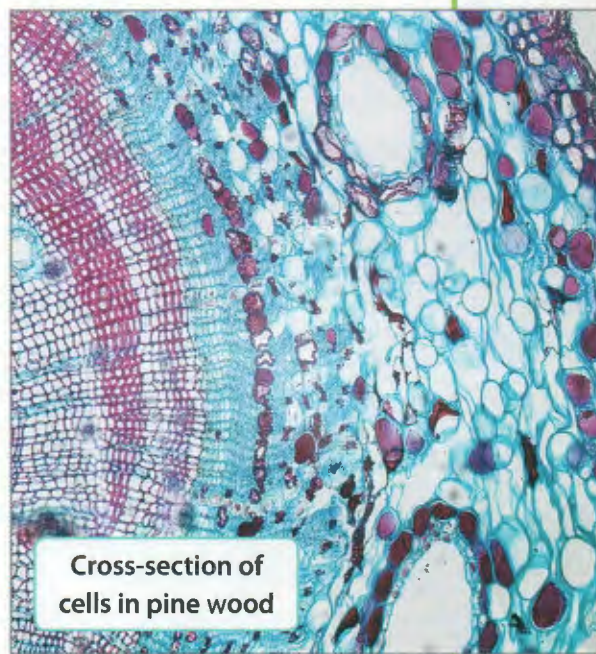
Divine Revelation the process by which God makes himself known. The chief sources of revelation are Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

mystery a truth of faith that cannot be fully understood but that is believed because God has shown it in Scripture, in the life of Jesus, or in the teachings of the Church

REFLECT

List some ways we come to know God. What are some questions you have about God and creation?

Who or what do you think can help you answer your questions?



Cross-section of cells in pine wood

God's Plan for Us

How do humans fit into God's plan?

Our first parents reflected the goodness and glory of God. They were created in harmony with one another and with God. And when they freely chose to turn from God and to sin, God did not abandon them. Humans did not completely lose what made them like God—their ability to be good, to love, to be holy, to think, and to be free. In fact, we are each created in the **image of God**, his Divine likeness. Human nature remained basically good, but weakened, inclined to sin.

God remained with humans and promised to restore, or bring back, the human family to its original glory so that all can once again share life fully with him.

- The accounts in Genesis show that God wanted to lead all people to know his love.

- With Noah, God made a lasting covenant, or sacred, binding agreement, to bring all creation back to the harmony he had originally intended it to have. (See Genesis 9:1–17.)
- God made Abraham the “father of all nations,” and promised that through Abraham’s descendants, all nations would be blessed. (See Genesis 15:1–21.)
- In spite of her old age, God blessed Sarah with a son. She and her husband Abraham shared in God’s blessing and promise. (See Genesis 17:15–19; 21:1–3.)

God planned from the beginning of creation to give his only Son, Jesus Christ, to the world so that humans would be restored to the place that they enjoyed originally. The promise of salvation was planted in the hearts of the Israelites, God’s Chosen People. This hope gave them the courage to face hardship and even exile.

Go to the Source

Read *1 John 4:6* and *1 John 1:5* to see how John speaks about God, who is Truth and Light.





Moses crossing the Red Sea, artist unknown

© Our Sunday Visitor

The story of God’s relationship with the Israelites is recorded in the Old Testament. Throughout their history, God’s Chosen People had indications of the salvation that would one day be brought into the world by Christ. For example, when the Israelites fled from slavery in Egypt, God helped them navigate their way across the Red Sea (see Exodus 14:21–31). This liberation foreshadowed, or prefigured, the salvation that Christ would bring us, helping us navigate our way toward the plan God the Father has for all humans. We see in this

example how the Jewish faith, unlike other non-Christian faiths, is a response to God’s Revelation in the old covenant.

- > What do you think God’s plan has to do with you?
- > What signs of God’s plan exist in the world?

Catholic Faith Words

image of God the Divine likeness in all human beings that comes from being made by God and includes the ability to think, choose, be free, love, and be in relationship with God and others

NOTICE, CONNECT, PRAY

How do you pay attention to the world around you?

- Name two things that surprise you as being signs of God’s presence or his action in our lives.

1. _____
2. _____

- What could you do with your friends, class, or family to connect to what you’ve noticed, such as taking care, showing other people, using it?
- What do you want to say to or ask from God because of this? Compare your answer with a classmate.



Jesus said “I go and prepare a place for you.... Where I am going, you know the way” (John 14:3–4).

Revealed Truths

What are some of the things that we know about God?

Because of the way humans think, it’s hard to understand anything that does not have a beginning or origin that can be easily explained. Yet, the accounts of creation show us that “God is” and “has always been,” even before the beginning of time, and will be forever. This is what it means to say that God is **eternal**.

God alone created the Heavens and the Earth. He didn’t need to create anything at all, not the Heavens and Earth or any human persons. He is complete in himself. He isn’t lonely. Yet God chose freely to show himself by creating out of nothing all that we see around us today.

God Is Truth

God is Truth itself. He will never deceive us or lead us in the wrong direction. Whatever God makes known about himself is true, and the words that he speaks are always true. God is faithful to his Word. His promise to bring salvation to all people is a promise that we can count on.

- **When have you counted on someone to tell you the truth—and they did? When has someone counted on you to tell them the truth—and you did?**
- **What does all this tell you about the power of truth?**

Catholic Faith Words

eternal the term that means “God is” and “has always been,” even before the beginning of time, and will be forever

God Is Love

Have you ever been hurt and felt like getting back at someone to “punish” that person? This natural reaction is part of what it means to be a human being who is imperfect. But we strive to grow more like God. One of the reasons people stand in awe of God is because he is strong and consistent in showing love for his People. God’s love is perfect.

In the Old Testament, we find a God who never stops showing his love to the Israelites in powerful ways. When they were in captivity in Egypt, he led them to freedom. When they grumbled in the desert, he fed them and gave them water. Over and over, the people who belonged to God would fail to act like it, but God’s response would always be the same: a forgiving and compassionate love.

The Attributes of God

<input type="radio"/> God is living ,	in the Heavens and on the Earth.
<input type="radio"/> God is steadfast love ,	always faithful and trustworthy.
<input type="radio"/> God is holy ,	a mystery only vaguely known to us now.
<input type="radio"/> God is eternal ,	without beginning and without end.
<input type="radio"/> God is truth ,	for he is incapable of deception.
<input type="radio"/> God is merciful and gracious ,	always ready to forgive.
<input type="radio"/> God is almighty ,	ruling over and capable of everything.
<input type="radio"/> In God there is only light ;	in him there is no darkness.

1. Highlight the attribute of God that best describes the way you relate to him now.
2. Place a check mark by the attribute you find most comforting.



IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

We can come to know God through all that he has created and through human reason.

- Out of nothing, God created the Heavens and the Earth, and made humans in his image and likeness, making it possible to know him and share in his Divine qualities.
- God promised to restore the human race to the harmony and perfection for which

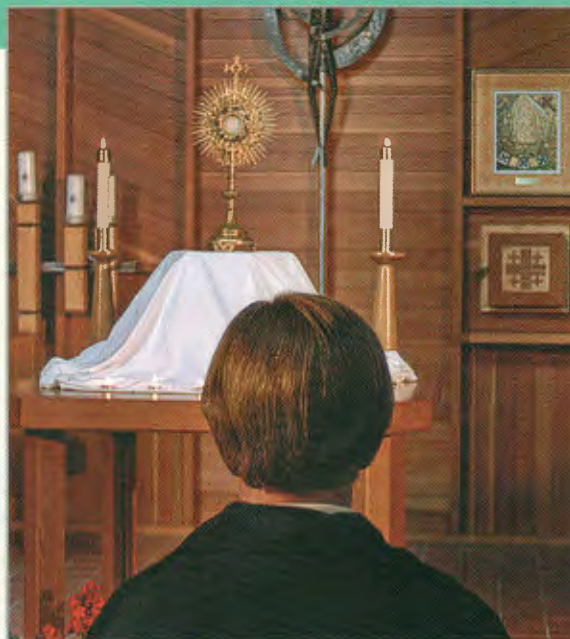
he originally created us, and throughout history he has shown himself and his plan in many ways.

- From the Genesis creation accounts and the world around us, we come to know God and get a sense of his attributes—eternal, truth, love, merciful, holy, living.

Our Catholic Life

As we learn more about God, we also learn more about ourselves. We get a sense of who God calls us to be and what he wants for us. We can be sure that he wants to know and love each of us. He speaks to us, calling us to be with him, to respond in some way. This dialogue between God and us takes place in prayer.

We have many forms and expressions of prayer. One is a **prayer of adoration**, which honors our Creator, acknowledges we are his creatures, and holds high his greatness. Adoration is traditionally a prayer of respectful silence in which we adore God who made all things. It humbles us, reminding us that we are dependent upon God, who is eternally good, loving, merciful. We can trust that he hears our prayers and knows what we need.



> When have you noticed and acknowledged God's greatness? What was it like to do so?

People of Faith

Our Lady of Fátima, 20 B.C.–45 A.D.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is known by many titles, some of which come from places where she has appeared and given a message of hope and love. In 1917, three children from Fátima, Portugal saw the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary revealed three "secrets" to the children and encouraged them to tell people to pray the Rosary. Sometimes Mary is called Our Lady of Fátima because of that. The Church celebrates her feast day on **May 13**.

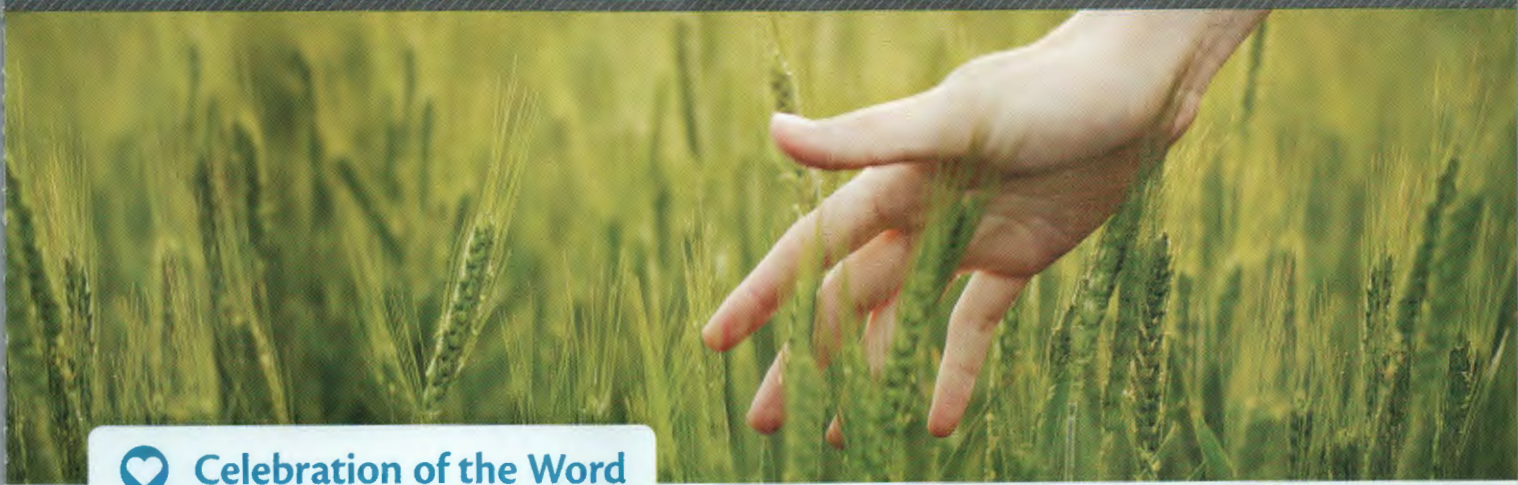


For more, go to aliveinchrist.osv.com

IDENTIFY

List the names of three friends or family who, through their actions, reflect attributes of God.

Choose one and write a concrete example of what he or she has done, or does, to live in God's image.



Celebration of the Word

Leader: Our God is amazing and awesome, beyond our understanding, but here right now—here in our midst.

Let us prepare to hear God's Word to us about his creation.

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Read Genesis 1:1–31.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: There is a single and wonderful source of life.

Let us turn in prayer to God the Creator.

Respond to each petition with these words:

Hear us, O Lord.

Reader 1: O God, you have created the Earth and the Heavens, and in your goodness, you created us.

Help us treasure and respect all you have created.

All: Hear us, O Lord.

Reader 2: O God, at times it is hard to imagine that there is a Creator who could envision all the beauty we see around us.

We thank you for all you have given to us.

All: Hear us, O Lord.

Reader 3: O God, with love and generosity you created all we see.

Help us to accept the love you have for us,

And to share that love in the way we live.

All: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: O God, in your infinite wisdom you have given us life.

In the wonders of nature,
through the seasons of the year

and the seasons of our lives,
we thank you and praise you

with every breath we take.

All: Amen.

 *Sing or play "Our God Reigns"*



Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com for an interactive review.

A Work with Words Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.

- Because the depth of who God is cannot be seen or understood by humans, God is _____.
 - a mystery
 - a spirit
 - one
 - eternal
- Because God was, is, and always will be, he is _____.
 - spirit
 - love
 - eternal
 - truth
- Because God is _____, we can believe in his promise to bring salvation to all people.
 - faithful
 - holy
 - truth
 - spirit
- Out of nothing, God created the Heavens and the Earth, and made humans in his _____.
 - creation
 - care
 - image and likeness
 - love and affection
- Our first parents, Adam and Eve, were able to see the reflections of God through his creation because he gave them the gift of _____.
 - human reason
 - communion
 - salvation
 - his likeness

B Check Understanding Complete each sentence with the correct term from the Word Bank. Not all terms will be used.

compassionate love	Old Testament
God's attributes	salvation
Theological Virtues	communion
Heaven	Divine Revelation
Original Sin	

- God's relationship with his Chosen People is told in the _____.
- The exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt foreshadowed the _____ that Christ would bring.
- We will only fully know and understand God when we are in _____.
- Even when we disobey him, God shows us _____.
- The process of God gradually making himself known to us is called _____.

C Make Connections Write a one-paragraph response. Name and describe three attributes of God. Include examples of how you see or experience these attributes in your life today.
