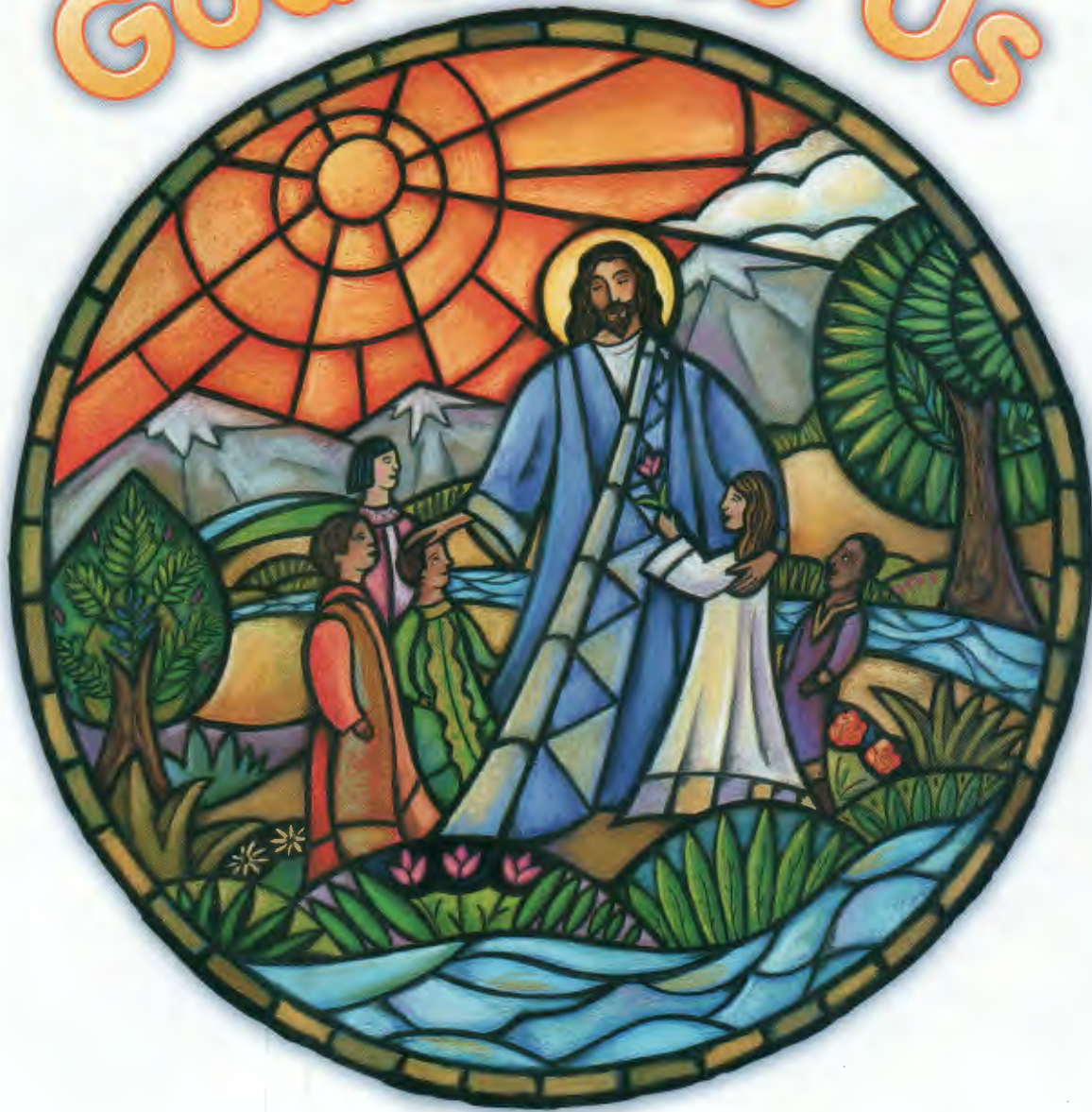


KINDERGARTEN

God Loves Us



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A JESUIT MINISTRY
Chicago

Growing Is Good



Birds grow. Pumpkins grow.
Elephants grow. Seeds grow. We grow.



bird
5 inches

pumpkin
17 inches

young elephant
84 inches

seedling
6 inches

You
? inches

We grow **bigger**
and **bigger**
and **bigger**.



We keep
growing all
our lives.



We were baptized.
We became members of the Catholic Church.
We became a part of God's family.
We grow in Jesus' love.

We grow more like Jesus.
God our Father loves us.





Try This

Draw more branches, leaves, and flowers on the tree to show that it is growing.

Tell God you want to grow to be more like Jesus.

Tell Jesus you will spread his love everywhere.



Scripture

I am like a green olive tree growing
before the Lord. Based on Psalm 52:10

I am like a green olive tree growing before the Lord.

Based on Psalm 52:10

Growing in Families

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Our growth is a lifelong process consisting of never-ending struggles, achievements, and new challenges. Baptism is the beginning of a new way of life, and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can grow into the likeness of Christ. Choosing Baptism for your child indicated your commitment to fostering his or her Christian growth. In this chapter the children learned that at Baptism they became members of the Church.



Living the Lesson

In the house where I grew up, we had a spot alongside our back doorway where Mom and Dad would measure the height of my brother and me every year on our birthdays. When Dad would paint that room, he'd always leave that strip unpainted so the record of our growth would remain visible. The day we moved from that house, I took one last look at all the empty rooms. I recall seeing those penciled lines, with our initials and the dates next to them, and they represented all the good times we'd had together in that home, as well as all the things my brother and I had learned about life, about family, and about ourselves.

Growth means life. Jesus said, "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) Your child is at a wondrous moment in his or her growth, and you get the privilege of witnessing this miracle as it unfolds. Make sure to stop once in a while and pay attention to how far your child has come and how many wondrous opportunities lie ahead. And don't forget to mark your own growth now and again. Take stock of how you measure up physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. Are you taking Jesus up on his offer of having life more abundantly?

—Tom McGrath, author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids* (Loyola Press)

Bringing the Lesson Home

- Read with your child the pages that were sent home.
- Take out your child's baby book and recall some growing-up stories with your child.
- Look at old family pictures so that your child learns that everyone grows and changes—even mommies, daddies, and grandparents.
- Tell your child why you decided to have him or her baptized. Share memories of this day.
- Spend a moment in prayer together, inviting your child to feel God's love. Talk about ways your child can share that good feeling by showing love and kindness to others.

