

Chapter 4

Featured Story

Jesus Wants Us to Help Others to Know Him
(Matthew 28:16–20)

We Spread the Gospel with Our Lives



Background Focus

Jesus' Great Commission to go and make disciples and spread the Good News is recounted at the very end of Matthew's Gospel. Yet we know that this Great Commission was not an end but a beginning. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Good News exploded into the world.

The Greek word for "good news" is *evangelion*, from which we get our word *evangelization*, meaning "spreading the Gospel." If we see our faith as the treasure that it is, we can't help but become evangelizers—people who share the Good News that we have received. And we do this, in big or small ways, by being attentive to and intentional about our words and our actions and the example they set for others.

The Sacrament of Confirmation confers the gifts necessary to become strengthened as active disciples and full participants in the great mission of love that Jesus began so many years ago. Celebrate the fact that your child is becoming an important part of this mission through their preparation for, and celebration of, the Sacrament of Confirmation, and renew your own efforts to be a person who shares the Good News in all that you do.

Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite your child to turn to page 1 of the chapter 4 activity booklet and locate the prayer on the page.
- Begin prayer by making the Sign of the Cross, then say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Read the prayer on page 1 of the activity booklet. Invite your child to say "Amen," and then close with another Sign of the Cross. Have your child put away the activity booklet for now.

Lesson Goals

- to recognize that Jesus wants us to spread the Good News everywhere
- to recall that Jesus is with us always through the Holy Spirit
- to express that the Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus in his mission of love

Lesson at a Glance

-  **Go** (10 minutes)
Opening Prayer
Engage Activity
-  **Seek** (30 minutes)
Featured Story
Core Learning Activity
-  **Find** (20 minutes)
God's Treasure of Confirmation
Lesson Wrap-Up
Closing Prayer

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible* and chapter 4 activity booklet
- card stock or plain white paper, crayons
- a ruler, stick, or branch
- light-colored construction paper
- a scissors, tape, and a marker

Music Suggestions

- "Go Out In the World," by Ed Bolduc (World Library Publications)
- "I Send You Out," by John Angotti (World Library Publications)

Engage Activity

- Tell your child that Jesus told us to spread the Good News.
- Explain that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us spread the Good News. Tell your child that they will receive the Holy Spirit in a special way in Confirmation.

Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite your child to find Matthew 28:16–20 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1522).
- Direct your child to turn back to page 1520 and place an "I found it!" sticker next to the Featured Story.
- Tell your child that the words between the leaves on page 1520 are those that are found in the Scripture story on the following page.
- Ask your child to look at the artwork on pages 1520–1521. Invite them to describe what they see in the artwork. Ask them to count the number of disciples climbing the hill. Help them to identify Jesus by his white clothing and red sash around his shoulder and waist.
- Read the Bible story. Then ask several questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - How many disciples went up the hill? (*eleven, because Judas, who had betrayed Jesus, had given in to despair and had killed himself*)
 - Who was waiting for them at the top of the hill? (*Jesus*)
 - What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? (*Go to all peoples, make disciples, and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*)
 - How long will Jesus be with us? (*always*)
- Explain that Jesus will be with us always in the Eucharist and through the Holy Spirit.
- Have your child turn to page 2 of the activity booklet and complete the activity with their Bible open. *Answers: disciples, eleven, Son*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1521 or have your child read it.
- Review some of the key points with your child:
 - We know Jesus today because of the work of the disciples.
 - Jesus told his disciples to tell everyone about him and to teach everyone what he taught.
 - Jesus still wants his followers, his disciples today, to bring people to him.
 - We can learn more about Jesus, talk about him, and live the way he taught.
 - Jesus is with us always.

Live It!

- Read Live It! on page 1521 with your child.
- Give your child a piece of card stock or plain white paper and crayons and invite them to make a thank-you card for someone who has taught them about Jesus.

Tell It!

- Ask your child to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1521.
- Invite your child to and use the images to retell the Bible reading the best that they can.
- Have your child use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story pages that capture their interest. As this is the last Confirmation chapter, tell them that they may take any unused stickers home to use when reading *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

Core Learning Activity

A Good News Flag

- Prepare by cutting a triangular flag or pennant from a piece of light-colored construction paper.
- Give your child a ruler, stick, or branch as well as a flag and a marker.
- Brainstorm words describing the Good News that Jesus brings and wants us to share, such as *love, peace, joy, forgiveness*.
- Ask your child to choose a word to write on their flag. The word should start at the straight end of the flag and end at the pointed end.
- Help your child tape their flag to their ruler or stick.

- Lead your child in a simple four-phrase chant by having them repeat each short phrase after you: “Go into the whole world! / Go and share the Good News! / Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! / Love, peace, joy!”
- Encourage your child to display their flag to remind them that they are called to share the Good News.

✕ Find (20 minutes)

God’s Treasure of Confirmation

- Remind your child of the Scripture account in the first Confirmation lesson, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Tell them that this account meant that Jesus kept his promise to the disciples, to be with them always. Emphasize that the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the courage necessary to go out to the whole world and tell everyone about Jesus.
- Remind your child that in the Sacrament of Confirmation the bishop will extend his hands over them in the laying on of hands and anoint them with Sacred Chrism. Recall that it is at this point that they are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Tell your child that at Confirmation the Holy Spirit will come to them to give them courage to follow Jesus and to lead others to Jesus. Explain that the Holy Spirit will be with them always to help them share the Good News and carry out Jesus’ mission of love.
- Explain that the Holy Spirit will come with joy and peace, and that the day of Confirmation and First Eucharist will be filled with joy and peace for them.
- Tell your child that during the liturgy when they celebrate First Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Church will pray for several intentions during the General Intercessions, which is also called the **Prayer of the Faithful**.
 - We will all pray for those who have been confirmed and will receive their First Eucharist—that is, we will all pray for you!
 - We will all pray for the parents and godparents or sponsors of those who have been confirmed and will receive First Eucharist. We will all pray for the Church. We will pray for our Holy Father, the Pope, for all the bishops, for our bishop here, and for our Church family all over the world, especially those who help lead others to Jesus.
 - We will pray for the whole world, especially for those in need of food, clothing, or shelter.
- Tell your child that at the end of Mass the priest or deacon will sing or say the words of **Dismissal**. Explain that this is not just a statement that the Mass is over—and we may now leave. Then continue with the following points:
 - The Dismissal of the Mass is an invitation to take Jesus with us into the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Dismissal reminds us that the end of the Mass is really the beginning of living our faith in our everyday lives. We can do this because we have the Holy Spirit with us always. Each one of us can be a **witness** and disciple of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - A witness is someone who sees something or experiences something, and then tells others about it. We are witnesses for Jesus when we spread his message of love to others through our words and actions.
- Review the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude (Courage), Piety (Reverence), and Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe).
- Invite your child to turn to page 3 of the activity booklet and complete the activity.

Answers: 1. Chrism, 2. witness, 3. courage, 4. Intercessions, 5. Dismissal

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite your child to think back over all the different things they did in this chapter, and invite them to share some of the key things they learned.
- Ensure that the following points are made:
 - Jesus wants us to spread the Good News everywhere.
 - Jesus is always with us through the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus in his mission of love.
- Ask your child to place the chapter 4 sticker in the correct circle on their Confirmation treasure map.

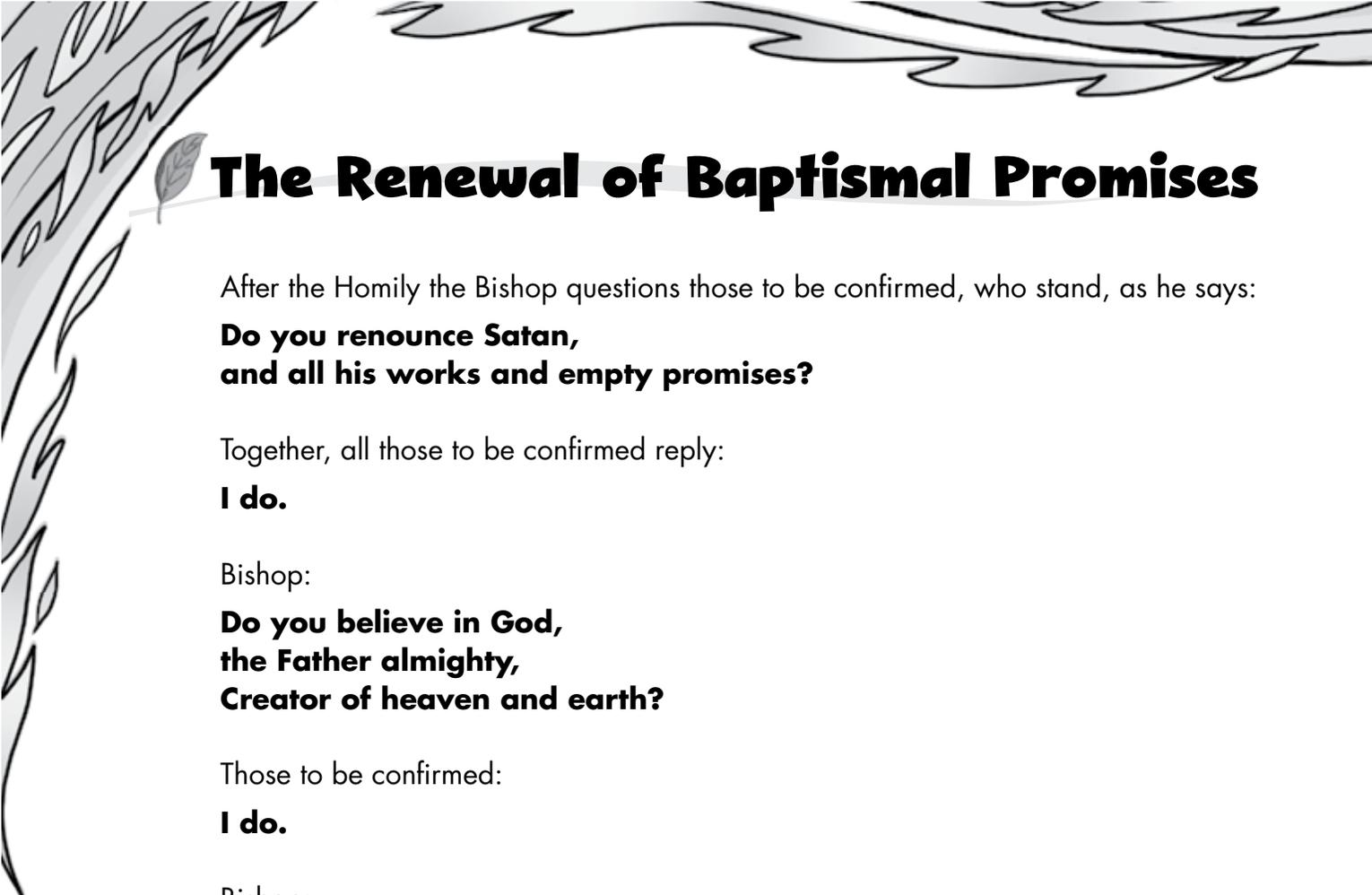


Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by making the Sign of the Cross and say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God," followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that speaks about the Holy Spirit.
- Pray this prayer aloud: "Holy Spirit, you are with us always. Help us to use your seven gifts. Help us to follow Jesus and to bring others to know his love." Encourage your child to respond, "Amen."
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.

Additional Family Suggestions

For additional ideas, activities, and prayers that can be used by your family for this chapter, please refer to the Family Page on page 4 of this chapter's activity booklet.



The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

After the Homily the Bishop questions those to be confirmed, who stand, as he says:

**Do you renounce Satan,
and all his works and empty promises?**

Together, all those to be confirmed reply:

I do.

Bishop:

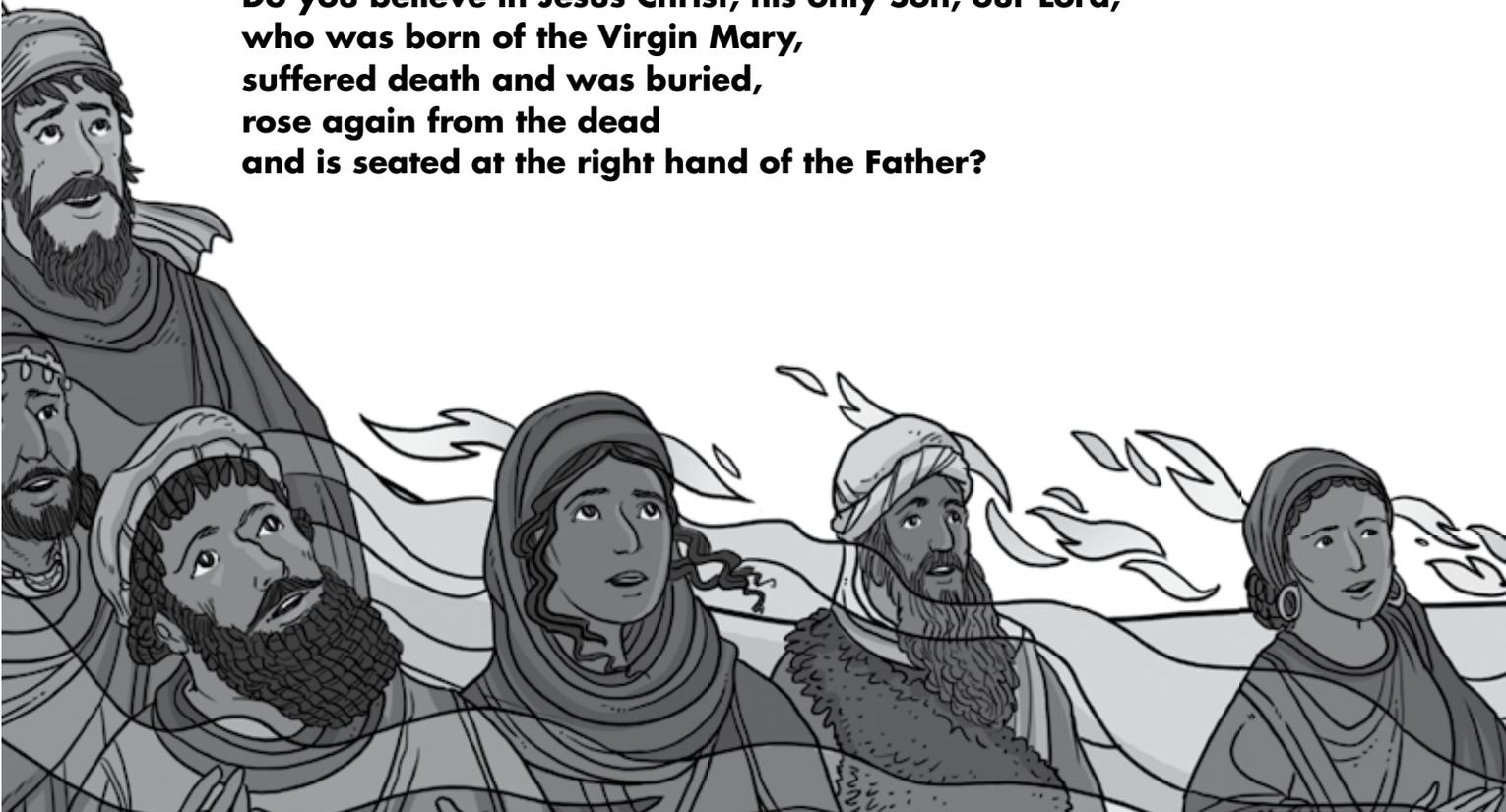
**Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?**



Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation
is given to you in a special way
just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

The Bishop gives his assent to the profession by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

**This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The gathering of the faithful gives its assent by replying:

Amen.

