

# Family Page

## Background Reflection

The Scripture passage for this chapter gives us important insights into God, people in general, and Jesus' mission on Earth. Jesus tells us of God's unconditional love for us. Jesus explains that God is not interested in condemning or judging the world, but in loving and saving it.

The Church teaches that we meet this loving Jesus in the Sacraments. Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, mark us as God's very own and give us the strength to live our lives as sons and daughters of God.

As you discuss this chapter with your child, reexamine the beauty and the grace given in each of these sacraments. Remember the special gift of these sacraments and share your gratitude and sentiments with your child. The mystery of our loving God is a treasure for all of us.

## Family Activities

- Discuss John 3:16 and God's unconditional love for us. Create small posters together with this Scripture reference. Place them on the refrigerator and other prominent places throughout the house to be reminded of God's love this week.
- Brainstorm practical ways that your family can follow the call to live in the light. Think of a family activity, such as making sack lunches for the poor, taking flowers to a nursing home, or donating socks to a homeless shelter. Schedule a time to do that activity within the next couple weeks.
- Watch the video "Jesus and Nicodemus" (YouTube, 3:50) together. Invite your child to share what he or she recalls about the meaning of this Scripture and what it means to be born of water and the Spirit. Discuss how this relates to the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, two of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

## People of Faith

### Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata (Calcutta) (1910-1997)

Mother Teresa was sent as a missionary to teach high school girls in India. After many years, she felt God calling her to a new ministry among those who were poor, dying, or neglected. Two years later, she began her new community, the Missionaries of Charity. Saint Mother Teresa's feast day is September 5.

## Prayer

*Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.*

Loving God, you call us to live in the light. Help us to share your love with everyone we meet, especially those closest to us. Thank you for all your gifts, the ones we recognize and those we take for granted, and especially for the gift of the sacraments. In your name we pray. Amen.



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