

Confirmation Home Guide



**Discover God's
Treasures**



This guide and the corresponding activity booklets have been submitted for the nihil obstat and imprimatur. Saint Mary's Press is currently awaiting notice of final approval.

The content in this program was developed and reviewed by the content engagement team at Saint Mary's Press. Content design and manufacturing were coordinated by the passionate team of creatives at Saint Mary's Press.

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Welcome

Welcome to *Go Seek Find: Discover God's Treasures!*

We at Saint Mary's Press are excited to partner with you in the important ministry of preparing your child for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation as part of the restored order of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

Through this new and unique program, your child will be led on an adventure of discovery as they explore the rich and beautiful significance of this sacrament in their lives. *Go Seek Find* will engage and inspire your child, creating a spirit of excitement and joy around their journey toward encountering the Holy Spirit through the treasure that is the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This program was developed with the real needs of your child at its center. The program's core text is *The Saint Mary's Press® Catholic Children's Bible*. By using a Bible designed specifically for them and engaging with the Featured Stories within it, your child will explore the Sacrament of Confirmation through the biblical lens of Jesus' life and works as empowered by the Holy Spirit and learn more about their faith in language they can understand. They will also experience interactive core activities that bring the chapter lessons to life in a fun and memorable way. And they will learn important information about the Sacrament of Confirmation, reinforcing this new knowledge through a variety of activities and family learning opportunities offered in the activity booklets that accompany each lesson.

Together, you and your child will *Go Seek Find* the incredible treasure that is the Sacrament of Confirmation. May an ever-expanding awareness of Christ's presence in our lives be the source of faith, hope, and love for all of us!

With hopes and prayers for every blessing,

The Publishing Team at Saint Mary's Press

**"Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened to you."**

(Matthew 7:7)

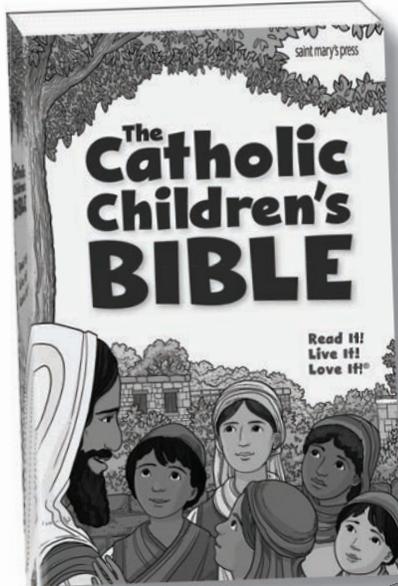
Program Overview

Program Outline

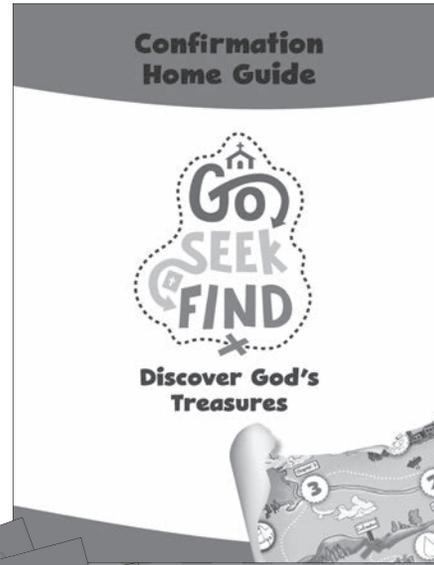
Chapter Number	Chapter Title	Lesson Goals	Featured Story	Key Words
1	Holy Spirit, Come to Us!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recall that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost to identify that the presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols to recognize that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation 	The Holy Spirit Comes to the Disciples (Acts 2:1–6)	symbol, confers
2	The Spirit of the Lord Is upon Us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recall that the Holy Spirit helped Jesus bring us the Good News to express that the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word to recognize that we are strengthened with the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit 	Jesus Says He Came to Save Us (Luke 4:16–19,21)	Good News, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, fruits of the Holy Spirit
3	We Are Born Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recall that we first received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism to recognize that in Confirmation we renew our baptismal promises to follow Christ and to renounce sin to summarize that in Confirmation we are sealed with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism 	We Are Born Again through Baptism (John 3:4–6)	baptismal promises, laying on of hands, anoint, Sacred Chrism
4	We Spread the Gospel with Our Lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	Jesus Wants Us to Help Others to Know Him (Matthew 28:16–20)	General Intercessions, Dismissal, witness

Program Components

The Catholic Children's Bible



Home Guide

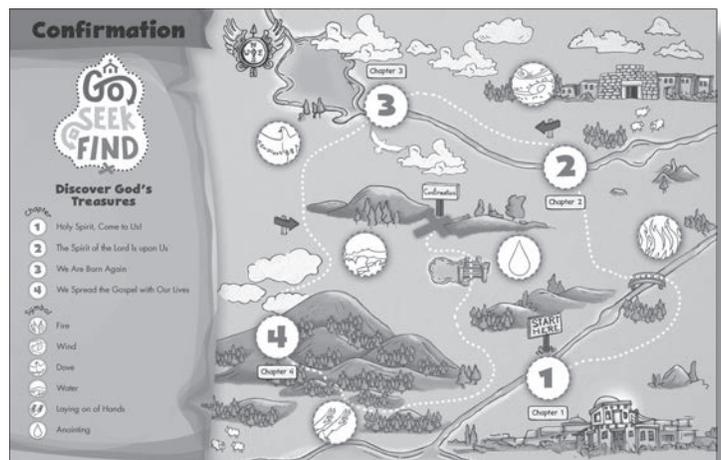


Activity Booklets

Stickers



Treasure Map



Understanding the Components

Home Guide

Background Focus provides quick, easy-to-read insights about the theme of the chapter.

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Chapter 1

Holy Spirit, Come to Us!



Chapter 1

Featured Story
The Holy Spirit Comes to the Disciples (Acts 2:1–6)

Lesson Goals

- to recall that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost
- to identify that the presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols
- to recognize that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation

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 1 activity booklet
- two yellow strips of construction paper for headband
- one flame cut from red construction paper
- a stapler or tape
- pictures of symbols of the Holy Spirit mounted or drawn on cards

Music Suggestions

- “Holy Spirit, Come,” by Spring Harvest (Elevation Kids)
- “Breathe (Live),” by Hillsong Kids (Hillsong Church)

Background Focus

We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as elusive. We can know something of God the Father through our own experience of “father”; we can know something of God the Son through our reading of Scripture. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is a little bit harder to pin down. How do we come to know the Holy Spirit? Often it is through a nudge, an intuition, a word or phrase from Scripture that we can’t forget. Then we realize: the Holy Spirit has visited us.

Certainly the Holy Spirit’s presence was felt in a big way at Pentecost. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them both comfort and courage as they were beginning something new—a Church that would live and spread the Good News of God’s love. The Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaos of creation was now hovering over them. They were God’s new creation. Their lives would never be the same. As the Holy Spirit comes to your child in the Sacrament of Confirmation, their life will never be the same either. What a wonderful, powerful message to share!

GO (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite your child to turn to page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- 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.
- Invite your child to read the leader’s lines while you read the lines for “all.” Explain to your child that the word *kindle* means “to light or set on fire.”

Lesson Goals shows the key desired outcomes of the chapter.

The **Go** part of the lesson begins with an opening prayer that is found in the activity booklets.

A list of **Materials Needed** helps you adequately prepare for the lesson.

Two **Music Suggestions** are offered for possible incorporation into the lesson.

After the opening prayer, an **Engage Activity** will spark interest and create excitement for the lesson ahead.

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Chapter 1

Engage Activity

- Invite your child to share what they know about the Holy Spirit, and record their answers on a piece of paper. Give some examples if they need help. *[Answers might include: The Holy Spirit is included in the Sign of the Cross, the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit helped us prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Holy Spirit is our helper and inspires us to do good.]*
- Tell your child that today they will learn that after Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit was sent to help the Church. Explain that Christians celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit each year on a very special and holy day.

Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite your child to find Acts 2:1–6 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1712).
- Direct them to turn to page 1714 and place an "I found it!" sticker next to the Featured Story.
- Tell them that the text between the leaves on page 1714 is a shortened version of the Scripture story on page 1712.
- Ask your child to look at the artwork on pages 1714–1715. Invite them to describe what they see in the artwork.
- Read the title on the page, and ask your child to share what the word *disciples* means. *[A disciple is a follower of a teacher. A disciple of Jesus is a follower of Jesus. We are all disciples of Jesus.]*
- Read the Bible story to your child. Then ask several questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - What do we call this special day when the Holy Spirit came? *[Pentecost]*
 - What did the disciples hear? *[They heard a strong wind blowing.]*
 - What did the disciples see? *[They saw what looked like tongues of fire, which spread and touched each person.]*
 - What happened to the disciples? *[They were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in other languages.]*

- Remind your child that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity.
- Ask your child to pause and make the Sign of the Cross prayerfully and to recall how we mention each Person of the Trinity in this prayer.
- Have your child turn to 2 of the activity booklet and complete the activity with their Bible open. *Answers: Pentecost, noise, wind, tongues of fire, Holy Spirit*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1715 or have your child read it.
- Invite your child to summarize what they just heard, asking key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Explain some of the following points:
 - Jews came from all around the region for the Jewish feast of Pentecost and a time when the days were being given still celebrated by
 - Mary and the disciples were praying
 - Suddenly there was a sound like the sound of wind and fire were signs
 - The Holy Spirit came and they began to speak in other languages
- Explain to your child with the Church to let us know that the Holy Spirit will stay with us by telling your child that the Church through its bishops, and through
- Tell your child that Pentecost is a celebration of the Holy Spirit upon

Live It!

- Read Live It! on page 1715.
- Ask your child to pray and to repeat it.
- Explain that in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit signs us with his gifts.

Each lesson is anchored by a **Core Learning Activity**. This activity presents an aspect of the chapter theme in a fun, engaging, and memorable way.

19 Holy Spirit, Come to Us! **Chapter 1**

Tell It!

- Ask your child to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1715.
- Invite your child to use the images to retell the Bible reading the best they can.
- Have your child use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story (pages 1714–1715) that capture their interest. Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the remaining three chapters.

Core Learning Activity

Holy Spirit Headband

- Fit yellow strips of paper around the head of your child, and staple or tape them together. After fitting the headband, remove it from your child's head.
- Take the red flame and help your child staple or tape the flame to the front of the headband.
- Explain that just as they were called by name in the Sacrament of Baptism, so they will be called by name in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Place the headband on your child's head, using these or similar words: "[Name], I place this flame upon your head as a sign that the Holy Spirit will come to you in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May you follow the Holy Spirit, now and always." Prompt your child to respond, "Amen."
- Play a song about the Holy Spirit, if you have time, to conclude the activity.

Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

- Use the symbol cards that you have made in advance to show the different symbols of the Holy Spirit as you discuss them. Symbols might include wind, fire, water, cloud and light, dove, finger of God. Some pictures can be found on the Internet.
 - We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we use symbols to remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us. A **symbol** is something that stands for something else. There are many symbols of the Holy Spirit. We already know that wind and fire are symbols of the Holy Spirit. *[Hold up the symbol cards of wind and fire.]*

➢ Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is water. *[Hold up symbol card.]* Water reminds us of our Baptism. This is when the Holy Spirit first came to us, which we will learn about more in another lesson. When we bless ourselves with holy water and make the Sign of the Cross, we are also reminded of our Baptism.

➢ Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a dove. *[Hold up symbol card]* because when Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit was present in the form of a dove.

➢ Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is cloud and light. *[Hold up symbol card.]* When Moses led the Chosen People out of Egypt, God led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. When Mary said yes to God and became the Mother of God, she was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, like a cloud may cast a shadow over something below.

➢ Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a finger. *[Hold up symbol card.]* The Holy Spirit is often called "the finger of God." We say that the finger of God, the Holy Spirit, writes God's law of love in our hearts.

Note: Further explanations of each of these symbols can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (694–701). Note that the symbolic actions of laying on of hands and anointing will be taught in chapter 3, as they are important elements in the *Order of Confirmation*.

- Explain that in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in a special way.
 - The Sacrament of Confirmation is when the Holy Spirit will come to you personally. So we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day that you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - We rejoice in this and celebrate the fact that the Holy Spirit will strengthen you in Confirmation and will be with you always.
 - At Baptism, you received your name. At Confirmation, you will be called again by your name to receive the Holy Spirit. *[Optional: You may also be called by a new name, the name of a special saint that you will choose as a friend in heaven to help you live as a strong follower of Jesus.]*

The **Seek** part of the lesson invites direct interaction with the Bible and the learning of key sacrament related themes through important Bible stories.

The **Find** part of the lesson relays key information about the sacrament.

Note: The Church gives candidates for Confirmation the option of using their baptismal names at Confirmation, to emphasize the connection of Confirmation to Baptism, or of choosing the name of a saint or holy person. For further information, please see page 16 of this home guide.

- For the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop comes to our parish. The bishop is “the ordinary, minister” of Confirmation. This means that ordinarily or usually, the bishop is the one who **confers**, or gives us, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - The Sacrament of Confirmation starts with the presentation of all of those who have been preparing for Confirmation. You will be called by name and asked to come forward. [Or, describe the customary procedure in your parish.]
 - Then the bishop gives a little talk, or homily, about the sacrament. In his talk, the bishop will remind us of what the Holy Spirit did on Pentecost and what the Holy Spirit will do in our lives today.
- Invite your child to turn to page 3 of the chapter 1 activity booklet and complete the activity. *Answers: 1. b, 2. c, 3. a, 4. c, 5. a*

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite your child to think back over all the different things they did in this chapter, and have them share some of the key things they learned.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on a piece of paper, and circle them:
 - The Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost.
 - The presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols.
 - The Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation.

- Have your child place the chapter 1 sticker in the correct circle on the Confirmation treasure map. Then remind them that the symbols of fire, wind, and the dove are symbols of the Holy Spirit, and have them place these stickers in the correct circles.



Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by making the Sign of the Cross and saying, “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, come to us. Come upon us, not in wind and fire, but in the love and joy you place in our hearts. Bring us closer to Jesus and to all of God’s children.” 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 **Lesson Wrap-Up** encourages recall and invites your child to mark their progress on the interactive treasure map.

Activity Booklets

Confirmation

Chapter 1



Holy Spirit, Come to Us!



Prayer

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

All: And you will renew the face of the earth.

Each activity booklet begins with a **Prayer** that is used as the opening prayer for that chapter's lesson.

Page 2 (on the left) features an activity that relates to content discovered in the Bible.



Using the Featured Story on page 1714 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*, fill in the missing words.

"When the day of _____ came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a _____ from the sky which sounded like a strong _____ blowing. . . . They saw what looked like _____ which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the _____ and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak."

2

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

____ 1. A ____ is something that stands for something else.
a. sign b. symbol c. song

____ 2. Two symbols of the Holy Spirit are ____.
a. trees and grass b. cars and trucks c. wind and fire

____ 3. The Holy Spirit first came to us in the Sacrament of ____.
a. Baptism b. Matrimony c. Anointing of the Sick

____ 4. In the Sacrament of _____, we receive the Holy Spirit in a special way and are strengthened.
a. the Eucharist b. Reconciliation c. Confirmation

____ 5. The ordinary minister of Confirmation, the person who usually confers this sacrament, is the ____.
a. bishop b. Pope c. parish priest

3



Page 3 (on the right) features an activity that relates to the sacrament content in the chapter.

The **Family Page** provides helpful information about the chapter and additional key ideas to bring the lesson to life at home.

Family Page

Background Focus

We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as elusive. We can know something of God the Father through our own experience of “father”; we can know something of God the Son through our reading of Scripture. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is a little bit harder to pin down. How do we come to know the Holy Spirit? Often it is through a nudge, an intuition, a word or phrase from Scripture that we can’t forget. Then we realize what has happened: the Holy Spirit has visited us.

Certainly the Holy Spirit’s presence was felt in a big way at Pentecost. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit

came upon the disciples and gave them both comfort and courage as they were beginning something new—a Church that would live and spread the Good News of God’s love. The Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaos of creation was now hovering over them. They were God’s new creation. Their lives would never be the same. As the Holy Spirit comes to our children in the Sacrament of Confirmation, their lives will never be the same either. What a wonderful, powerful message to share!

Family Strategies

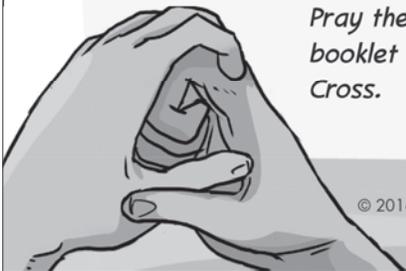
“Before you fly off the handle, count to ten.” This is an age-old remedy for dealing with a stressful moment. It provides a space in which to calm down and to respond appropriately to a difficult situation. It is a strategy that can work for anyone of any age, and a strategy that parents can easily model for children. For us as baptized Christians, these ten seconds can be a sacred space in which the Holy Spirit can work. The habit of counting to ten could even be adapted by repeating the words “Come, Holy Spirit!” ten times!

(The prayer on the cover of this activity booklet is from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, by the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy [Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 1989], page 157. Copyright © 1989 by the USCCB. All rights reserved.)

Family Activities

- Congratulate your child on beginning to prepare for Confirmation. Take time after the Mass this weekend to look for symbols of the Holy Spirit (fire, dove) in the stained-glass windows or other art in your parish church.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1714 in *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (Acts of the Apostles 2:1–6). Remind your child that the Holy Spirit will come to him or her personally at Confirmation. You may also want to pray the Holy Spirit prayer (see front cover of this booklet) regularly, either at meals or at bedtime.
- Watch the YouTube video “33 The Holy Spirit Comes” (2:58). Ask: When do we need courage? When do we need healing? Then ask the Holy Spirit for these gifts.

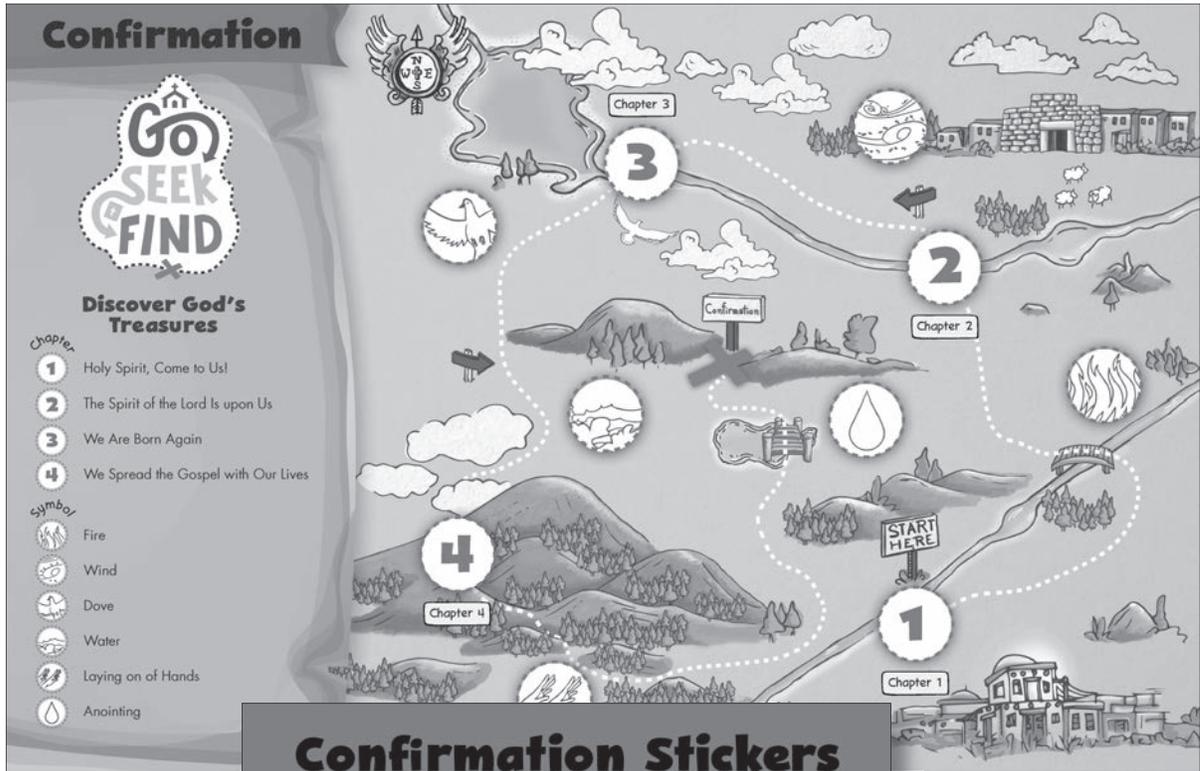
Pray It!



Pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit from the cover of this activity booklet as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Treasure Map and Stickers

A **Treasure Map** helps track progress through the chapters in a fun and engaging way that also reinforces what was learned.



Stickers are provided that contain key images from the different chapters. These stickers will be used to track progress on the treasure map.

Stickers are also provided to encourage engagement with the Bible and a way to mark verses and other meaningful content.

Key Elements of the Program

Home Guide

The home guide divides each chapter into three main parts: “Go,” “Seek,” and “Find.” The “Go” section begins with an opening prayer and continues with a short activity to engage in the topic of the day. The “Seek” section involves exploring Scripture related to the sacrament of focus and a core learning activity centered on the chapter theme. The “Find” section offers a deeper look into the meaning of the sacrament and concludes the lesson with a summary and closing prayer.

Activity Booklets

A fun and colorful activity booklet is provided for each chapter. These booklets include the opening prayer used for each lesson, two activity pages that support the learning of the chapter, and a family page that offers background on the chapter topic, strategies to integrate the values of Christian life into family life, and suggested activities related to the lesson to be done at home.

Additional Booklet

The Sacrament of Confirmation resources include an additional booklet that contains all the key words used in the program as well as the Renewal of Baptismal Promises from the *Order of Confirmation*.

Treasure Map

The Sacrament of Confirmation has its own treasure map. This unique and colorful resource is designed to build excitement as your child journeys through the various chapters on the way to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Using stickers with key images from the Bible stories to be read in each chapter, your child will track their progress on a fun, engaging treasure map as they recall the key themes and lessons offered in the four Confirmation chapters.

Stickers

A sticker sheet is included in the resources for the Sacrament of Confirmation. In addition to the stickers that allow the tracking of progress on the treasure maps, there are stickers that allow your child to mark Featured Stories or key verses in the Bible that have special significance to them. This immerses your child in the Bible and helps them retain key lessons and messages throughout.

Music Suggestions

Music can add another wonderful dimension to this program. Each chapter includes two song suggestions that correspond to the chapter theme. These songs can be purchased and downloaded online. For a complete list of all of the songs for the program, please visit the online resources for this program at www.smp.org/resourcecenter/books. Of course, you may also wish to add your own favorite hymns or songs such as those that are popular in your parish community.

How to Use All These Elements at Home

The Home Guide contains everything you need to bring all the elements of *Go Seek Find* together for successful use at home. Although you may have to make some adjustments for this program to fit your time frame or the individual gifts and interests of your child, you will find a complete easy-to-use structure from which to start. The current lesson is designed to take 60 minutes from start to finish; however, this can vary depending on the unique pace at which you and your child move through the lesson.

Quickly reviewing the content and flow of a chapter before working with it will be especially helpful in making decisions about how best to tailor it for your child. Once you cover the first chapter, you will begin to find your own unique rhythm and will be able to make quick adjustments to further refine the program for a perfect fit.

If you need additional ideas to supplement the content of the lesson, you can easily add some of the activities and ideas that are included on the Family Page in each lesson's activity booklet. If you find the lessons are running longer than the time you have, you might consider skipping the Engage Activity and saving the activities in the booklets to be done at a different time.

You can involve the entire family in these lessons by gathering and preparing materials so that everyone can participate in the Core Learning Activity. This can make learning more fun, and encourages learning across different ages. You will likely find that you enjoy these activities as well!

Additional Support Information

Godparents and Sponsors

The restored order of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation links the three Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist together very closely. The Church particularly makes an effort, in catechesis and in practice, to emphasize the close link between Baptism and Confirmation. This is reflected in Canon Law. In canon 893, candidates for Confirmation are encouraged to choose their baptismal godparent or sponsor as their Confirmation sponsor. When the Sacrament of Confirmation is delayed until the teen years, this is not always possible. It may be more possible when the sacraments are conferred more closely together in time, as in the restored order.

However, the option to choose a sponsor other than the baptismal godparents remains. It should always be kept in mind that the sponsor at Confirmation should be someone who is at least sixteen years of age (or the age determined by diocesan guidelines), has been confirmed, is receiving the Eucharist, and is in good standing with the Church.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

There are two main practices regarding the name pronounced by the bishop at the moment of anointing, when he says, “[Name of child], be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit” (*Order of Confirmation*, 27). The first practice is to use the baptismal name of the candidate. The second is to select a new name. The first option, using the baptismal name, emphasizes the close link between Baptism and Confirmation. Confirmation completes the process of initiation that was begun in Baptism. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation perfects the grace received in Baptism. When Confirmation candidates are confirmed using their baptismal names, the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation is highlighted.

In some parishes and dioceses, candidates have the option of selecting new names or using their baptismal names. In helping your child to select a new name, consider introducing books and materials highlighting the lives of the saints. A new name should be a source of inspiration in living life as a confirmed follower of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit, Come to Us!



Background Focus

We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as elusive. We can know something of God the Father through our own experience of “father”; we can know something of God the Son through our reading of Scripture. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is a little bit harder to pin down. How do we come to know the Holy Spirit? Often it is through a nudge, an intuition, a word or phrase from Scripture that we can’t forget. Then we realize: the Holy Spirit has visited us.

Certainly the Holy Spirit’s presence was felt in a big way at Pentecost. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them both comfort and courage as they were beginning something new—a Church that would live and spread the Good News of God’s love. The Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaos of creation was now hovering over them. They were God’s new creation. Their lives would never be the same. As the Holy Spirit comes to your child in the Sacrament of Confirmation, their life will never be the same either. What a wonderful, powerful message to share!

Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite your child to turn to page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- 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.
- Invite your child to read the leader’s lines while you read the lines for “all.” Explain to your child that the word *kindle* means “to light or set on fire.”

Chapter 1

Featured Story

The Holy Spirit Comes to the Disciples (Acts 2:1–6)

Lesson Goals

- to recall that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost
- to identify that the presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols
- to recognize that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation

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 1 activity booklet
- two yellow strips of construction paper for headband
- one flame cut from red construction paper
- a stapler or tape
- pictures of symbols of the Holy Spirit mounted or drawn on cards

Music Suggestions

- “Holy Spirit, Come,” by Spring Harvest (Elevation Kids)
- “Breathe (Live),” by Hillsong Kids (Hillsong Church)

Engage Activity

- Invite your child to share what they know about the Holy Spirit, and record their answers on a piece of paper. Give some examples if they need help. (*Answers might include: The Holy Spirit is included in the Sign of the Cross, the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit helped us prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Holy Spirit is our helper and inspires us to do good.*)
- Tell your child that today they will learn that after Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit was sent to help the Church. Explain that Christians celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit each year on a very special and holy day.

† Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite your child to find Acts 2:1–6 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1712).
- Direct them to turn to page 1714 and place an "I found it!" sticker next to the Featured Story.
- Tell them that the text between the leaves on page 1714 is a shortened version of the Scripture story on page 1712.
- Ask your child to look at the artwork on pages 1714–1715. Invite them to describe what they see in the artwork.
- Read the title on the page, and ask your child to share what the word *disciples* means. (*A disciple is a follower of a teacher. A disciple of Jesus is a follower of Jesus. We are all disciples of Jesus.*)
- Read the Bible story to your child. Then ask several questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - What do we call this special day when the Holy Spirit came? (*Pentecost*)
 - What did the disciples hear? (*They heard a strong wind blowing.*)
 - What did the disciples see? (*They saw what looked like tongues of fire, which spread and touched each person.*)
 - What happened to the disciples? (*They were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in other languages.*)
- Remind your child that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity.
- Ask your child to pause and make the Sign of the Cross prayerfully and to recall how we mention each Person of the Trinity in this prayer.
- Have your child turn to page 2 of the activity booklet and complete the activity with their Bible open. *Answers: Pentecost, noise, wind, tongues of fire, Holy Spirit*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1715 or have your child read it.
- Invite your child to summarize what they just heard, asking key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Explain some of the following points:
 - Jews came from all around the region for the Jewish feast of Pentecost. This is a harvest festival and a time to recall the Ten Commandments being given at Mount Sinai. This feast is still celebrated by Jews today.
 - Mary and the disciples had gathered together and were praying. Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit, so Mary and the disciples were praying and waiting.
 - Suddenly there was a great noise, and the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. The wind and fire were signs of his presence.
 - The Holy Spirit gave the disciples courage to tell others about Jesus.
- Explain to your child that the Holy Spirit has been with the Church to lead and guide God's people ever since that day of Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit will stay with the Church always. Continue by telling your child that the Holy Spirit guides the Church through the teaching of the Pope and bishops, and through the faith of all the people.
- Tell your child that Christians celebrate the feast of Pentecost as a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

Live It!

- Read Live It! on page 1715 together.
- Ask your child to pray the prayer with you. You may want to read each line and ask your child to repeat it.
- Explain that in the Sacrament of Confirmation the Holy Spirit signs and seals us, and strengthens us with his gifts.

Tell It!

- Ask your child to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1715.
- Invite your child to use the images to retell the Bible reading the best they can.
- Have your child use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story (pages 1714–1715) that capture their interest. Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the remaining three chapters.

Core Learning Activity

Holy Spirit Headband

- Fit yellow strips of paper around the head of your child, and staple or tape them together. After fitting the headband, remove it from your child's head.
- Take the red flame and help your child staple or tape the flame to the front of the headband.
- Explain that just as they were called by name in the Sacrament of Baptism, so they will be called by name in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Place the headband on your child's head, using these or similar words: "[Name], I place this flame upon your head as a sign that the Holy Spirit will come to you in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May you follow the Holy Spirit, now and always." Prompt your child to respond, "Amen."
- Play a song about the Holy Spirit, if you have time, to conclude the activity.

✕ Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

- Use the symbol cards that you have made in advance to show the different symbols of the Holy Spirit as you discuss them. Symbols might include wind, fire, water, cloud and light, dove, finger of God. Some pictures can be found on the Internet.
 - We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we use symbols to remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us. A **symbol** is something that stands for something else. There are many symbols of the Holy Spirit. We already know that wind and fire are symbols of the Holy Spirit. (*Hold up the symbol cards of wind and fire.*)

- Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is water. (*Hold up symbol card.*) Water reminds us of our Baptism. This is when the Holy Spirit first came to us, which we will learn about more in another lesson. When we bless ourselves with holy water and make the Sign of the Cross, we are also reminded of our Baptism.
- Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a dove (*hold up symbol card*) because when Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit was present in the form of a dove.
- Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is cloud and light. (*Hold up symbol card.*) When Moses led the Chosen People out of Egypt, God led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. When Mary said yes to God and became the Mother of God, she was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, like a cloud may cast a shadow over something below.
- Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a finger. (*Hold up symbol card.*) The Holy Spirit is often called "the finger of God." We say that the finger of God, the Holy Spirit, writes God's law of love in our hearts.

Note: Further explanations of each of these symbols can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (694–701). Note that the symbolic actions of laying on of hands and anointing will be taught in chapter 3, as they are important elements in the *Order of Confirmation*.

- Explain that in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in a special way.
 - The Sacrament of Confirmation is when the Holy Spirit will come to you personally. So we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day that you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - We rejoice in this and celebrate the fact that the Holy Spirit will strengthen you in Confirmation and will be with you always.
 - At Baptism, you received your name. At Confirmation, you will be called again by your name to receive the Holy Spirit. [*Optional:* You may also be called by a new name, the name of a special saint that you will choose as a friend in heaven to help you live as a strong follower of Jesus.]

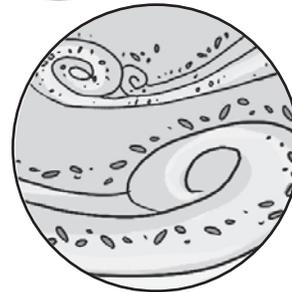
Note: The Church gives candidates for Confirmation the option of using their baptismal names at Confirmation, to emphasize the connection of Confirmation to Baptism, or of choosing the name of a saint or holy person. For further information, please see page 16 of this home guide.

- For the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop comes to our parish. The bishop is “the ordinary, minister” of Confirmation. This means that ordinarily or usually, the bishop is the one who **confers**, or gives us, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - The Sacrament of Confirmation starts with the presentation of all of those who have been preparing for Confirmation. You will be called by name and asked to come forward. [Or, describe the customary procedure in your parish.]
 - Then the bishop gives a little talk, or homily, about the sacrament. In his talk, the bishop will remind us of what the Holy Spirit did on Pentecost and what the Holy Spirit will do in our lives today.
- Invite your child to turn to page 3 of the chapter 1 activity booklet and complete the activity. *Answers: 1. b, 2. c, 3. a, 4. c, 5. a*

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite your child to think back over all the different things they did in this chapter, and have them share some of the key things they learned.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on a piece of paper, and circle them:
 - The Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost.
 - The presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols.
 - The Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation.

- Have your child place the chapter 1 sticker in the correct circle on the Confirmation treasure map. Then remind them that the symbols of fire, wind, and the dove are symbols of the Holy Spirit, and have them place these stickers in the correct circles.



Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by making the Sign of the Cross and saying, “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, come to us. Come upon us, not in wind and fire, but in the love and joy you place in our hearts. Bring us closer to Jesus and to all of God’s children.” 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 Spirit of the Lord Is upon Us



Background Focus

In this chapter's Featured Story, we find Jesus reading and reflecting on the Word of God in Scripture. After reading from the Scripture verses from the prophet Isaiah, Jesus stated, "This passage of scripture has come true today" (Luke 4:21). Jesus was claiming that he was, indeed, the Messiah and Savior, the fulfillment of the prophetic words of Isaiah.

In this Scripture reading, Jesus understood that the Spirit of God had come upon him with great power. In helping your child prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are helping them to understand that the Spirit of God will come upon them with great power as well. They too will be able to say in their own way that "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me" (Luke 4:18).

GO (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite your child to turn to page 1 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.
- 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 in 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.

Engage Activity

- Challenge your child with this question: Where do we find God? You may want to write the question and their responses on a piece of paper. Some possible answers might include the following: *in our hearts, in God's creation, in the love of others, in Holy Communion.*

Chapter 2

Featured Story

Jesus Says He Came to Save Us (Luke 4:16–19,21)

Chapter 2

Lesson Goals

- to recall that the Holy Spirit helped Jesus bring us the Good News
- to express that the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word
- to recognize that we are strengthened with the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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 2 activity booklet
- rolled white paper for a scroll
- a pencil and a black marker
- red ribbon

Music Suggestions

- "The Word of God," by Spring Harvest (Elevation)
- "Word of God Speak," by Cedarment Kids (Provident Label Group, LLC)

- Remind your child that we also find God in the Bible. (*Add this to the list.*) Explain that another name for the Bible is the Word of God or Scripture. Tell your child that at Mass, God comes to us in the readings and in the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.
- Tell your child that in today's lesson, Jesus is reading the Word of God in Scripture. Explain that he is reading about the Holy Spirit. Tell your child that the Holy Spirit was always with Jesus, helping him spread the **Good News**, the message of God's love, to everyone.

† Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite your child to find Luke 4:16–22 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1584).
- Direct them to turn to page 1586 and place an "I found it!" sticker next to the Featured Story.
- Tell them that the words between the leaves on page 1586 are a shortened version of the Scripture story on page 1584.
- Ask your child to look at the artwork on the pages, particularly the picture of Jesus on page 1586. Invite them to describe what Jesus is doing. (*Jesus is reading from a scroll, because that is how people read from Scripture in those days.*)
- Read the Bible story. Then ask several questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - What town was Jesus visiting? (*Nazareth*)
 - Why was this town special to him? (*He grew up there.*)
 - Where was Jesus when he was reading? (*in the synagogue*)
 - What is a synagogue? (*It is a building where Jewish people gather for prayer.*)
 - What were the words Jesus read from the scroll? (*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed . . ."*)
- Remind your child that this Bible story shows that Jesus read Scripture at the synagogue in his hometown. Explain that when we go to Mass we also listen to Scripture together.

- Have your child turn to page 2 of the activity booklet and complete the activity with their Bible open. *Answers: 1. Scriptures, 2. Sabbath, 3. the oppressed, 4. synagogue, 5. scroll*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1587.
- Invite your child to summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Review some of the key points:
 - Jesus was reading from the first part of the Bible, the Old Testament.
 - Jesus was reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.
 - Jesus said that the words he was reading came true that day, because he is the Savior that Isaiah was writing about.
- Explain that the Holy Spirit also helps us to understand the Word of God and to live it in our lives.

Live It!

- Read Live It! to your child.
- Have your child pray the prayer with you. You may want to read each sentence and ask your child to repeat it.
- Add this line to the prayer: "Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to give us strength to follow you."

Tell It!

- Invite your child to look at the images in Tell It!
- Encourage your child to summarize the Bible, reading for the class, using the images in Tell It!
- Have your child use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story (pages 1586–1587) that capture their interest. Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the remaining two chapters.

Core Learning Activity

Holy Spirit Scrolls

- Give your child a length of the rolled paper. This will become a scroll.
- Ask your child to open their Bible to the Featured Story, "Jesus Says He Came to Save Us" (page 1586). Direct their attention to verses 18 and 19.

- Remind your child that these are the verses that Jesus read in the synagogue, and that he said that these very verses had come true in him. Explain that he was the one the prophet Isaiah was talking about.
- Have your child copy the first eight words of verse 18 in pencil on their scroll. Encourage them to make the lettering larger than usual. At the bottom of the scroll, have them write, "Holy Spirit, come upon me!" Then have them write their own name.
- Have your child to go over the penciled lettering with the black marker.
- Ask your child to roll up the scroll.
- Help your child use the red ribbon to tie the scroll with a bow.

X Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

- Explain that the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist will begin with the first part of the Mass, called the Liturgy of the Word.
 - The Liturgy of the Word includes readings from the Bible.
 - The Holy Spirit helps us to understand these readings and to live God's Word in our lives.

Note: If you have time, you may want to read and discuss the Scripture chosen for the liturgical celebration of the sacraments your child will receive.

- Tell your child that at Confirmation they will receive seven special gifts. Explain that we call these the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**.
 - The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel (Right Judgment), Piety (Reverence), Fortitude (Courage), and Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe).
 - These gifts were written about in the Bible by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 11:1–5, *NABRE*). This is the same prophet that Jesus read from when he read from the scroll in Nazareth.
- Write the seven gifts on a piece of paper. Include the alternate names in parentheses as well.

- Explain each gift briefly. You may want to give an example of each:
 - *Wisdom*: This gift helps us to see God at work in our lives and in the world.
 - *Understanding*: This gift helps us to understand how to live as a follower of Jesus.
 - *Knowledge*: This gift helps us to know Jesus through Scripture and the teaching of the Church.
 - *Counsel (Right Judgment)*: This gift helps us to know the difference between right and wrong, and to choose the right path.
 - *Piety (Reverence)*: This gift gives us a deep respect for God and the Church. We come before God with humility and love.
 - *Fortitude (Courage)*: This gift helps us to follow Jesus by standing up for what is right.
 - *Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)*: This gift is not about being afraid of God. This gift is about being aware of the glory and majesty of God and praising his works in creation, in the goodness of others, and in our own lives.
 - Explain that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to follow Jesus as his disciples and spread the Good News.
 - Tell your child that when we follow Jesus and use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are like trees that grow good fruit. Explain that in the letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians (Galatians 5:22–23, *NABRE*), Paul describes the **fruits of the Holy Spirit**.
 - The fruits of the Holy Spirit are characteristics that we can see in those who follow Jesus and the results of living by the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit.
 - The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.
- Note:** The earliest Latin translation of the Bible (called the *Vulgate*) included twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. Modern Bible translations mention only nine fruits. The Church bases its list of twelve fruits on this early translation.
- Explain any of the fruits your child might not understand.
 - Invite your child to turn to page 3 of the activity booklet and complete the activity.
Answers: 1. e, 2. c, 3. g, 4. a, 5. d, 6. f, 7. b

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:
 - The Holy Spirit helped Jesus bring us the Good News.
 - The Holy Spirit speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word.
 - The Holy Spirit strengthens us with the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask your child to place the chapter 2 sticker in the correct circle on the Confirmation treasure map.



Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by making the Sign of the Cross and saying, "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 Word of God.
- Pray this prayer aloud: "Holy Spirit, come to us. Speak to us in Scripture. Open our minds and hearts to follow Jesus, our Savior. Help us to join him in proclaiming the good news of peace and love to all we meet." 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.

We Are Born Again



Background Focus

When parents choose to have a child baptized, they answer this question: “What do you ask of God’s Church for [Name of child]?” The answer is “Baptism” (*The Order of Baptism of Children*, 37). The parents ask that their child be set upon the road to full initiation into the Catholic Church. The choice to accept Jesus Christ as Savior, to be born again, is made by the parents at that moment. The Sacrament of Confirmation continues the process of rebirth begun at Baptism, and this is symbolized by the Renewal of Baptismal Promises included in the *Order of Confirmation*. This renewal, also made by the entire Church at Easter, is a direct link between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the presence of the Holy Spirit, first received at Baptism, through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism. Through these actions and prayers, the candidate is *sealed* with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. A seal is a symbol of authenticity. It is a verification that something (like a letter or a signature) is true and valid. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit seals us and verifies us as members of the Church and witnesses to Christ.

GO (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite your child to turn to page 1 of the chapter 3 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 in 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.

Chapter 3

Featured Story

We Are Born Again through Baptism (John 3:4–6)

Lesson Goals

- to recall that we first received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism
- to recognize that in Confirmation we renew our baptismal promises to follow Christ and to renounce sin
- to summarize that in Confirmation we are sealed with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism

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 3 activity booklet
- pitcher of water, clear glass bowl, small plastic doll, white towel
- drawing paper, crayons
- clear glass bottle of olive oil, small glass dish

Music Suggestions

- “Come, Holy Spirit,” by David Haas (GIA Publications, Inc.)
- “One in the Spirit,” by Ronnie Caldwell (Ronnie Caldwell)

Engage Activity

- Have ready a pitcher of water (preferably clear glass or plastic so the water can be seen) and a clear glass or plastic bowl. Also have available a small plastic baby doll, dressed in a diaper, and a white towel.
- Explain to your child that you will be having a “pretend” Baptism right now. Remind your child that you brought them to church to be baptized and to become a child of God. Explain that this is when we received the Holy Spirit for the first time.
- Tell your child that they will be the parent. If there is another family member available, have them be the godparent. Explain that godparents are people who promise to help the parents raise the child as a Christian.
- Ask your child what name they would like to give this baby. Explain that part of the name must be a name of a saint.
- With your child holding the doll, pour water over the doll’s head three times (or immerse the doll three times), saying, “_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father (*pour water or immerse*), and of the Son (*pour water or immerse*), and of the Holy Spirit (*pour water or immerse*)” (*The Order of Baptism of Children*, 60).
- Give the towel to your child and have them wrap the doll in it.
- Explain that the day of Baptism was a wonderful day for your family and for your Church family.

Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite your child to find John 3:1–21 in *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (pages 1651 and 1656).
- Direct them to turn to page 1658 and place an “I found it!” sticker next to the Featured Story.
- Tell them that the words between the leaves on page 1658 are a shortened version of the Scripture story on pages 1651 and 1656.

- Ask your child to look at the artwork on the pages. Ask:
 - What time of day does this event take place? (*at night*)
 - How can you tell? (*The sky is very dark blue. There are many stars. Jesus and the man are talking by the light of a candle.*)
- Have your child read the title of the story. Ask them to listen carefully for the question that the man, Nicodemus, asks.
- Read the Bible story. Then ask a few questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - What was the man’s name who came to see Jesus at night? (*Nicodemus*)
 - What question did he have? (*“How can a grown man be born again?”*)
 - What did Jesus say about being born again? (*We must be “born of water and the Spirit.”*)
 - What are the two ways we are born? (*We are born physically and we are born spiritually of the Spirit.*)
- Explain that being born “of water and the Spirit” means being baptized and confirmed. In Baptism and in Confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit, which helps us to grow and to be strong in following Jesus.
- Have your child turn to page 2 of the activity booklet and complete the activity with their Bible open. *Answers: 1. parents, 2. Spirit, 3. physically, 4. womb, 5. spiritually*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1659.
- Invite your child to summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Review some of the key points with them:
 - What puzzled Nicodemus? (*Jesus said that we must be born again. Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant.*)
 - How are you born again? (*You are born again in Baptism. In Baptism, you receive spiritual life.*)

- What is spiritual life? (*Spiritual life is life with God. You cannot see it, but it is real.*)
- What does Baptism do for you? (*It makes you a child of God and a member of his family, the Church. It makes you a Christian who will one day live with God forever in heaven.*)
- Expand Understand It! to link the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation by adding:
 - At Baptism, parents and godparents make **baptismal promises** for us—promises that we would follow Jesus by living a Christian way of life.
 - At the time of Confirmation, we renew our baptismal promises. Now we can say them for ourselves! We promise to follow Jesus and to stay away from sin. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit comes to us to help us to grow and to be stronger followers of Jesus.
 - We renew these baptismal promises, with the entire Church, every year at Easter.

Live It!

- Read Live It! together.
- Give your child a sheet of drawing paper and crayons. Explain that instead of drawing on two sides of the paper, they are going to think of and share out loud different ways water helps us physically. Then have them write the word *Baptism* at the top of one side of the paper and draw a picture of a baby being baptized on that side of the paper.

Tell It!

- Ask your child to look at the images in Tell It!
- Remind your child that the third frame shows the Sacrament of Baptism in a lake or river. Explain that most people are baptized in a church.
- Have your child use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story pages that capture their interest. Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the last remaining chapter.

Core Learning Activity

Asking God's Blessing with Oil

- Remind your child of the practice of dipping our hand in holy water and blessing ourselves. Explain to them that we do this as a reminder of our Baptism. Remind them that we bless ourselves in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Tell your child that sometimes, in families, parents bless children before they go to bed or before they leave the house in the morning. Explain that we are all God's children, and we can ask God's blessing on one another.
- Explain that in Confirmation we are blessed with holy oil as a sign of the Holy Spirit. Explain that today you will bless your child using olive oil. Explain that this oil is not "holy oil," as it has not been blessed by the bishop, but that you will use it in a blessing to help them prepare for Confirmation.
- Have a clear glass bowl of olive oil prepared on a desk or other prominent place. Put a stack of napkins or paper towels near the bowl for wiping hands after the blessing.
- Have your child stand as you call their name. Ask your child to extend their right hand, palm up, to you.
- Stand next to the bowl, dip your thumb into the oil, and then trace the Sign of the Cross in the palm of your child's hand as you say, "_____, I bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
- Conclude with this prayer: "Holy Spirit, in Confirmation you will come to us under the sign of holy oil. Help us to prepare for your coming to us in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Amen."
- Invite your child to touch the place where their hand was marked by the Sign of the Cross in oil. Ask them to remember what this felt like. Have them describe the feeling: Was it smooth? soft? soothing?

- Ask your child to think about the oil that might have been used when they had a cut or that was rubbed on their chest when they had a bad cold. Explain that oil helps us to heal from illness. Ask:
 - Can you think of other good things that oil does? (*Oil helps mechanical things like locks work better and go together more easily; motor oil helps cars run smoothly; oil keeps metal from rusting; sunscreen is an oil that protects us from too much sun.*)
- Tell your child that oil is a gift from God, just as water is a gift from God, and that both oil and water are signs of the Holy Spirit. Explain that in Confirmation the bishop will **anoint** them with holy oil as a sign that the Holy Spirit is with them.

✕ Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

- Remind your child that they will renew their baptismal promises in the Sacrament of Confirmation. (*You may want to have your child practice the renewal of baptismal promises. A copy of these can be found on pages 2–3 in the last activity booklet.*) Explain that after the renewal of baptismal promises, the bishop will raise his hands over all those to be confirmed and will pray a prayer that asks the Holy Spirit to come and give his seven gifts to each one of those to be confirmed. This action is called the **laying on of hands**.
- Explain that the bishop will then go to each person and make the Sign of the Cross with holy oil on each person's forehead; that is, he will anoint each person with the holy oil, called **Sacred Chrism**.
 - Oil is a sign of the Holy Spirit. Just like oil can help us feel better when we are sick, the Holy Spirit can comfort us when we are sad; the Holy Spirit can heal us in body and in spirit.
 - Just as oil helps mechanical moving parts work together, the Holy Spirit helps us work together with others to bring the Good News of Jesus to the world.
- Just as oil helps keep tools from getting rusty, the Holy Spirit protects us and helps us always. The Holy Spirit keeps us active in loving others, so we don't just sit around and get rusty!
- Explain that when the bishop anoints each person, he will say the individual's name followed by, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit," and the person anointed will then say, "Amen" (*Order of Confirmation, 27*). Tell your child that when they are sealed with the Holy Spirit, they receive an invisible and permanent spiritual mark on their soul that means the Holy Spirit will be with them forever to guide and strengthen them.
- Tell your child that the bishop will then give the newly confirmed person the sign of peace, saying "Peace be with you," and the newly confirmed person will then say, "And with your spirit" (*Order of Confirmation, 27*). Remind your child that the sign of peace is a sign that we are all united in God's family, the Church.
- Ask your child, if time permits, to get out their drawings of Baptism. Have them turn the paper over and write "Confirmation" on the top of the page. Then have them draw a simple cross. Around the cross, ask them to draw the outline of a large circle or "drop of oil" to symbolize the anointing with oil in the Sign of the Cross that the bishop will mark on their forehead in Confirmation. Ask them to color the drop of oil with their yellow or gold crayon or marker.
- Write the following words on a piece of paper that the bishop says during the anointing: "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" (*Order of Confirmation, 27*). Invite your child to turn to page 3 of the activity booklet and complete the activity.

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite your child to think back over all the different things they did in this chapter, and have them share some of the key things they learned.
- Ensure that the following points are made:
 - We first received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism.
 - In Confirmation, we renew our baptismal promises to follow Christ and to stay away from sin.
 - In Confirmation, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism.
- Ask your child to place the chapter 3 sticker in the correct circle on the Confirmation treasure map. Then have them place the water, laying on of hands, and anointing stickers in the correct circles.



Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by making the Sign of the Cross and saying, "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, come to us. We look forward to receiving the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with holy oil in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May we carry the goodness of Jesus Christ with us always." 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.

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.

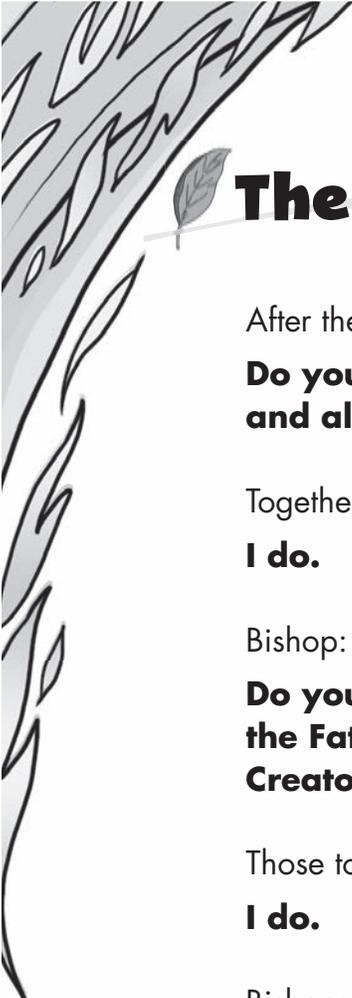


Closing Prayer

- 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:

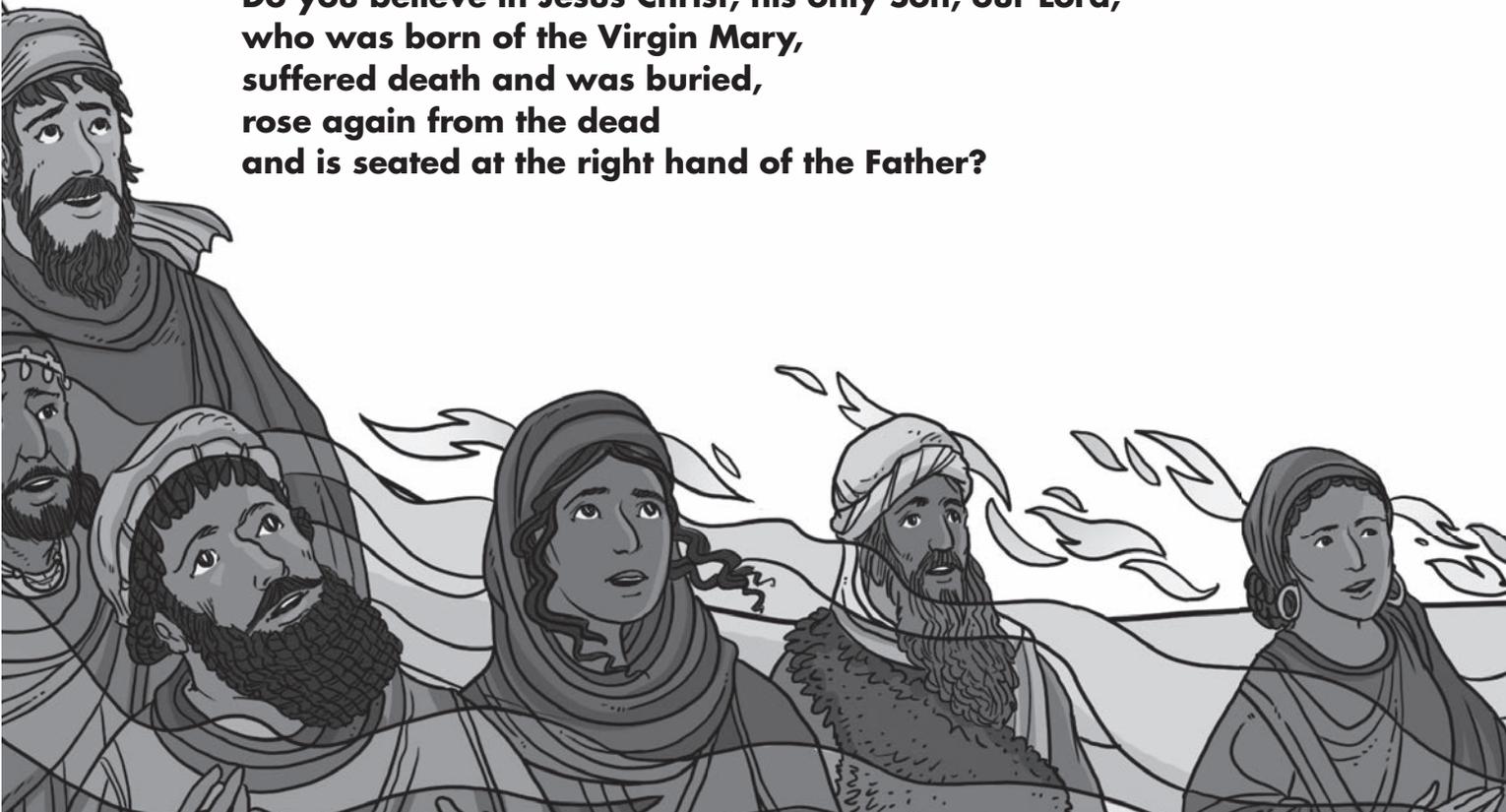
**Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?**

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:

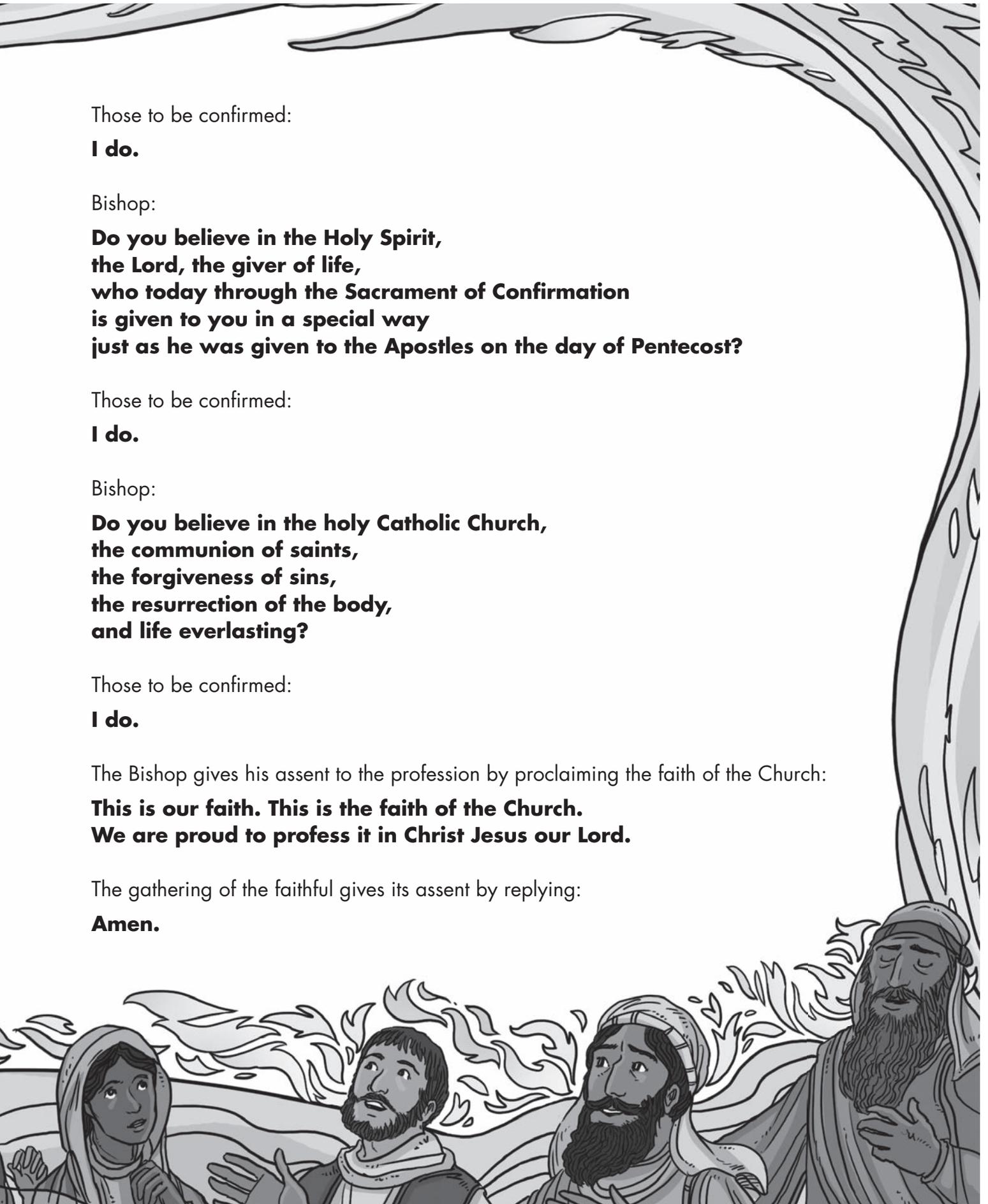
I do.

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.





Confirmation Key Words

A

anoint to mark someone or something by making the Sign of the Cross with holy oil

B

baptismal promises promises made for a child at Baptism and renewed at Confirmation, First Eucharist, and every year at Easter

C

confer to give

D

Dismissal the part of the Mass where we are called to go forth to spread the Good News of the Gospel

F

fruits of the Holy Spirit characteristics that result from living by the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity

G

General Intercessions prayers for the entire Church, the world, and those in need; also called the Prayer of the Faithful

Gifts of the Holy Spirit seven gifts received in fullness in Confirmation: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel (Right Judgment), Piety (Reverence), Fortitude (Courage), and Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)

Good News the message of God's love; the message of the Gospel

L

laying on of hands the raising of the bishop's hands in prayer over all to be confirmed

S

Sacred Chrism holy oil made of olive oil and balsam, blessed by the bishop

symbol something that stands for something else

W

witness someone who sees or experiences an event and tells others about it

Acknowledgments

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