

# We Come to Jesus

Scripture Focus: John 3:1–20

## Lesson Goals

- to explain that Christians follow Jesus, who is the light of the world
- to state that we are born again of water and the Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation
- to identify the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation

## Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on pages 1651 and 1656 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 3:1–20).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.
- Cut out the mission strips from the handout "Living the Mission: Faith in Action" found on the fourth and fifth pages of this home guide chapter. Mix them randomly in a hat or bowl.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.

**Discuss** with your child the kinds of actions we prefer to hide from others, versus actions we are happy for all to see.

**Tell** your child that today's lesson focuses on how Christians follow Jesus, the light of the world, who guides us to do what is true or right.

## Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Scripture on pages 1651 and 1656 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 3:1–20).

**Invite** your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.

*Answers: 1. A person must be born of water and the Spirit. 2. God loves the world so much that he sent Jesus to save the world. 3. Their deeds are evil. 4. Those who do what is true come to the light.*

**Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.

**Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 1 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.



## Chapter

## 1

**Discover! (20 minutes)**

**Read** with your child the article “Sacraments of Christian Initiation” on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child’s understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on the top part of page 3 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.

*Answers: Answers should reflect information from the article the second page of this home guide chapter. See the paragraph for each sacrament.*

*Optional:* If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

**Discuss** together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 2 activity booklet.

**Read** the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 2 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in his or her own words.

**Go! (10 minutes)**

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today’s lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Invite** your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared. Explain that each week your child will pick a new mission challenge to complete. Tell your child that this is an opportunity to put faith into action and also to reflect on that experience.

**Ask** your child to locate in the mission booklet (in the folder) the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 1 activity booklet.



# Sacraments of Christian Initiation

The Jewish leader Nicodemus is confused when Jesus says we must be born again. How can someone be reborn? Jesus explains: We are born physically from human parents. But we must be born again spiritually to enter his Kingdom.

Jesus is describing an **initiation** process that truly makes us his followers. *Initiation* refers to the steps needed to join and commit to a group and its beliefs. The Church has three **Sacraments of Christian Initiation** that make us full members of the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

Baptism is the first sacrament that brings us into the Church. We are reborn of baptismal water and the Spirit—just as Jesus describes in today’s reading. Choosing to be a Christian means starting a new life.

## Key Words

**grace** God’s free and undeserved gift of his life to us.

**initiation** Process by which someone joins a group and shows commitment to the beliefs and goals of the group.

### Sacraments of Christian Initiation

The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, which together make us full members of the Catholic Church.

## We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- “Christ Works in the Liturgy” (first paragraph), page 22
- “The Sacraments,” page 28

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and ask some questions to check your child’s understanding.

Confirmation deepens our relationship with the Church and with Jesus. We renew the promises we made in Baptism, when we were born again of water and the Spirit. Confirmation strengthens the Holy Spirit within us and helps us to live the mission of Christ and the Church.

The Eucharist is the third Sacrament of Christian Initiation. We thank and praise God for all that he gives us. The Eucharist is a memorial of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. When we receive the Body and Blood, under the appearances of bread and wine, we receive Jesus Christ, who is truly present.

All the sacraments celebrate and give us the **grace** of God, the gift of his life to us, through physical signs. We will look at all the sacraments in future lessons!

## Review

1. What are the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation?
2. What do the Sacraments of Christian Initiation do?
3. What is grace?

*Turn this page upside down to check your answers!*



## Living the Mission: Faith in Action

**Mission 1:** Each day this week, write in your mission booklet one thing you are grateful for. Say a silent prayer to God in thanksgiving.

**Mission 2:** Reflect on someone you might need to say you're sorry to. Write that person's name in your mission booklet, and make a plan to express your sorrow to this person in some way.

**Mission 3:** Think of one thing you can do to care for creation in a new way this week. Take that action and write a few notes in your mission booklet about what it was like.

**Mission 4:** Share some of your thoughts and feelings about what it means to you to be a follower of Jesus with one person this week. Write in your mission booklet how that conversation went.

**Mission 5:** Find a traditional prayer that you like (you can find some on pages 1990–1997 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*). Make a point to say this prayer each morning this week and note the date and time in your mission booklet.

**Mission 6:** Identify one change you can make in your behavior to minimize or end a conflict with someone. Write in your mission booklet about that change, and take that action.

**Mission 7:** Write in your mission booklet the names of five people who are important to you. Make a plan this week to tell each of these people how important they are to you.

**Mission 8:** Set aside 5 minutes for silent prayer time each day this week. Ask God for those things you need in your life. Write these times in your mission booklet, and make some notes about what you asked God for.

**Mission 9:** Invite someone outside of your group of friends to join you in a game or activity. Write some notes in your mission booklet about how it felt to extend this kindness to someone.

**Mission 10:** Encourage your family to create a donation box or piggy bank. Invite your family members to contribute to this each week. Write in your mission booklet the name of an organization you will donate this money to at the end of the month.



# Handout



**Mission 11:** Ask your teacher or parent to find next Sunday's Scripture readings for you. Read them before you go to Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday. Write in your mission booklet what you learned from reading these passages in advance.

**Mission 12:** Say a prayer each night for those who are suffering or struggling in life. Place a check mark in your mission booklet each time you have said a prayer.

**Mission 13:** Think of one new way you can be of service to your family this week. Write that in your mission booklet and place a check mark next to it when you have taken that action.

**Mission 14:** Create a list of five acts of kindness in your mission booklet. Choose one of these actions and do it this week.

**Mission 15:** Write in your mission booklet the names of several people who are closest to you. Share with them how you see God through them.

**Mission 16:** Interview an adult Christian this week, and ask this person what it means for him or her to be a follower of Jesus. Take a few notes in your mission booklet.

**Mission 17:** Think of three ways you can better take care of your body this week, and write them in your mission booklet. Choose one of these ideas, and see if you can take action for a whole week.

**Mission 18:** Ask your family to help you name some of your gifts. Write them in your mission booklet. Take some time to share the gifts you see in other family members with them.

**Mission 19:** Think of a challenge you might have in your life. Write in your mission booklet the name of a family member or other trusted adult you can ask for advice in dealing with your challenge. Talk to that person this week.

**Mission 20:** Do something this week that focuses your time and energy on helping other people. Write that action in your mission booklet.

