

# Living in God's Love

**Objective:** Students will be able to recall that 1) through the Holy Mysteries we are united to God and receive His divine life; 2) we become members of His people, the Church; and 3) we enter into God's New Covenant with the world.

## **For the Catechist**

We are united to God through the Mysteries that have been given to us through Jesus Christ. The New Testament writers describe this New Life in Jesus Christ as an experience of divine forgiveness, redemption, deliverance, hope, renewal and new creation. Because this divine life is present to us, we are to be filled with love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness, and chastity. As Christians, each day we have to make the choice to experience this ongoing conversion to the divine life within ourselves.

In Jesus Christ, we begin to see our own lives as a call to let our love of God live and pulsate in our day-to-day living. We know and we believe and we live in the faith that God's plan for humanity has touched and continues to fill our lives. "And this is the promise that he made us: eternal life" (1 John 2:25).

In Grade 3 the children learned that we come together as Church to learn more about the presence of God in our lives. This year they are asked to look to the New Testament to learn how to live in God's presence. Encourage the children to read the Scriptures to listen to the way Jesus talks about ways to deal with human experiences and emotions. The activity page in this lesson helps the children discover that Jesus did talk about how to live with fear, hunger, and sadness. Help the children realize that Jesus wants us to know that even in the middle of our problems, we are living in God's love.

Pre-kindergarten through Grade 4 in the God With Us series include lessons on the Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Eucharist. This year the emphasis is on the relationship established with God through the Mysteries and our choice to grow in that relationship.

## **Lesson Plan Overview**

**Opening:** Heavenly King

**Introduction:** Discussion of occupations that require uniforms Need: pictures of police officers or firefighters

**Read Text Aloud:** Have the students volunteer to read the text aloud or have the students read sections silently.

### **Activity Tracks:**

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity (detailed on the pages that follow) to reinforce the lesson.

- *Basic:* Jesus Teaches Us
- *Group:* "The Mysteries" Memory Game
- *Craft:* I Am a Member of the Church

**Closing:** "All you who have been baptized . . . ."

## **Icon Packets:**

*Come Bless the Lord:*

Christ Pantocrator

The Mystical Supper

## **Teaching Pics**

Holy Baptism (SI-S8)

## ***Background Reading***

*(Direct quotations from the sources noted)*

### **Moments of Sanctification**

"The seven mysteries of the Church ... have a special place in the life of a Christian. The Eucharist signifies the continual presence of our life-giving God and Lord, and the other rites mark entry, growth, renewal and service in our life of faith. These seven mysteries have certain elements in common: they were given us by God through the Body of Christ; they celebrate some aspect of His dying and rising for us; and they all manifest His presence among us in His Body. The seven mysteries represent a symbolic perfection, the union of God (the Holy Trinity) with the four elements. Though we no longer especially value numeric symbolism and no longer recognize only four fundamental elements of matter, the sacraments do represent for us the complexity of ways in which we are united to God in our journey through life" (*LLII* 90).

### **Baptism**

"Baptism admits the Christian into the life of the Trinity. It also makes a person a member of the Church. These two passages—the first from the limitations of our natural life into the divine life, and the second from selfish individuality into the Body of Christ, which is the Church (Col 1:18)—are inseparable. Authentic Christian faith and participation in the divine life presume membership in the Church and participation in a believing community. Life in the Trinity is real. We have truly become children of the Father; Christ is our brother; the Spirit fills our lives. This makes a real difference in how we live and act and in how we relate to others" (*LLI* 73).

### **Chrismation**

"The apostolic tradition affirms that each believer is called to be a temple of the Spirit. This is why the newly baptized receive the gift of the Spirit in the mystery of chrismation. In this sacrament the believer is anointed with myron (olive oil mixed with many fragrances) on several parts of the body. The multitude of fragrances symbolizes the variety of gifts of the Spirit, and the different anointings symbolize that the faithful Christian receives the Spirit for all the needs of life. St. Simeon of Thessalonica remarked that in this mystery the baptized and chrismated person received all the divine gifts, except holy priesthood (*On the Holy Mysteries* 66, PG 155, 229). Thus the whole Church is built up by this diversity of gifts which are received by the new member of the Body of Christ. Through these gifts of the Holy Spirit, the individual person is joined uniquely to the Body as an integral part to assist in its growth and perfection" (*LLI* 74-75).

### **Holy Eucharist**

"The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ, the gift from the heart of His passion and resurrection. Both as elements and as action the Eucharist is Christ, who died and rose for our salvation. The Eucharist is a truly 'Divine' Liturgy, because it is a mighty work of God undertaken for our sanctification. When we partake of it, we are made one in Christ and united with God: Father, Son, and Spirit. It is called a mystery since the way in which it happens is beyond our comprehension. Nevertheless, by participating in it with faith we can grow continually in our understanding of God's great love for us" (*LLII* 57).

# The Lesson Plan

## Opening

Let's pray "Heavenly King."

## Introduction

Let's look at some pictures of people you might recognize. You probably don't know their names, but you do know what we expect them to do. [Hold up pictures of a police officer, firefighter, nurse, doctor—people in uniforms.] Let's talk about what we expect a firefighter to do. (Ride the engine, carry a hose to the fire, help people get out of buildings, put out the fire) Why do you know all these great answers? (That is their job.) Do you know any firefighters? When you see them without their uniform, do you know they are firefighters? [Discuss as many professions as time permits. Try to include any that you know in which the children's parents are involved.] Do all jobs have uniforms? Let's make a list of jobs that sometimes do not require uniforms. (Grocery clerk, sales associate, teacher) When we are at the place where these people work, how can we tell what their job is? (By the way they act.)

The same is true about all of us. People should know we are Christians by the way we act. First, can anyone define the word Christian? (A follower of Jesus Christ who believes in Him and has been baptized) Some people wear a cross to show they are Christians. How can we tell a person is a Christian even when we can't see the cross around his or her neck? (By the person's actions) At our baptism, we say we "put on Christ," which can mean we put on our "uniform" as a member of the Church. From the day of our baptism, we are in Christ's "uniform" and people should be able to recognize that by the way we live and act.

Let's turn to our lesson to learn more about the Mysteries that help us live as Christians.

## Living in God's Love

We have learned that the word **treatment** means a covenant or an agreement, especially one between God and man. In the Old Testament we read about God's covenant with the people who lived before Jesus was born. In the Book of Genesis we read the words God spoke to Abraham, "I will maintain my covenant with you and your descendants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting pact, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you" (Genesis 17:7).

In the New Testament we read about the New Covenant or agreement brought to us through Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches us to love everyone as God loves us. Also, Jesus teaches us to call God our Father as we pray in the Lord's Prayer. Through Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, we are saved from eternal death and granted eternal life. In return for all God gives us through Jesus Christ, God asks us to choose to live in His love.



### Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).

... God asks us to choose to live in His love.

*Who gave us the New Covenant? (Jesus) What is a covenant? (An agreement with God)*

We entered into God's New Covenant with the world when we received the Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation, and the Holy Eucharist. Through these Mysteries we are united to God and receive His divine life. In return we promise to live as Jesus taught us in the New Covenant.

We answered God's call to follow Jesus on the day we were baptized. Through the Mystery of Baptism, we became members of the Church. We have learned that the Church is the people of God who follow Jesus as their Lord. We are members of God's family.

We are recognized as being members of our own family by our last names. We are recognized as being members of God's family by being called Christians after we are baptized.

We have learned that a Christian is a follower of Jesus who believes in Him and has been baptized. As a Christian, we are to become more like Jesus by keeping His New Commandment. We are to love one another as He has loved us. Another way to say this is that we are asked to "put on Christ" and to be like Christ in all we say and do. This is what it means to be a Christian.

Read Galatians 3:26-27, and complete the following sentence:

"For through faith you are all children of God  
in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized

have clothed yourselves  
with Christ."



**In return we promise to live as Jesus taught us in the New Covenant.**

*Identify three Mysteries through which we are united to God and received His divine life? (Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist)*

**... have clothed yourselves with Christ."**

*How do you think you show that you have "put on Christ."*  
[Encourage the students to discuss. Some possibilities: kind and cooperative at home and school, friendly, helpful, wears clothing that shows they respect themselves, avoids "bad" movies and shows]

**Now we have to pray that every day we make the right choices that help us live as Jesus' followers.**

*Let's think about sometimes when we know we have to make a choice between what we know is right and what everyone else is doing. Would anyone be willing to share something that happened to you or your friend? [Ask this question only if you are comfortable in discussing almost any possibility. You can avoid an awkward discussion by identifying a possible scenario: What should you do if you are at your friend's house and they want you to go to the mall and not tell your mom who doesn't allow you to "hang out" at malls?] Let's sit quietly for a moment and think about one time that we made a decision that showed we truly "put on Christ" - we made the right decision even if our friends did not. Let's thank the Holy Spirit for making us brave.*

**Words to Remember:** [Read the words together, and use them to introduce, summarize, and/or review the lesson.]

*Review: When we became members of the Church we entered into God's New Covenant with the world. What does that mean? (We joined with everyone who is following Jesus and His teaching to love as God loves.)*

## Activity Tracks

**Basic:** Jesus Teaches Us

[This worksheet is in the student text.]

*Today we need to use our New Testaments to answer the questions. [If time permits, ask the students to think about a time when they were sad or frightened and they needed to let God be in charge to help them stop worrying.]*

Through the Mystery of Chrismation we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us live out our baptismal promise to follow Jesus Christ and keep His commandments. Earlier this year we learned that the Holy Spirit helped the apostles become brave. The Holy Spirit also helps us become brave. The Holy Spirit helps us make the right choices that show we are followers of Jesus.

Sometimes people ask us to disobey our parents' rules or take something that does not belong to us. We need to pray to ask the Holy Spirit to help us choose to do what Jesus asks. The Holy Spirit gives us courage to do what is right even if everyone else chooses to do something else.

Through the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, we become one with Jesus Christ. We also become one with all Christians who "put on Christ."

Through the Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation, and the Holy Eucharist, we are able to live in God's love always. Now we have to pray that every day we make the right choices that help us live as Jesus' followers.



**Words to Remember:**  
**Abraham (Abram):** A patriarch from the Old Testament. A patriarch is the father and head of a family.  
**Mysteries:** Special prayers of the Church filled with the hidden power of God. They are called sacraments in the Western Church.  
**"Put on Christ":** When we are baptized, we "put on Christ"; we have His divine life in us.

102

### Jesus Teaches Us

Read the following Scripture to learn what Jesus thought about some of the problems we still have today. Answer some of the questions in your own words rather than the exact words from the New Testament.

- Matthew 4:2-4**  
How many days did Jesus fast? **40 days and nights**  
Who told Him to change the stones into bread? **the tempter**  
What did Jesus say we should live by besides just food?  
**By the Word of God**
- Luke 8:22-25**  
Where were Jesus and the disciples? **On a lake**  
What happened to make them afraid? **A storm came over the lake**  
Jesus asked, "Where is your faith?" What does He want us to do when we are frightened? **Trust God to take care of us.**
- Matthew 26:36-39**  
Where was Jesus praying? **Gethsemane**  
Jesus said, "My soul is **sorrowful** even to death."  
What does Jesus say to God His Father? **"If it is possible, let this cup pass from me."**  
What does Jesus want us to do when we are sad? **Pray for God's will**

103

**Group:** "The Mysteries" Memory Game

*Materials:* "Mysteries" worksheet duplicated on heavier paper and cards cut out, "Mysteries" worksheet answers that also identifies the Mystery by letter (you could use the answer words to review in a future class); 3 note cards with one of the words on each: Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist.

*Today's game asks us to remember some of the information we have learned in our earlier years. We are going to think about everything we have learned about the Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation, or Holy Eucharist. On each card is a word or words that describe something about one of the Mysteries. Everyone gets one card at first. The problem is the word is a mystery because it is scrambled. You have to unscramble the word and place it by the note card with the name of the Mystery to which it relates. Let's see how many cards you can unscramble. [Students can work in pairs or groups.] Now we need someone or a group of you who will take the cards for one of the Mysteries and explain what you know about the Mystery by using those words.*

**Craft:** I Am a Member of the Church

*Materials:* "Baptism" worksheet, markers or pens, scissors, glue, construction paper or poster board

*We reviewed today how we became a member of our Church. Now we are going to complete a scroll that announces the day we became a member. If you cannot remember the date of your baptism, ask your parents and finish your scroll next week. We are going to place these scrolls on construction paper. We are announcing the day we became a member of our Church. [You might want to put the announcements around the room for a few weeks before they take them home.] When you take this home, place it in a safe place so that you can always remember the date of your baptism.*

**Closing:**

*Let's end our class with the song from our baptism. On special feast days throughout the year, we also sing this song. It reminds us of the great gift we have received. Let's pray: "All you who have been baptized...." [Add it to their booklets if they are making them.]*

*Abraham*  
*(Abram)*

*Mysteries*

*“Put on*  
*Christ”*

Special prayers of the Church filled  
with the hidden power of God.  
They are called sacraments  
in the Western Church.

A patriarch from the Old Testament.  
A patriarch is the father and  
head of a family

When we are baptized, we "put  
on Christ;" we have His divine  
life in us.

**All of You**

All of you, who have been baptized  
into Christ, have put on Christ.  
Alleluia.

Melkite  
Greek  
Catholic  
Church

**All of You**

All of you, who have been baptized  
into Christ, have put on Christ.  
Alleluia.

Romanian  
Greek  
Catholic  
Diocese of  
Canton

**All of You**

All you who have been baptized  
into Christ, have put on Christ,  
Alleluia

Ruthenian  
Byzantine  
Catholic  
Metropolitan  
Province

**All of You**

All you who have been baptized  
into Christ, you have put on Christ.  
Alleluia

Ukrainian  
Catholic  
Diocese of  
St. Josaphat

**All of You**

All you who have been baptized  
into Christ, you have put on Christ.  
Alleluia.

Ukrainian  
Catholic  
Synod

*rtawe*

1

*smicrh*

2

*broe tehiw*

3

*dajnor virer*

4

*abedr dna neiw*

5

*doby dna dolob*

6

*delnac*

7

*scsor*

8

*yloh tsirpi*

9

*tpu no thirCs*

10

*rbemem fo  
het hcucrh*

11

*yolh mcommoniu*

12

*water*

1 (B)

*chrism*

2 (C)

*white robe*

3 (B)

*Jordan River*

4 (B)

*bread and wine*

5 (E)

*Body and Blood*

6 (E)

*candle*

7 (B)

*cross*

8 (B)

*Holy Spirit*

9 (C)

*Put on Christ*

10 (C)

*Member of  
the Church*

11 (B)

*Holy Communion*

12 (E)

My name is

---

My parents are

---

I was born on

---

I was baptized on

---

My godparents are

---

At the top of the scroll, write the name of the church at which you were baptized.