

Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ▶



EXPLORE how the Church works to bring about the kingdom.



DISCOVER that God reveals himself as both almighty and perfect.



DECIDE how your faith can help you handle temptations in life.

God, Father and Creator

? What are the ideal qualities of a father?

Jesus taught us to call God our Father. You have prayed this prayer for many years. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples to pray. This is part of what Jesus said:

“This is how you are to pray:

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.”*

MATTHEW 6:9-10

? What does this prayer tell you about God the Father and your relationship to him? How could you help a friend appreciate God as our Father who loves each of us?

Disciple Power

Justice

Justice is one of the four Cardinal Virtues. Justice is the habit of consistently giving what is due to God and to our neighbor. We give God what is due to him when we worship him alone. Our worship of God includes loving our neighbor and respecting the dignity of every human person. Through Christian justice, we participate in preparing the way for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Thy Kingdom Come

Carlos and his father were driving home from church. Carlos asked, "Dad, are we going out for pancakes today?" His father did not reply. "Dad, did you hear me? What about pancakes today?"

"What was that Carlos?" asked Mr. Sanchez, absentmindedly.

"Pancakes, Dad. Are we going for pancakes? You seem as if you are a million miles way," said Carlos.

"Sorry, Carlos. I guess I was thinking about the Our Father." Carlos looked at his father, bewildered. "The Our Father?"

"Yes. Each week at Mass we pray, 'thy kingdom come.' I was just thinking as we drive through this neighborhood that I don't see God's Kingdom coming much around here."

Carlos looked out the window. Some of the houses looked abandoned. At others, a few people sat on their front steps. Two boys were throwing a ball in a yard behind a chain-link fence.


His dad continued, "Most of the people in this neighborhood have no jobs. Then last year that bad storm blew through and did a lot of damage. It doesn't look like some of these roofs have ever been repaired."

"Dad," began Carlos, as he saw the pancake restaurant up ahead. But his father continued talking. "What are we doing to help?" he asked. "The parish has a couple of outreach programs, but what are we doing to help?" He glanced over at his son.

"Dad, what does this have to do with the Our Father?" asked Carlos, as the pancake restaurant faded from view.

"It has everything to do with it, son. God's work is our work too. Our job is to help God's Kingdom to come in its fullness. I think I'll give Father Tom a call tomorrow."

The following week, Carlos and his dad joined a group of volunteers in the parish parking lot after Mass. Soon they were in the run-down neighborhood they had passed the week before, handing out bags of groceries to needy residents. Afterward, Carlos' dad looked at him and smiled. "Thy kingdom come," he said, smiling. "How about some pancakes now?"

 What is something you have done to help God's kingdom to come more fully?



Almighty Love

Abba, Father

The Book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, contains two accounts of creation. In the first creation account, you learned that God is Creator. He is almighty and omnipotent (read Genesis 1:1–2:4). God is the Father, the Almighty, the Creator of all that is visible and invisible. This means that God created everything and that creation is good. We read, “God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good” (Genesis 1:31). God is the source of everything that is good, true, and beautiful.

The second account of creation emphasizes the personal relationship that God has with humanity (read Genesis 2:4–25). The events of this account reveal God’s presence and his love for us. When we address God as “Abba, Father,” as Jesus did and taught us to do, we acknowledge God’s presence with us and his deep personal love for each of us.

Through Baptism in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we become adopted sons and daughters of God our Father. God the Father is perfect in his love for us. Jesus constantly taught about the love of the Father. Jesus wants us to know the parental tenderness that God has for us. God desires for all of us to be with him forever (see Matthew 18:10–14).

FAITH FOCUS

What is our relationship to God the Creator?

FAITH VOCABULARY

Original Sin

Original Sin is the sin of Adam and Eve by which they lost the state of original holiness, and by which death, sin, and suffering entered into the world.

sin

Sin is freely choosing to do what we know is against God’s will or freely choosing not to do something that we know God wants us to do.

temptation

Temptation is anything that tries to move us to do or say something that we know is wrong or prevents us from doing something that we know is good and that we ought to do.

Activity


Look up and read the following Scripture passages. Think about what God is telling you about himself and your relationship with him. Write your responses here. Share your thoughts with a partner.

John 14:6 _____

Romans 8:15 _____

Galatians 4:5 _____





Faith-Filled People

The New Eve

Christian tradition identifies the Blessed Virgin Mary as the New Eve. Mary always acknowledged God's love for her through her words and deeds. She waited in loving trust for God to fulfill his promise to send the Savior. When the angel announced that God would fulfill his promise through her, Mary responded, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Separated from God

You have learned that God created humanity in a state of original holiness and justice, or friendship with him. **Sin** and evil, the Bible tells us, made their way into the good world of God's creation when the first humans turned away from God. We give the name **Original Sin** to this turning away from God and his plan of creation.

Adam and Eve freely chose to do what they knew God did not want them to do. They sinned, and by their sin, all of humanity lost original holiness and original justice, except Mary, the Mother of God, who was born without Original Sin. Mary remained free from personal sin throughout her entire life. The name given to this unique grace and privilege that God gave to Mary is the Immaculate Conception.

The Scripture story of humanity's fall from grace and loss of original holiness began with the **temptation** of Adam and Eve. Prior to the Fall, God had commanded Adam and Eve:

"You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die."

GENESIS 2:16-17


Then the serpent, representing Satan, the Evil One, tempted Adam and Eve by telling them that they would not die. The serpent lied to Eve:

"You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad."

GENESIS 3:4-5

Adam and Eve gave in to temptation and sinned. They rejected God by rejecting his loving commandment (read Genesis 3:1-7). The loss of original holiness has become part of our fallen human nature. We now share in the effects of Original Sin. The world and all of us in the human family are marked by sin. From the very first moment of our existence, or conception, we need to be reconciled with God.

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we become adopted sons and daughters of God. We are reborn in Christ with the forgiveness of Original Sin at Baptism. We receive the gift and grace of the Holy Spirit to live as children of God the Father.

 What does being an adopted son or daughter of God mean to you?

Promise of Salvation

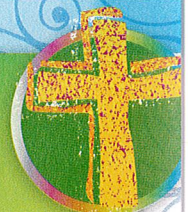
God did not reject Adam and Eve after they turned away from him. He approached them as a loving and good father. God promised to send someone to heal the relationship between him and humanity. This is God's plan of Salvation (read Genesis 3:15).

All of God's promises in the Old Testament point to Jesus Christ, the Savior whom God promised to send. In truth, God's promise of eternal life begins with Jesus. In Christ, all of God's promises are fulfilled. Jesus did not abolish the Law and Covenant of Sinai. The Son of God fulfilled and perfected these promises (read Matthew 5:17–18). Jesus Christ is the new and everlasting Covenant (read 1 Corinthians 11:25). Jesus is the Savior of all people. Christ is the center of God's plan of Salvation.

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, became a man, lived on Earth, and was raised from the dead to save us and redeem us from sin and death. In Jesus Christ, we have been healed, or reconciled, with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

What about those who have not heard of Jesus? The answer to that question is very important. God wants everyone to share in his life and love both now and forever. The Church teaches that through the grace of the Holy Spirit, God works quietly and mysteriously to draw all people to himself, even those who have not heard of Jesus. All people can be saved who seek to serve and love God with all their hearts. This is both the promise and desire of God (read John 17:1–26).

Catholics Believe



Salvation is the deliverance of humanity from the power of sin and death through Jesus Christ. The Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, died for our sins and revealed God's power over death in the Resurrection. Our faith in Christ is necessary for our Salvation.



Activity Describe three acts that Christ has done for us that show the love of the Father for all people. Share your responses with others.

Signs of God's Love

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I FOLLOW JESUS

Because of Original Sin, all people lost the state of original holiness that God intended, except for Mary and, of course, Jesus. In every generation since then, people have worked to overcome temptation and to help bring the Kingdom of God in all its fullness.

I BELIEVE IN GOD

John and Alison want to start a fan page for a famous person. At first they are thinking of a movie star, but they decide to choose a famous person known for humanitarian efforts to build the Kingdom of God. Help them choose a worthy person, and then design a home page for their Web site.



MY FAITH CHOICE

This week, I will do something each day to build the Kingdom of God. I will



Place yourself in the presence of God the Father. Pray the Our Father in the silence of your heart. Pause after each petition of the prayer.

Chapter Review

Complete each sentence using one of the terms provided in the word bank.

Father presence justice Salvation almighty

1. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, taught us that God is our loving _____.
2. Through the Cardinal Virtue of _____, we participate in the Kingdom of God by following God's Law of Love.
3. In the first account of creation, God reveals that he is _____ and omnipotent.
4. In the second account of creation, God reveals his _____ in a personal way as goodness and love.
5. Our _____ is deliverance from the power of sin and eternal death, made possible by God.

▶ TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. God reveals himself as Father and Creator, the source of all that is visible and invisible.
2. Original Sin is the sin that Adam and Eve committed by freely turning away from God's love and friendship.
3. In Jesus Christ, the Savior promised by God, we have been healed, or reconciled, with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

Sing to the Lord

In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church as a whole assembly prays the psalms in the Responsorial Psalm. In a similar way, this psalm is structured for a leader and the whole class to pray together.

Leader: Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
announce his salvation day after day.

All: Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
announce his salvation day after day.

Leader: Tell God's glory among the nations;
among all peoples, God's marvelous deeds.

All: Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
announce his salvation day after day.

Leader: For great is the LORD and highly to be praised,
to be feared above all gods. . . .
Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice.

All: Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
announce his salvation day after day.

PSALM 96:2, 3-4, 11



With My Family

This Week ...

In **Chapter 4**, "God, Father and Creator," your child learned:

- ▶ The Kingdom of God is the fulfillment of God's plan for all creation in Christ at the end of time when Christ will come again in glory. Each of us is called to help bring the Kingdom of God to its fullness by our words and actions.
- ▶ The Book of Genesis contains two accounts of creation. In the first, God is revealed as Creator and almighty Father, maker of all that is. The second emphasizes the personal relationship of love that God has with humanity.
- ▶ God created humanity in a state of original holiness and justice, but our first parents freely sinned. Their Original Sin lost for us the original state of grace.
- ▶ Through Baptism, we are reborn in Christ and the effects of Original Sin are forgiven. We receive the gift and grace of the Holy Spirit to live as children of God the Father.
- ▶ God freely entered into a Covenant with humanity, and that Covenant reached its fullness in Jesus Christ, the new and everlasting Covenant. Jesus is the center of God's plan for Salvation.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 51, 232-248, 268-354, 388-421, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 53-56, 68-75.

Sharing God's Word

Read together John 17:1-26. Emphasize that through Sacred Scripture, God reveals himself as "our Father." In Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, we have Salvation and Redemption. We have been healed, or reconciled, with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

We Live as Disciples

The Christian home and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Choose one of the Scripture passages from this chapter and design a family prayer banner. Display this banner prominently in your home. Use it during family prayer time as a way to focus on God, who loves us and sustains us.

- ▶ Discuss as a family ways that you experience the fatherly love of God. Choose one way to honor God the Father for all that he provides.
- ▶ As a family, develop a stewardship plan for how each family member will help take care of the gift of creation that God has given to everyone. Realize that caring for creation involves practicing the virtue of justice.

Our Spiritual Journey

Listening to and praying the Scriptures has a long tradition in the Church. In this chapter, your child prayed a prayer based on Psalm 96. Read and pray together this prayer on page 41.



For more ideas on ways your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

www.BeMyDisciples.com

Unit 1 Review

Name _____

A. Choose the Best Word

Fill in the blanks to complete each of the sentences. Use the words from the word bank.

Bible	Creation	Father
Redemption	sanctification	Salvation

- _____ is God creating everyone and everything, visible and invisible, out of nothing and without any help.
- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, taught us that God is our loving _____.
- Through the _____, God reveals himself and his loving plan of _____ for the world and all people.
- Through Christ's act of _____, God delivered humanity from the eternal death of sin.
- The gift of sharing in God's life and love is called _____.

B. Show What You Know

Match the items in Column A with those in Column B.

Column A

- A. faith
- B. creed
- C. the Holy Trinity
- D. Original Sin
- E. justice

Column B

- _____ 1. A supernatural gift from God
- _____ 2. The mystery of One God in Three Divine Persons
- _____ 3. The result of the fall of Adam and Eve
- _____ 4. One of the Cardinal Virtues that is the habit of giving what is due to God and to our neighbor
- _____ 5. Summary of the principal beliefs of the Church

C. Connect with Scripture

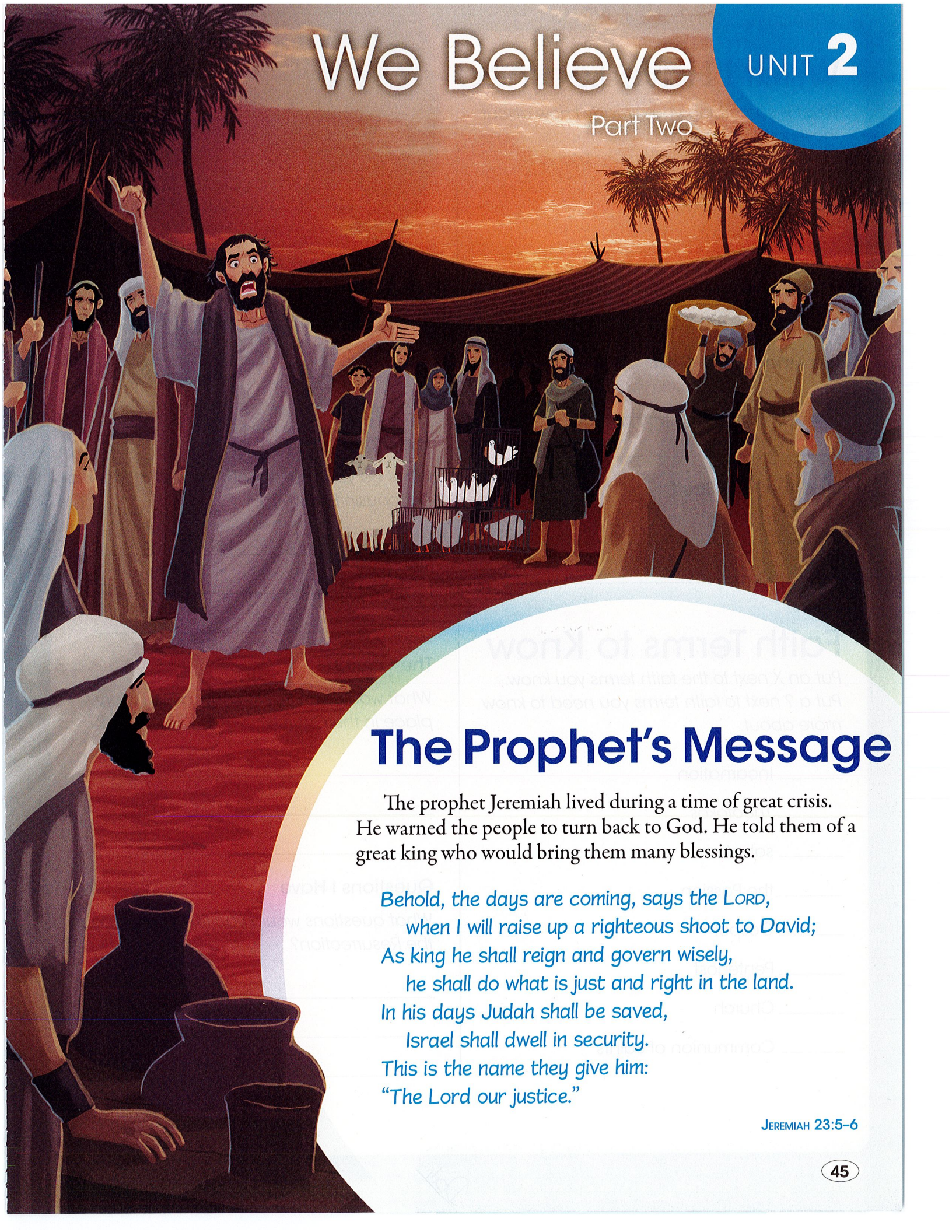
Reread the Scripture passage on page 9.

What connection do you see between this passage and what you learned in this unit?

D. Be a Disciple

1. Review the four pages in this unit titled *The Church Follows Jesus*. What person or ministry of the Church on these pages will inspire you to be a better disciple of Jesus? Explain your answer.

2. Work with a group. Review the four Disciple Power virtues, or gifts, you have learned about in this unit. After jotting down your own ideas, share with the group practical ways that you will live these virtues day by day.



The Prophet's Message

The prophet Jeremiah lived during a time of great crisis. He warned the people to turn back to God. He told them of a great king who would bring them many blessings.

*Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David;
As king he shall reign and govern wisely,
he shall do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah shall be saved,
Israel shall dwell in security.
This is the name they give him:
"The Lord our justice."*

JEREMIAH 23:5-6

What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these faith concepts?

the Paschal Mystery

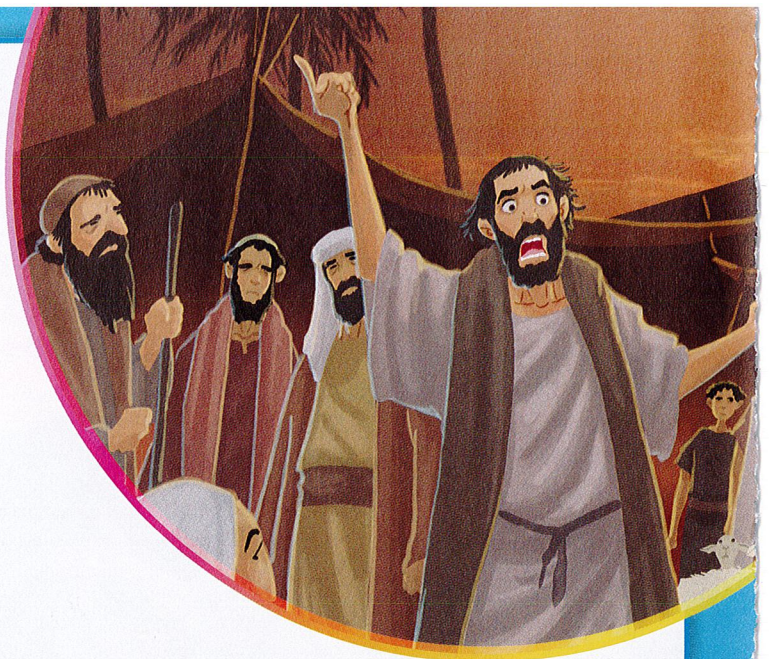
the Kingdom of God

God the Holy Spirit

Faith Terms to Know

Put an X next to the faith terms you know.
Put a ? next to faith terms you need to know more about.

- _____ Incarnation
- _____ Theotokos
- _____ salvation
- _____ the Passion
- _____ Gospel
- _____ Pentecost
- _____ Church
- _____ Communion of Saints



The Bible

What do you know about the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth?

The Church

What would you like to know about Mary's place in the Church?

Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about the Resurrection?
