

Chapter 2

Chapter 2

Featured Story

Jesus Feeds a Huge Crowd
(John 6:1–15)



Lesson Goals

- to explain that Jesus cares for us and for all people
- to identify the Eucharist as a way Jesus shows his care for us
- to name the four parts of the Mass

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 the Eucharist

Lesson Wrap-Up

Closing Prayer

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible* and chapter 2 activity booklet
- a blank piece of paper
- crayons or markers

Music Suggestions

- "Bread of Life," by David Glenn (Catapult)
- "I Am the Bread of Life," by Paul McIntyre (Paul McIntyre)

Jesus Cares for Us

Background Focus

Included among the many dimensions of faith is one that is rooted in the heart and one that is rooted in the head. Both of these aspects are crucial parts of a mature faith and must be held in balance with each other. An exclusive focus on one or the other creates imbalance and a faith that risks being cold and lifeless or superficial.

When preparing your child for First Eucharist, it can become easy to keep your focus primarily on making sure your child can articulate an understanding of the Eucharist and the many doctrines and mysteries of faith surrounding it. While this is important, you must also help your child connect to the heart of the matter: that is, seeing faith and the Eucharist as ultimately rooted in the incredible love of God, shown in word and action through the person of Jesus.

This chapter begins to look at the Eucharist as an expression of Jesus' deep care and compassion for each one of us. As you journey through this chapter, use it as an opportunity to reflect on how well you balance the head and heart dimensions of faith.

Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite your child to turn to page 1 in the chapter 2 activity booklet and locate the prayer on the page.
- Begin prayer by making the Sign of the Cross, then saying, "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 the activity booklet away for now.

Engage Activity

- Draw a picture of Jesus on a piece of paper (even if it is a stick figure).
- Invite your child to brainstorm as many things they know about Jesus as they can. Write their responses on the piece of paper around the picture of Jesus.
- Highlight or circle “Jesus Loves Us” or “Jesus Cares for Us,” if these have been mentioned by your child. If they have not been mentioned, write them on the piece of paper and highlight them in some way.
- Tell your child that today they are going to learn about ways Jesus shows us he cares for us by giving us the gift of the Eucharist.

Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite your child to find John 6:1–15 in *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (page 1665).
- Direct your child to turn the page and place an “I found it!” sticker next to the Featured Story (page 1666). Tell them that the words between the leaves on page 1666 are a shortened version of the Scripture story on the previous page.
- Ask your child to look at the artwork on pages 1666–1667. Invite them to describe what they see in the artwork and to predict what the Bible story might be about.
- Read the title on the page, and then read the Bible story to your child.
- Ask several questions to check for comprehension, such as these:
 - How many loaves were there at the beginning? (*five*)
 - How many fish were there at the beginning? (*two*)
 - What did Jesus do in the story? (*Jesus made the five loaves and two fish multiply enough to feed all of the people.*)

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1667.
- Invite your child to summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions to check for comprehension.

- Review some of these key points:
 - Jesus cared for the people and found a way to make sure they were all fed.
 - Jesus could do wonderful things like this because he is God.
 - Jesus feeds people today with the Eucharist, his own Body and Blood, at Mass.
 - The Eucharist is Bread that is Jesus himself, the Body of Christ, and that nourishes our souls and brings us closer to God.
- Explain to your child that another name for the Eucharist is *Holy Communion* and that they may hear both of these terms used to refer to the gifts of bread and wine that become Jesus at the Mass. Tell them they will learn more about this later.
- Explore John 6:35, helping your child make the connection between Jesus as the Bread of Life and the Eucharist.

Live It!

- Read Live It! on page 1667.
- Review the terms *merciful* (showing great love and forgiveness to others) and *Redeemer* (one who helps us be the best we can be), and pray the prayer together.
- Explain that Holy Communion is a gift Jesus gives us to show that he cares for us, and that when we receive Holy Communion, it helps us become more like Jesus and grow closer to God. Tell your child that this prayer is a wonderful prayer about wanting to be more like Jesus.
- Have your child turn to page 2 in the activity booklet and begin to color the frame of the prayer from Saint Richard of Chichester. If they do not finish in the time allotted, encourage them to complete it later. Consider hanging this piece of paper somewhere to remind your child to pray this prayer daily.

Tell It!

- Invite your child to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1667.
- Encourage your child to summarize the Bible reading, using the images in Tell It!
- Have your child use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story pages that capture their interest. Remind your child to save enough stickers to use on the remaining chapters.

Core Learning Activity

Keeping Sunday Holy

- Remind your child that Sunday is a special day of the week because it (or Saturday evening) is the day when we go to Mass and receive Holy Communion.
- Encourage your child to think of ways that your family can keep Sunday holy. Ideas might include: go to Mass, pray together, spend fun time together, share a special meal, read the Bible together, and visit relatives.
- Give your child a blank piece of paper and crayons or markers, and encourage them to write "Special Sunday" at the top of the paper. Invite your child to draw a picture of one way your family can keep Sunday holy.
- Keep this paper at home in a place where your family can see it to remind you of the importance of Sunday.

✕ Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of the Eucharist

- Tell your child that Jesus cares for us by feeding and nourishing us, like the huge crowd in the Bible story, in the Eucharist. Ask your child where we receive the Eucharist (*at Mass; in church*). Explain that because of what takes place in the Mass, it is the most important celebration in the Catholic Church.
- Encourage your child to share some of the sights, sounds, prayers, and actions that they witness during Mass. It may be helpful to record their input under the following headings: *See, Hear, Pray, Do*.
- Explain that the Mass always includes four main parts. Write the following on the board: *Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Concluding Rites*.
- Briefly explain the different parts of the Mass:
 - The **Introductory Rites** is the name for what occurs at the beginning of Mass. It includes a gathering song, a procession, the Sign of the Cross, a welcome from the priest, and a prayer asking for God's forgiveness.

- The **Liturgy of the Word** is the part of the Mass when we listen to the readings from the Bible, and the priest or deacon helps us understand the Bible readings. We also pray a prayer that expresses what we believe in as Catholics. Then we pray for the Church and for all people.
 - The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** is the part of the Mass where the gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus and we receive Holy Communion.
 - The **Concluding Rites** occur at the end of the Mass, where the priest blesses us and reminds us that when we leave, we are called to serve God and others.
- Invite your child to turn to page 3 in the activity booklet. Have them look at that page and discuss with them the correct answers: *Introductory Rites = the procession, Liturgy of the Word = person reading from the ambo, Liturgy of the Eucharist = a girl receiving Holy Communion, Concluding Rites = priest holding his hand, offering a final blessing*. Encourage your child to draw lines to the correct images.

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite your child to think back over all of the different things they did in this lesson, and invite them to share some of the key things they learned.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on the piece of paper, and circle them:
 - Jesus cares for us and for all people.
 - The Eucharist is a way Jesus shows his care for us.
 - The four parts of the Mass are Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rites.
- Ask your child to place the chapter 2 sticker in the correct circle on the treasure map.



Closing Prayer

Prepare for prayer by asking your child to think of some of the people who show care for them.

- Begin 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.
- Invite your child to briefly name some of the people who care for them, and end by saying: "We thank you, God, for all of the people who show us care and who help us grow to be our very best. We thank you also for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who we are growing to know and love more and more."
- Read the prayer in Live It! on page 1667 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* together.
- 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.