

# My Journey in Faith



**Student Book**

# CONTENTS

<b>1. GOD CREATES</b>	<b>5</b>
The First Article	
<b>2. THE FALL INTO SIN</b>	<b>9</b>
The Seventh Petition	
<b>3. GOD SAVES NOAH AND HIS FAMILY</b>	<b>12</b>
The Power of Baptism	
<b>4. GOD BLESSES ABRAHAM WITH FAITH</b>	<b>16</b>
The Third Article	
<b>5. GOD BLESSES JACOB</b>	<b>19</b>
The Fifth and Seventh Commandments	
<b>6. GOD CARES FOR JOSEPH</b>	<b>22</b>
The Sixth Commandment	
<b>7. GOD CALLS MOSES</b>	<b>25</b>
The Second Commandment	
<b>8. GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE</b>	<b>29</b>
The Blessings of Baptism	
<b>9. GOD LEADS HIS PEOPLE TO THE PROMISED LAND</b>	<b>32</b>
The Ninth and Tenth Commandments	
<b>10. GOD BRINGS RUTH INTO HIS FAMILY</b>	<b>38</b>
The Fourth Commandment The Close of the Commandments	
<b>11. GOD PROMISES DAVID A KINGDOM</b>	<b>41</b>
The Fourth Petition	
<b>12. GOD BLESSES SOLOMON</b>	<b>44</b>
The Third Commandment	
<b>13. GOD EMPOWERS ELIJAH</b>	<b>47</b>
The Introduction to the Lord's Prayer and the First Petition The First Commandment	
<b>14. GOD PRESERVES HIS PEOPLE THROUGH ESTHER</b>	<b>51</b>
The Eighth Commandment	
<b>15. GOD RESTORES HIS PEOPLE</b>	<b>54</b>
Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers	
<b>16. JESUS' BIRTH</b>	<b>57</b>
The Second Article	



Copyright © 1999, 2006, 2014 Concordia Publishing House  
3558 S. Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118-3968  
1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org

All rights reserved. Unless specifically noted, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

The purchaser of this publication is allowed to reproduce the marked portions contained herein for use with this curriculum. These resources may not be transferred or copied to another user.

Written by Jill Anthony, Rebecca Brockman, Mark Eiken, Stephen Fehl, Charles and Jeanette Groth, Julie Johnston, Holly Kamprath, James Klawiter, Jim Kroonblawd, Lisa Krenz, James Metcalf, William Moorhead, Beth Orstadt, Eileen Ritter, Darrell Zimmerman

Edited by Rodney L. Rathmann and Barbara Szofran

Scripture quotations are from the ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Quotations from the Small Catechism are from *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, copyright © 1986, 1991 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Stories in Session 7 ("Who Would Be You?") and Session 20 ("Great Gifts") are from Eldon Weisheit, *Ways to Grow: 101 Virtue-Building Devotions*, copyright © 1997 Concordia Publishing House (pp. 54–55 and p. 40).

Devotion in Session 21 ("Our Father Welcomes") is from Eileen Ritter, *Life in the Real World: 5-Minute Devotions for Teens*, copyright © 1997 Concordia Publishing House (pp. 36–37).

This publication may be available in Braille, in large print, or on cassette tape for the visually impaired. Please allow 8 to 12 weeks for delivery. Write to Lutheran Braille Workers, P.O. Box 5000, Yucaipa, CA 92399; call toll-free 1-800-925-6092; or visit the Web site: www.LBWinc.org.

Manufactured in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14

<b>17. JESUS IS BAPTIZED</b>	<b>60</b>
What Baptism Indicates	
<b>18. JESUS IS TEMPTED</b>	<b>63</b>
The Sixth Petition	
<b>19. JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES</b>	<b>67</b>
The Second and Third Petitions	
<b>20. JESUS TEACHES NICODEMUS</b>	<b>71</b>
The Nature of Baptism	
<b>21. JESUS TEACHES IN PARABLES</b>	<b>75</b>
The Fifth Petition	
<b>22. PETER CONFESSES JESUS</b>	<b>79</b>
The Office of the Keys	
<b>23. JESUS RAISES LAZARUS</b>	<b>83</b>
The Second Article	
<b>24. JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM</b>	<b>86</b>
The Conclusion of the Lord's Prayer	
<b>25. JESUS THE SERVANT</b>	<b>89</b>
Confession and Absolution	
<b>26. JESUS GIVES THE LORD'S SUPPER</b>	<b>92</b>
The Nature and Benefit of the Sacrament of the Altar	
<b>27. JESUS IS CONDEMNED AND CRUCIFIED</b>	<b>97</b>
The Power of the Sacrament of the Altar Worthily Receiving the Sacrament	
<b>28. JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD</b>	<b>102</b>
What Baptism Indicates Law and Gospel	
<b>29. JESUS ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN</b>	<b>105</b>
The Second Article	
<b>30. JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>	<b>108</b>
The Third Article	

# 1 GOD CREATES

## The First Article

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*What does this mean?* I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

## WHO AM I?

• Complete the following chart to begin your Journey in Faith.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Food: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Music: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Movie: \_\_\_\_\_

**The LORD God** took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field.

But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

**Genesis 2:15–24**

# YOU'RE IN CHARGE!

1. **How do you** feel when you are in charge?

---

---

---

2. **It's a big** responsibility when you're in charge of someone or something. What rules do you make when you are in charge at home?

---

---

---

3. **God placed Adam** in charge of the Garden of Eden. What were Adam's responsibilities?

---

---

---

4. **Adam had certain** rules to live by when God put him in charge of the garden. What command did God give to Adam?

---

---

---

5. **Why is it** hard to follow rules, even when they are good for us?

---

---

---

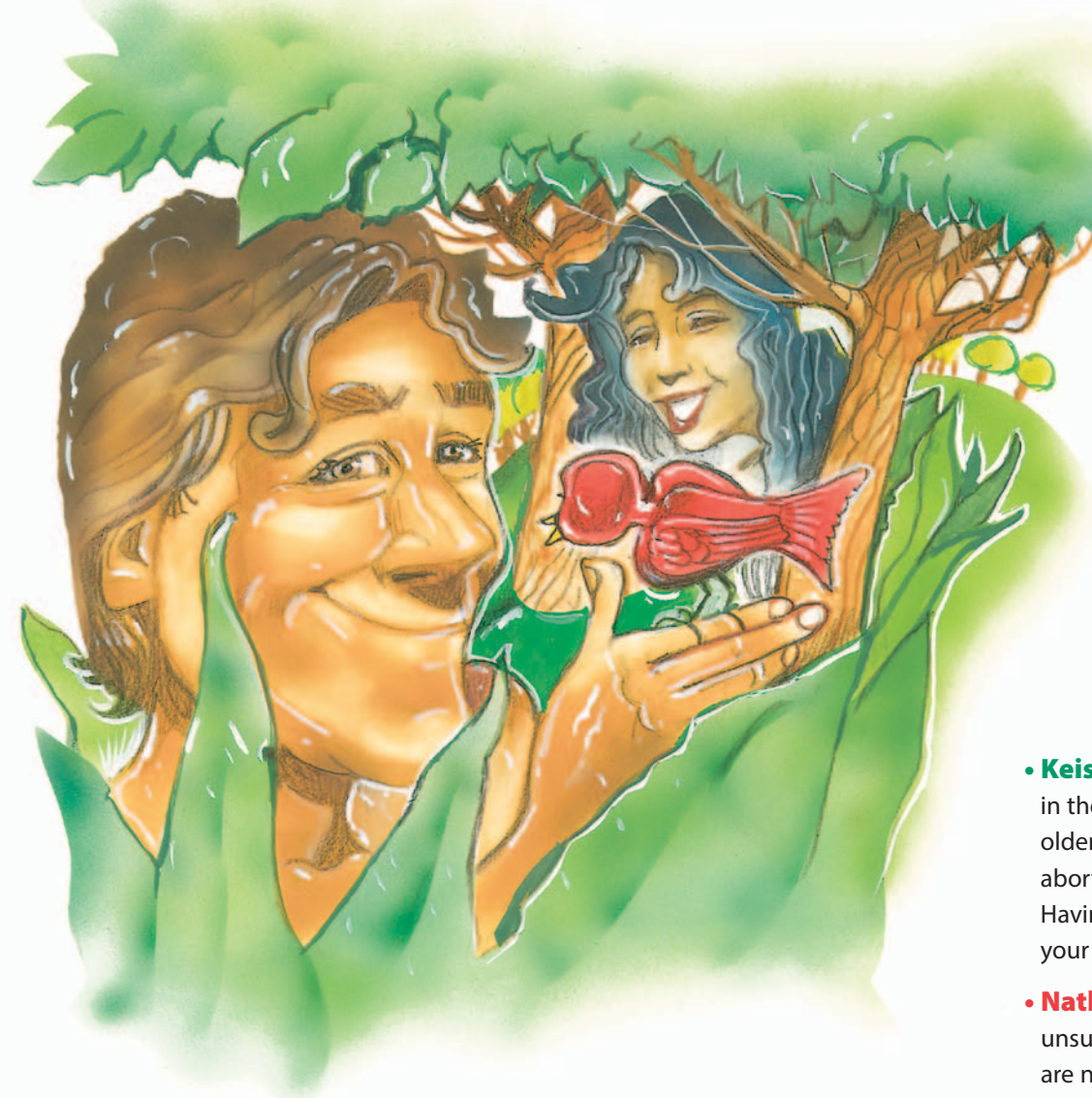
*"Alissa, we'll be back in about an hour and a half. While we're gone, don't go out front, stay off the Internet, and please don't let your little brother zone out on video games. If you need us, call us on our cell phone."*

**God made** people different from everything else He made. God created Adam in His own image. After the Lord God formed Adam from the dust of the ground, God breathed into him the breath of life. This is how God began all human life. He breathed life into Adam, and man became a living being.

God made our first parents in His own likeness. He made them to know God. He made them *holy*, which means "set aside for God's purposes," so that they could talk to God and worship Him. Human beings had a likeness to God. The animals did not.

God talked to Adam and Eve about their life with Him. These people spoke together about their work in the garden. They lived in happy relationship with each other. Adam and Eve knew exactly what God wanted them to do. Because they lived with His likeness, they could do His will. They understood God's will and obeyed Him perfectly and cheerfully. They worshiped God with all their heart. They loved each other as God loved them. They basked in the goodness of their existence and in their closeness to God.

# FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD



**God wanted people** to live in close communion, or relationship, with Him because He had a special purpose for their lives. God made human beings in His image to represent Him on earth. God made men and women so that they could show one another, and all of God's creation, what God is like. God is love.

The Holy Spirit has taught us that sin spoiled God's plan. It ruined His image in us. But in Jesus, God came to make us over into His image once again. Even though the devil and the temptations of this world have a powerful tug on us, the Holy Spirit gives us knowledge of God's love and forgiveness. He turns our hearts to God and develops in us the desire to obey Him. God has promised to restore us to His full image. He does this each day by the working of the Holy Spirit through His Word. His image in us will be fully restored when, by His grace, He takes us to heaven, where we will live forever.

• **Keisha and Shanna** are sitting in the park, talking about Keisha's older sister. "She's going to get an abortion," Keisha says. "It's her life. Having an abortion is like having your appendix out, only simpler."

• **Nathan and Kyle** are often unsupervised after school. There are no controls applied to the cable television in their home. Although they frequently browse the adult channels, Nathan and Kyle have never watched a movie on one of these channels. "Pssst," Nathan whispers, "let's watch this one." Kyle reads the description. The film is obviously violent, sexually explicit, and degrading to women. "Should we?" Nathan asks.

• **During a field trip** to a beautiful state park, some friends from your class begin to break branches off trees and pull up flowers. "It's only sticks and weeds," James says. "Nobody cares."



## WITH MY FAMILY

- **Create a family tree** that identifies the names and birth dates of your relatives going back three generations. Ask your parents to tell you the stories they know, particularly about your grandparents and great-grandparents. Talk about how your family members' experiences have helped to make you who you are today.
- **Plant a creation garden** with your family. Select a special plant for each person in your immediate family. Volunteer to weed, fertilize, and water the garden. Watch the plants grow and bloom. Talk with your family and catechism teachers about the "watering, weeding, and fertilizing" necessary to help you grow and bloom to be the person God planned for you to become in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The plants in your garden that bloom and grow are reminders that we, nurtured by God's Word and Christian people who teach us God's Word, grow and bloom in faith and good works by the Spirit's power.

## WITH MY MENTOR

- **Ask your mentor** to recall times when he or she was taught the theory of evolution. How does this theory differ from Scripture's account of the creation of the world? How did your mentor handle these differences? Together, develop an answer so that you can confidently share your belief in God's creation event.
- **With your mentor**, read the creation story in Genesis 1. Identify how many times Scripture records the phrase "And God said." Discuss together the incredible creation power present in God's Word.

# FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

*"I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

*Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well."*

*Psalm 139:14*

- **Write a prayer to your Savior God, thanking and praising Him for making you uniquely you.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# THE FALL INTO SIN

## The Seventh Petition

*But deliver us from evil.*

*What does this mean?* We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

## BRANDON'S TEMPTATION

Brandon usually receives A's in class and, on occasion, a few B's. He has a strong desire to succeed in school. His parents have high expectations.

Tomorrow is the day of his midterm algebra test. As he sits in his room studying, Brandon hears the phone ring. "Hello," he says. It is his best friend, Collin. "I have the answers to the algebra test," Brandon hears him say. "Do you want me to text them over to you?"

Brandon's mind begins to race. Should he take the answers? He actually knows the kinds of questions that will be on the test. But if everyone else has the answers, he might not get as good a grade as the rest of the class, especially if the teacher grades on a curve.

"Hey, are you still there?" Collin asks.

Brandon hesitates. He knows his parents would be disappointed if he doesn't get an A. "Well . . ."

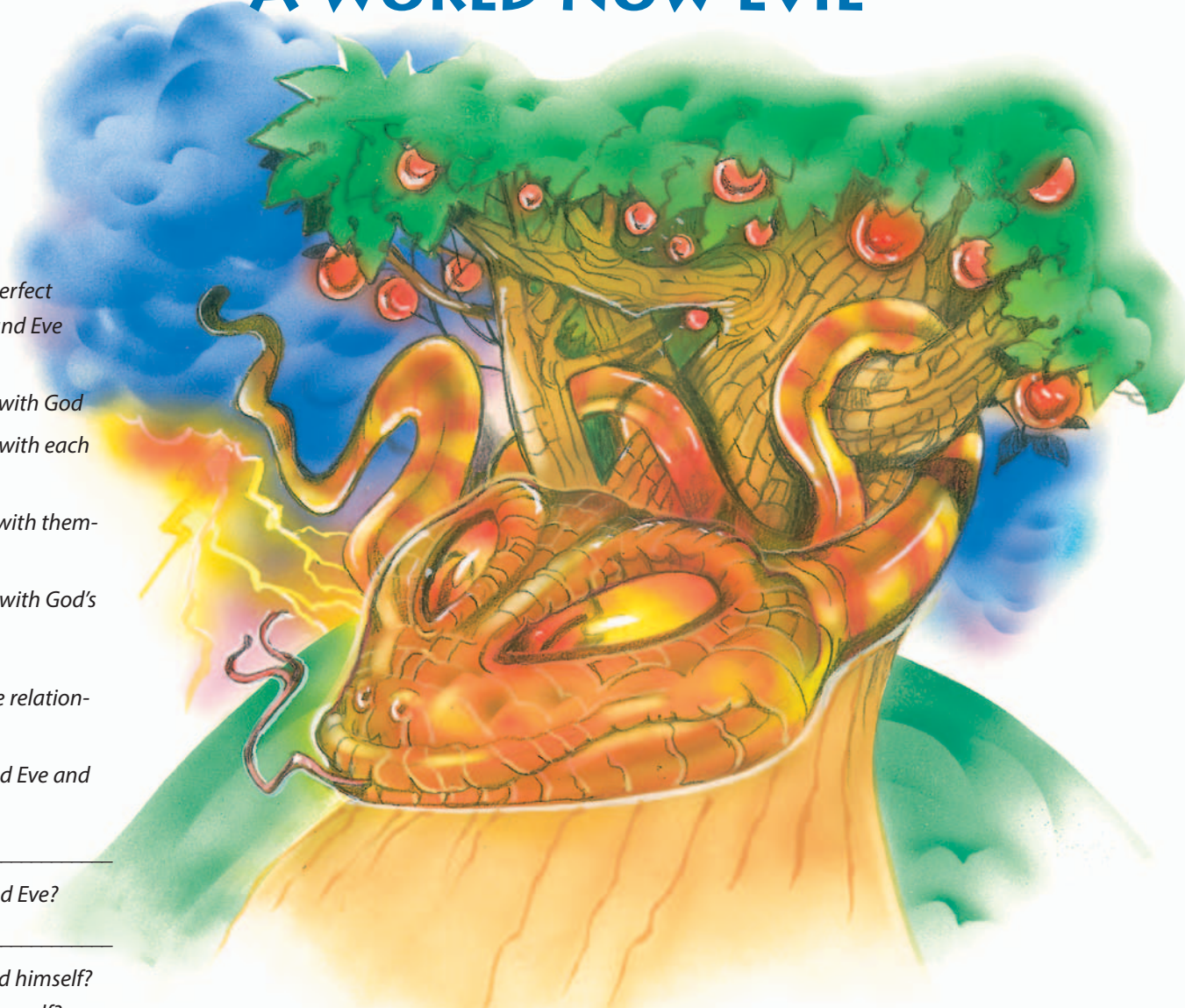
- **What choices does Brandon have?**
- **What do you think is the right thing for Brandon to do?**
- **In what forms does evil come into your life at school? with your friends? at home?**

**Now the serpent** was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

**Genesis 3:1-7, 15**

# A WORLD NOW EVIL



1. **Think about** the perfect relationships Adam and Eve enjoyed in Paradise.

- a. Their relationship with God
- b. Their relationship with each other
- c. Their relationship with themselves
- d. Their relationship with God's world

2. **In what ways** were relationships broken

a. between Adam and Eve and God?

b. between Adam and Eve?

c. between Adam and himself?  
between Eve and herself?

d. between Adam and Eve and God's world?

3. **Not all evil** comes into our life in the form of a choice. Accidents, illness, and hurts of all kinds result from the fall into sin. What signs of evil and brokenness do you see in our world today?

**In the Garden** of Eden, everything was perfect for Adam and Eve. Their environment and their relationship with God were perfect. They talked with God and enjoyed His blessings. They were content as they trusted and obeyed Him.

Then Satan used the serpent for his evil ends. He convinced Eve that she was right in doubting God's command. Satan used Eve to tempt Adam. Together, Adam and Eve made choices that were contrary to God's command. They chose to follow their own wishes, as if they were God. They turned against God in selfish pride and unbelief. They had known God's goodness. Now they found out that evil wasn't so good.

After they disobeyed God, Adam and Eve were afraid. Their eyes were opened, as the serpent said they would be. But what did they see? They saw their guilt before God. They had robbed themselves of perfect communion with God. Now they were under God's judgment.

# DELIVERED FROM EVIL

**Since the fall**, all people are sinful. Now sin is part of our fallen human nature. Sin separates us from God.

We are no better than Adam and Eve. We have tried to take God's place too. We try to be equal with Him. Sin is the cause of misery and unhappiness in the world. It makes us unhappy too. When we are separated from God, we can only turn good to evil. We regularly are forced to battle the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. Sometimes they gain control in our lives. We sin.

But God offers forgiveness to cancel our sin. In love, He gave His Son, Jesus, to die for us. Through Jesus, God brings us back again into a renewed relationship with Himself. He forgives our sins and equips us with His power to face evil head-on, knowing Jesus has already defeated it at Calvary.

We are His children in Christ!

• **What forces of evil trouble me most right now?**

---



---



---

• **What does Jesus promise me when I am tempted or face evil in other forms?**

---



---



---

• **How will God help me to trust in Him when I am faced with troubles and temptations?**

---



---



---

**Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



## WITH MY FAMILY

• **Ask members** of your family to jot down three evidences of Satan's influence that appear on television during the week. Discuss your findings, and pray for God's strength to withstand the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature that some shows on TV present.

• **God's Word helps** us resist giving in to evil and temptation. Have members of the family share one or more Bible passages that are helpful to them as they face daily life in our sinful world.

## WITH MY MENTOR

• **Spend some time** with your mentor pulling weeds out of a garden or yard. Talk about how sin has permeated God's creation. Pray together, thanking God for the deliverance He provides in Christ Jesus.

• **Go to the grocery** store with your mentor and purchase fruit to create a fruit basket. Talk about how God's Spirit helps us to resist the forces of evil and to bear fruit in the lives we live for Jesus. Deliver this basket to a shut-in member of your church.

# 3 GOD SAVES NOAH AND HIS FAMILY

## The Power of Baptism

**Then God said** to Noah and to his sons with him: "Behold, I establish My covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish My covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember My covenant that is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

**Genesis 9:8–16**

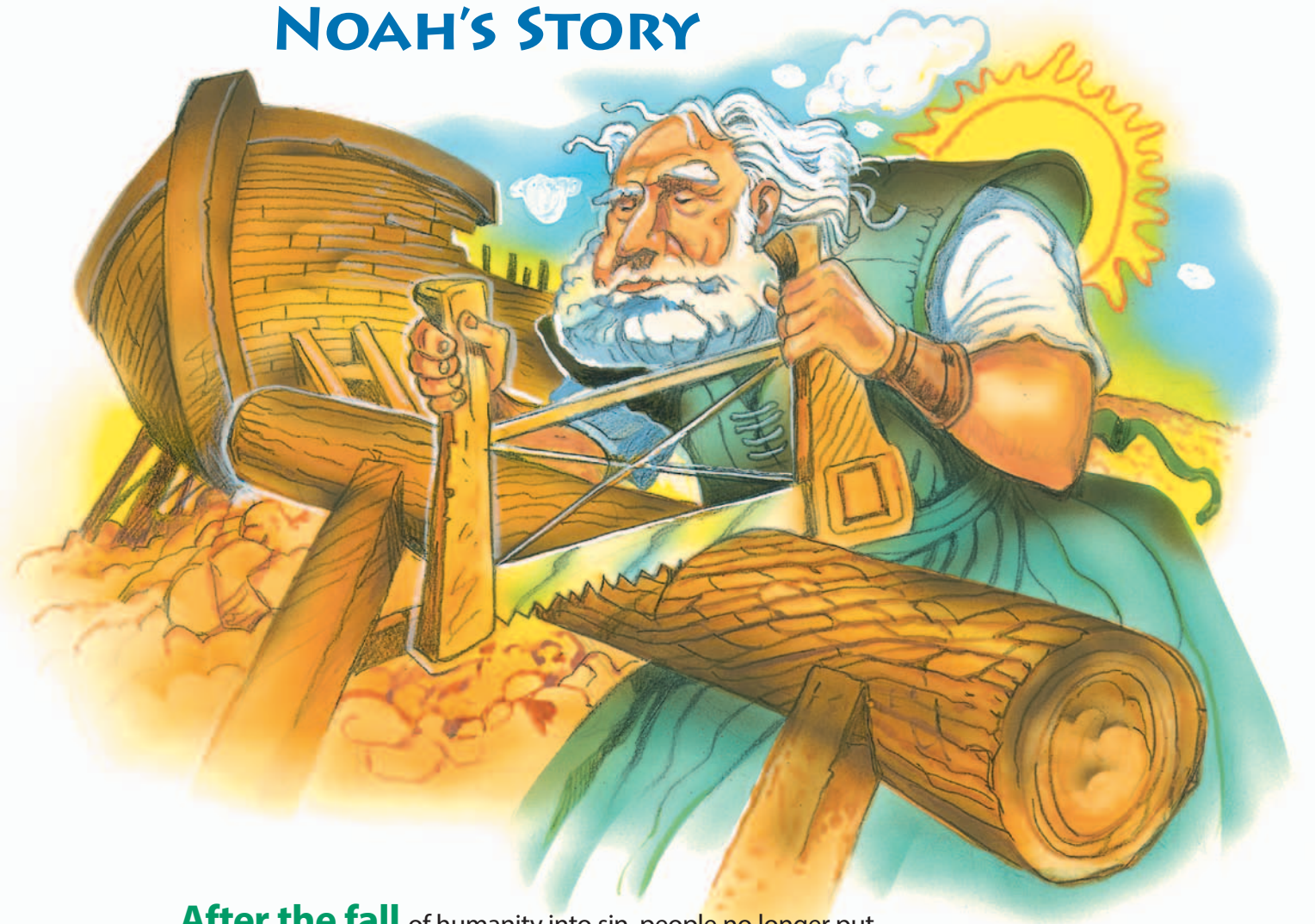
*How can water do such great things?* Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." [Titus 3:5–8]

## WHAT'S THE USE?

- **Your garden is dry and withering.**
- **A friend encourages you to go off the high dive.**
- **You're thirsty.**
- **The river by your farm rises quickly from the melting snow.**
- **Your school picnic is rained out.**
- **Somebody "hits" you with a Super Soaker.**
- **Your pastor baptizes a new baby at church.**

What do you notice in these scenes? Water! Water is a blessing—to drink, to replenish the ground, to enjoy on a hot summer day. On occasion, water can be irritating. At times, it can be downright scary. Water has many uses in our life. What uses of water does God provide for our physical life? for our spiritual life?

## NOAH'S STORY



**After the fall** of humanity into sin, people no longer put God and His will first in their lives. Instead, they replaced God with their selfish desires and actions. Eventually, the Earth became a violent place, and God was grieved. He planned a great flood to destroy everything except for righteous Noah and his family. God saved these people, eight in all, in a remarkable way. God's saving of Noah and his family remind us of the salvation God provides us through the waters of Baptism. Read the story below, taken from Genesis 6–8.

Noah was a righteous man, and he walked with God. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. So build an ark. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth. Everything on earth will perish, but I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded him. Then the Lord shut him and his family in.