

God Is Faithful

Let Us Pray

Leader: Lord of all faithfulness, gather us as your people and keep us close to your heart.

“I will sing of your mercy forever, LORD
proclaim your faithfulness through all ages.
For I said, ‘My mercy is established forever;
my faithfulness will stand as long as the
heavens.’” **Psalm 89:2–3**

All: Faithful God, thank you for making us your own.
Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for
giving us faith. Amen.

Scripture

“This is the covenant I will establish with
them after those days, says the Lord:

‘I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them upon their minds. . . .
Their sins and their evildoing I will remember no more!

Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us
hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy.”

Hebrews 10:16–17, 23

What Do You Wonder?

- How did God show his faithfulness to the first humans?
- Who or what helps you strengthen your faith in God?



In the biblical Creation accounts, we learn about our first parents, known as Adam and Eve.

Catholic Faith Words

Original Sin the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, which led to the sinful condition of the human race from its beginning

salvation the loving action of God's forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with him brought by Jesus

The First Sin

How did Adam and Eve's choice affect all of us?

For Adam and Eve, there was a time when every day was a good day. But one day, Satan, a fallen angel who was God's enemy, came to Eve in the form of a snake and tempted her. We learn from the Book of Genesis what Adam and Eve did. Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Together, the first five books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch. The five books are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

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Scripture

In the Garden

In the Garden of Eden was one special tree that God told Adam and Eve not to touch. But Satan convinced Eve that if she and Adam ate the fruit of that tree, they could be more like God. Adam and Eve did as Satan said; but after they sinned, they felt ashamed. They learned how it felt to do something wrong.

Everything got harder for Adam and Eve. God sent them away from the garden. They had to work to find food and shelter. From then on, jealousy, sadness, and fighting were in the world. **Based on Genesis 3**

Consequences

Humans were created to share God's life and to be happy with God forever. By disobeying God, Adam and Eve broke their friendship with God. This sin of our first parents is called **Original Sin** because ever since that choice was made, sin has been present throughout the world. Original Sin affects every human. The inclination to sin, suffering, and death all came into the world as a result of Original Sin.

Even though God sent Adam and Eve away from the garden, he did not abandon them. He remained faithful and promised **salvation**. He wanted all humans to be free and faithful to him, so they could be happy forever.

The Book of Genesis then tells another important story, the story of Noah. The point of Noah's story is that even when people continued to sin and to disobey God, God was faithful.



Underline what happened because of Original Sin.

Share Your Faith

Reflect Find some stories in the news that are examples of the effects of Original Sin in the world today.

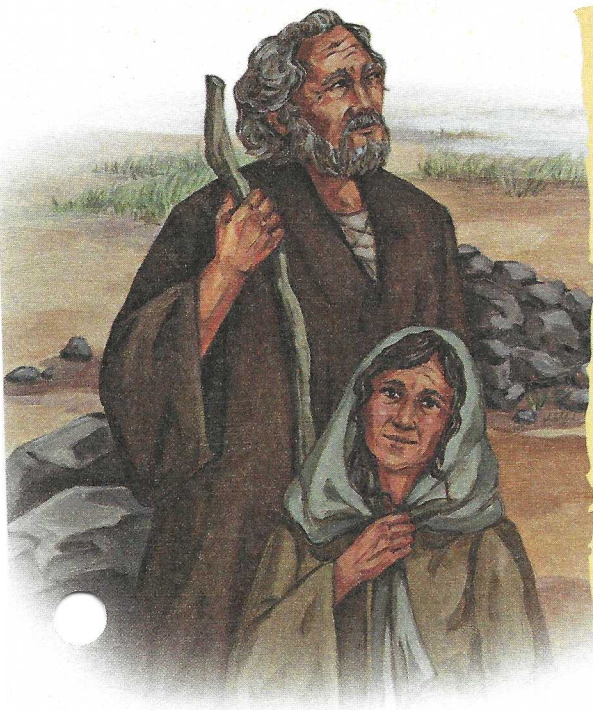
Share In a small group, talk about ways that people can act as God wants them to in these situations.



A Sacred Promise

What did God ask of and promise to Abram?

After a long time, God called a man named Abram to help humans remain faithful.



Scripture

Abram's Call and Journey

The LORD called Abram, promising to bless him and make of him a great nation. Abram took his wife, Sarai, his brother's son Lot, and their possessions on the long journey to the new land as God directed.

Abram and his family were never alone on their difficult journey. They knew that God was always with them. Every time Abram reached a stop on the journey, he built an altar of thanksgiving to the LORD. **Based on Genesis 12:1–8**

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God's Promise

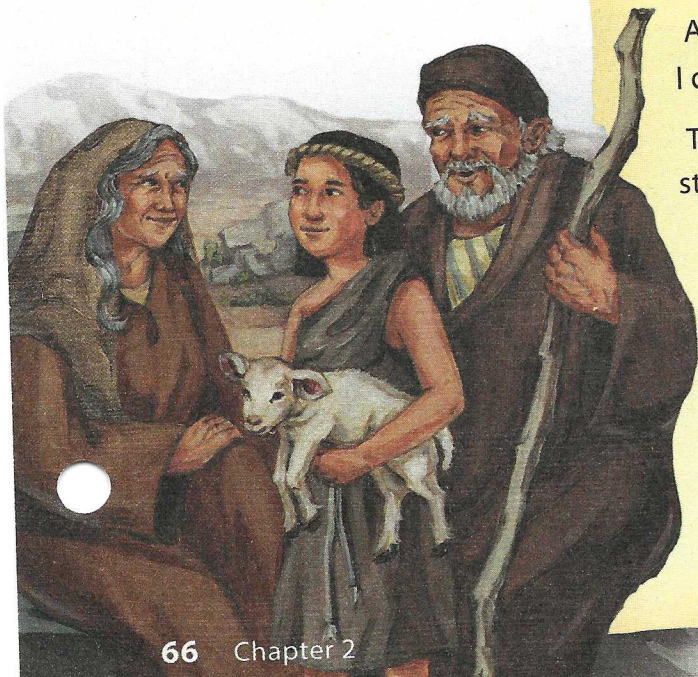
Many years later, after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan, the LORD spoke again to him, saying, "Don't be afraid! I will protect and reward you."

Abram replied, "LORD, you have given me everything I could ask for, except children."

The LORD told Abram, "Look at the sky and count the stars. That is how many descendants you will have."

God spoke to Abram again. God made a covenant with Abram and his descendants for all time. God told Abram, "To your descendants I give this land . . . I am making you the father of a multitude of nations." The land of Canaan would belong to Abram and his descendants forever, and these people would be God's people.

Based on Genesis 15:1–5, 18; 17:5–9, 15; 21:1–3



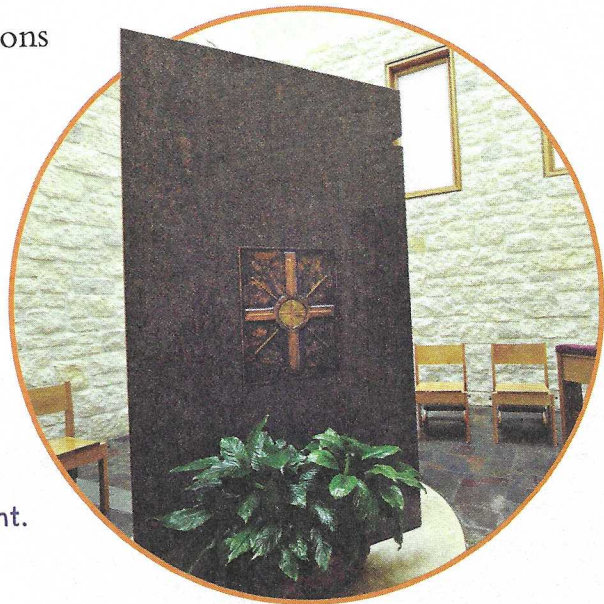
God's Covenant with Abraham

God revealed his plan to Abram in a new way by making a **covenant**, or sacred promise or agreement, with him. As a sign of the covenant, God changed the names of Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah. Soon after that, even though Sarah was old, she had a son, whom the couple named Isaac.

Abraham and Sarah never turned away from God. Like Abraham and Sarah, you are **faithful** to God every time you obey his laws and make loving choices.

Abraham is considered an ancestor in faith of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. These religions see their origins in Abraham's free response to God's revelation that he was the one God Abraham should believe in and follow.

In prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, we are in the presence of Christ, who remained faithful to God the Father and fulfilled the covenant.



Catholic Faith Words

covenant a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans

faithful to be constant and loyal in your commitments to God and others, just as he is faithful to you

Connect Your Faith

Show Faith Write your first name in colorful letters below. Around your name, write words that tell how you show that you are faithful to God.

Our Catholic Life

How do you remain faithful?

Often we ask God for help and guidance. Sometimes his help does not come as quickly as we would like. Or it may not be the help we expect. It may be difficult to be faithful. But, we continue to pray and trust that God will give us the help we need to get through whatever we face.

Abraham and Sarah prayed and waited for many years before they had their first child. They were shocked to learn they would have a child so late in life. But, their son, Isaac, arrived according to the timing of God's plan.

At times, God's answer is not easy to see. Many times when you ask for his help, God gives you the ability to help yourself. Jessica learns this in the following situation.



Write about a time when you asked God for help and later realized that he had given you what you needed to help yourself.



Jessica's story

Jessica wanted the video game she saw at the store. She prayed, asking God for the game. She continued to pray for several weeks, but still she did not get the game. One day her neighbor offered Jessica \$5 to water his plants while he was out of town. Another neighbor asked Jessica to walk her dog. At the end of the week, Jessica had \$10. She realized that she could save her money for the game. With her parents' permission, Jessica started asking neighbors whether they had odd jobs for her to do. After two months, Jessica had enough money to buy the video game.

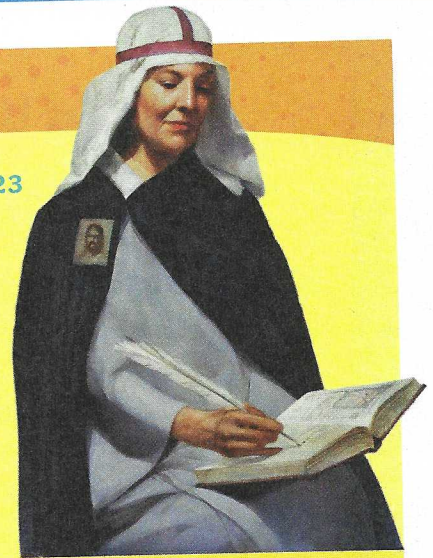
Your story

People of Faith

July 23

Saint Bridget of Sweden, ~1303–1373

Saint Bridget was born to one of the wealthiest landowners in all of Sweden. In fact, her family was related to the king. Her parents made sure that she was taught religion. By the time she was seven, she was known to have religious dreams, or visions, of Jesus and the Holy Family. For an entire year, she prayed fifteen Our Fathers and fifteen Hail Marys every day, along with other prayers Jesus taught her.



Discuss: Tell about a time when you waited for God to answer a prayer.



Learn more about Saint Bridget at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Circle the actions below that describe how you can follow God's example, being loyal and trustworthy to friends, family, and most especially God.

being friendly

helping in class

lying

telling the truth

sharing possessions

stealing

 Let Us Pray

Covenant Prayer

This covenant prayer recalls and promises some of the ways we are faithful to our loving God.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.


Leader: God Ever Faithful, we gather, aware of your constant faithfulness to us.

All: Thank you for your gift of faithfulness, O God. Help us to trust in you. We are your covenant People.

Name ways you have made loving choices and been faithful.
Then respond:

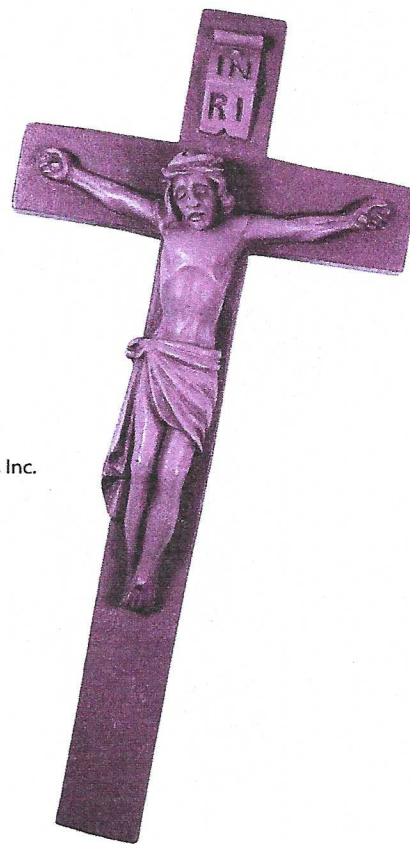
God Ever Faithful, we are your covenant People.

Leader: Let us pray.

 **All:** Sing "God Keeps His Promises"
God keeps his promises.
God keeps his promises
God keeps his promises to us
God keeps his promises
God keeps his promises

Every word he says you can trust!

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FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains Original Sin, its consequences, and how God loves us despite our choices to act against his plan for our happiness and salvation.

Scripture



Read **Hebrews 10:16–17, 23** to find out about God's promises of love.

Catholics Believe

- God's covenant with Abraham reveals that God is always faithful to his People.
- Sin is present in the world because of human choice.

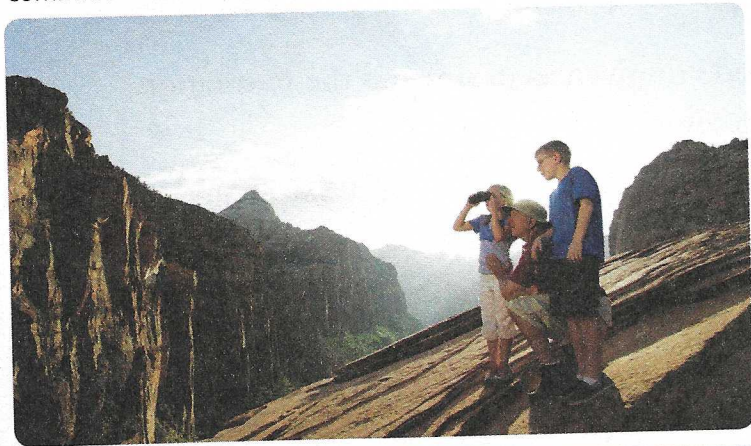
To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #59–61, 385–389 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Bridget of Sweden. She is known for her faithfulness in prayer.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand God's Faithfulness As he or she grows in social skills and awareness, your child has deeper friendships than before. Your child understands that trust and loyalty are essential to being in relationship with someone else. This provides a natural context in which to learn about God's covenants and his faithfulness in keeping his promises—even when we as human beings do not always live up to our commitments to God.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How can making good choices make you happy?

God created us to live in happiness with him forever. When we sin, we turn away from God and our relationship with him. As Catholics, we realize that “though venial sin does not completely destroy the love we need for eternal happiness, it weakens that love and impedes our progress in the practice of virtue and the moral good. Thus, over time, it can have serious consequences” (*USCCA, p. 313*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to tell you about God's covenant with his People and why it was needed.
- Talk with each other about what it means to be trustworthy and loyal to God and one another.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, help us to pray faithfully to you like Saint Bridget did. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 2 Review

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct word from the Word Bank.

1. By disobeying God, Adam and Eve broke their _____ with him.
2. One consequence of the disobedience of Adam and Eve is the inclination to _____.
3. God always remains _____ to his People.
4. God made a _____ with Abraham and his descendants.
5. As a sign of the covenant, God changed the _____ of Abram and Sarai.

Word Bank

faithful

sin

covenant

names

friendship

B Check Understanding Fill in the circle of the choice that best completes each sentence.

6. God created humans to be ____ with him forever.
 happy confused out of relationship
7. ____ is the child of Abraham and Sarah.
 Adam Isaac Eve
8. The choice of our first parents, Adam and Eve, to disobey God is called ____ .
 Original Sin Original Temptation Original Suffering
9. ____ is the loving action of God's forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with God through Jesus.
 Happiness Honesty Salvation
10. Abraham is an ____ in faith.
 author ancestor official

