

Getting Ready for Chapter 1

Take Home



God's Goodness

The history of our faith goes back to Abraham and his descendants, the people of Israel. At the time when much of the Old Testament was written, belief in many gods was common. The Israelites came to know that there was only one God and that this God (Yahweh) was all good. Out of this goodness, God created the earth and all creatures. We are loved because we have been created in the image and likeness of God.

ACTIVITY

You Are Good! For each family member, fold an index card in half lengthwise and write the family member's name on the outside of one half. On the inside, write what you are thankful for regarding that person. Use them as place cards on your kitchen table this week.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Listen to God speaking about his love for you and how you can bring his message to others. Share with your family what you heard.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Thomas Aquinas
(c.1225–1274)

Saint Thomas Aquinas was a Dominican priest who loved learning and teaching. A Doctor of the Church, he wrote volumes about the greatness of God. His writings are still being studied today.

Patron Saint of: colleges, learning

Feast Day: January 28



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, Saint Thomas Aquinas lived life for the joy of learning. Bless all those who help us learn more about you as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Genesis The Hebrew name for the book of Genesis is *bereshith* which means “in the beginning.” With these opening words, the story of creation unfolds. In later chapters, we meet Abraham and Noah and other people who play an important role in the history of the Israelites. Genesis concludes with a story about Joseph and his brothers. Tradition teaches us that Moses wrote Genesis. Scholars however believe the stories are based on the oral traditions of tribal peoples.

Read the two stories of creation in Genesis 1:1–31, 2:1–4; 2:5–23

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Architecture

Antoni Gaudí Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926) was one of the great modernist architects of the twentieth century. Born in Catalonia, Spain, Gaudí was a devout Roman Catholic whose work was inspired by his deep faith in God and love of nature. Gaudí once said that his task as an architect was one of “collaboration with the Creator.” His innovative and imaginative designs blended elements of the Neo-Gothic, art nouveau, and surrealist schools of art. His most celebrated work is the unfinished church *La Sagrada Família* (“The Holy Family”) in Barcelona.