

## Getting Ready for Chapter 9

# Take Home



## We Learn About God's Love

The Bible is a book filled with many kinds of literature, such as stories, letters, prayers, and songs. The Bible tells of God's love for us, from the moment of creation on. This chapter encourages children to be aware of the Bible as a tool for learning about God's gift of creation, his love for us, and his gift of his Son, Jesus.

### ACTIVITY

**Creating with Clay** God made us out of clay, according to one account in Genesis. Together, take some clay and make something that shows your thanks to God for creating each family member and continuing to love you all your lives.

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

Listen to the readings at Mass. Then, later in the day, choose one of the readings to discuss with your family.

#### On the Web

[www.blestarewe.com](http://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 Angela Merici (1474–1540)**

Angela Merici wanted children and their families to learn to love God. She and her friends started teaching religion classes. They opened a school under the protection of St. Ursula.

**Patron Saint of:** the sick and people with disabilities  
**Feast Day:** January 27



**A Prayer for the Week**

Saint Angela Merici wanted to share the Word of God with others. O Lord, help us to open our hearts to your words in the Bible. Teach us to protect all that you have made. Amen.

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### Scripture Background

#### In the Time of Jesus

**Birds** Because of its varied climates and types of environments, the Holy Land attracts many species of birds. The Bible refers to fifty different species. Over forty books in the Bible mention birds, such as eagles, owls, storks, quails, hens, and sparrows. In Jesus' time, all small birds were called sparrows. Jesus spoke of his Father's concern for all of creation, even small birds. Both Matthew and Luke refer to sparrows in their gospels.

You can read about attention given to sparrows in Matthew 10:27–33.

## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Art

**Illumination** The painstaking work of monks and artists of the Middle Ages has left us with some priceless treasures of Scriptures copied and illuminated by hand. *Illumination* is a kind of decoration that was often used to illustrate and highlight the first letter of a passage. Artists used bright colors and gold to intertwine pictures of flowers and animals in the letter, making it so fancy that it was sometimes difficult to figure out what letter it was supposed to be. But the artworks are extraordinarily detailed and beautiful. They show the reverence in which the artists held the Holy Scriptures.