

Getting Ready for Chapter 3

Take Home



Covenant and Commitment

A covenant is a kind of agreement that was common in Old Testament times. Covenants were sealed in many different ways, such as with a sacred sacrifice, a special blessing, or a ritual meal. This chapter will explore some signs of the covenant between God and Israel and how this covenant was renewed in the generations after Abraham. In many ways, the same covenant has been renewed for us through Jesus.

ACTIVITY

Fidelity Awards Make a list of chores and responsibilities for each family member. Use stars to mark the number of times during the month each person has done his or her chore. Reward the most faithful with a chore-free week.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Think about how attending Mass represents part of our covenant with God.

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 Paul, Apostle and Martyr

Before Saint Paul was a follower of Christ, he persecuted Christians. His conversion came in a vision he had in which he encountered the Lord. Paul then dedicated his life to teaching people about Jesus. Paul made the ultimate sacrifice for his faith, dying as a martyr.

Feast Day: June 29



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, in unexpected ways you come into our lives and invite us to share in your plan for salvation. Help us to respond to your call faithfully. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Rebecca When Rebecca first appears in the Old Testament (Genesis 24) she is innocent and beautiful. When we meet her as Isaac's wife and the mother of their twin sons, Jacob and Esau, she has become hard and calculating. Of her sons, Rebecca favors the younger Jacob. She plots with him to deceive Isaac, so he will receive Isaac's inheritance, which rightfully belongs to Esau. The plot succeeded, but Esau's anger at being cheated out of his birthright grew into a murderous fury. Rebecca sent away her favorite son to save his life, and she never saw him again. Read Genesis 27 to find out more about Jacob's deception.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Legends

The Holy Grail Since Bible times, Jewish family meals have often begun with blessing wine, the day, and family members. The wine is held in a special cup called a kiddush cup or blessing cup. The cup Jesus raised at the Last Supper was probably such a cup. Tradition says the Apostles saved this cup and Peter used it to celebrate the Eucharist. The cup was handed down through the centuries, and its whereabouts were the subject of many legends. It became known as the Holy Grail. The only cup in existence that might be the true cup is a small agate one located in a cathedral in Valencia, Spain.