Contents

Note to Parents .................................................................................................................... 7

GOD, THE FATHER OF ALL

1. I Believe ....................................................................................................................... 11
2. The Trinity ..................................................................................................................... 15
3. Creator of Heaven and Earth ....................................................................................... 21
4. Realm of the Angels ..................................................................................................... 24
5. Made in His Image ....................................................................................................... 28
6. The Fall from Grace .................................................................................................... 31
7. The Chosen People ...................................................................................................... 35
8. Moses Leads God’s People .......................................................................................... 38
9. The Forming of God’s People ..................................................................................... 43
10. The Words of the Prophets ........................................................................................ 46

GOD THE SON, THE REDEEMER

11. In the Fullness of Time .............................................................................................. 51
12. Born in the City of David .......................................................................................... 55
13. The Holy Family ......................................................................................................... 59
14. The Kingdom of Heaven .......................................................................................... 62
15. The Father and I Are One .......................................................................................... 67
16. Your Sins Are Forgiven ............................................................................................. 70
17. True God and True Man ........................................................................................... 73
18. Rejected by the Proud ............................................................................................... 76
19. The Acceptance of the Father’s Will ........................................................................ 79
20. The Perfect Sacrifice ................................................................................................. 83
21. He Is Risen ................................................................................................................ 87
22. Jesus Sends the Apostles ........................................................................................... 91

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE SANCTIFIER

23. The Giver of Life ....................................................................................................... 97
24. The Mystical Body ..................................................................................................... 101
25. The Identity of the Church ......................................................................................... 104
In the last chapter, we learned that Christ taught people about the heavenly Father who loved them and offered them the way to eternal life. But there was another part of Christ’s teaching. It was so unusual, and so surprising, that Jesus did not even tell people about it at first. He only gave hints of it now and then. And sometimes, when people found out, Jesus would tell them not to tell anyone else.

What was this mysterious news that Jesus only let out little by little? It was the truth that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, fully God and fully man. The Jews were not at all ready for this truth. They thought the Messiah would be a man, a descendant of David who would restore the kingdom of Israel. They also thought the Messiah would be a holy leader who would show them how to become closer to God. But God’s Son? The idea of a man claiming to be God sounded like blasphemy, a sin against the Second Commandment. So you can see why Jesus had to be patient and careful about telling the people who he really is.

The first hints Jesus gave of his divinity were his miracles. With a word or a touch, he healed people of blindness, leprosy, and many other diseases. On two occasions he multiplied bread to feed thousands of people. By witnessing these things, people could see that Jesus shared God’s power in a special way. Jesus could also heal people who were possessed by devils. (When someone is “possessed” the devil controls his speech and actions so completely that the person has no power to stop it.) The Gospels tell us that these devils knew who Jesus was, but that Jesus ordered them to keep silent. The time had not yet come for a clear statement of Christ’s divinity, and the devil was not the right one to make such a statement.

Jesus allowed his apostles to learn the truth sooner. They saw him stop a storm with a single command, and they wondered, “Who then is this, that he commands even wind and water, and they obey him?” (Lk 8:25). At another time, the apostles were again caught in a storm on the lake, but Jesus was not with them. Late at night, they were astonished to see Jesus walking across the water toward them. Peter asked if he might come to Jesus across the water, so Jesus said, “Come.” Peter was
Q. 71  How was Jesus Christ known to be the Son of God?

Jesus Christ was known to be the Son of God because God the Father proclaimed him as such at his baptism and his Transfiguration when he said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” During his earthly life, Jesus declared himself to be the Son of God (CCC 444, 535, 554, Mt 3:17, Lk 9:35).

Q. 72  What is a miracle?

A miracle is something visible to the senses, but beyond all the forces and laws of nature. It is, therefore, something that can be worked only by God (CCC 548).

Q. 73  With what miracles did Jesus Christ confirm his teachings and show that he is God?

Jesus Christ confirmed his teaching and showed that he is God by restoring sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb, health to the sick, and life to the dead. He also commanded demons and the forces of nature. Above all, he confirmed his teaching and showed that he is truly God by his Resurrection from the dead (CCC 515, 547–50, 638).

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Words to Know:

blasphemy  divinity  Transfiguration