

# Getting Ready for Chapter 15

# Take Home



## The Holy Spirit Is Our Helper

In this chapter the children will come to understand that the Holy Spirit helps us follow Jesus. They will learn the Fruits of the Holy Spirit from Paul's letter to one of the early Christian communities. As the children use their good habits to show love for others, they will begin to realize that the Holy Spirit is acting in their lives.

### ACTIVITY

**Seeds of Virtue** The family has been called the seedbed of virtue because it is in the family that children learn the good habits necessary for a Christian life. Purchase an envelope of seeds and make labels with the names of good habits you would like for your child, such as patience and kindness. Together plant the seeds and watch them grow.

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

During the Prayer of the Faithful, ask the Holy Spirit to help you develop habits that will make you more loving.

#### 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 Paul**  
(first century)

Paul, a Jew originally named Saul, vowed that he would arrest Jesus' followers, the Christians. After hearing Jesus' voice, Saul experienced his own conversion. Paul spent the rest of his life telling others about Jesus. In his letters, Paul tells how the Holy Spirit helps us follow Jesus.

**Fest Day:** January 25.



**A Prayer  
for the  
Week**

Loving God, you send us your Spirit to help us follow Jesus. You help us to be loving, gentle, and kind. We promise to use our good habits to help others. Amen.

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### Scripture Background

#### In the Time of the Early Church

**Letter to the Galatians** Paul wrote letters, or epistles, to some of the early Christian communities as well as to individual disciples. His letter to the Galatians, which includes the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, emphasizes the absolute importance of Christ and his cross as the way to salvation and holiness. It stresses Christian freedom and the perfecting of Mosaic Law. Whereas, Mosaic Law provided the Israelites with meticulous observance of ritual, social, and moral regulations; the new law presented a vision of the life of grace in Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit.

You may wish to read all six chapters of Paul's letter.

## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Theology

**St. Thomas Aquinas** Thomas Aquinas, who lived in the thirteenth century, became known as one of the best thinkers in history. He greatly influenced theological thought in the Western Church. Aquinas developed a theology of the Holy Spirit based on his understanding of the gifts in Isaiah 11:2–3 and the fruits in Galatians 5:22–23. He taught not only that we should use the Spirit's power and gifts in our lives, but that we should truly enjoy and feel close to the Holy Spirit, just as we do with a dear friend.

Aquinas believed that the Spirit's peace and joy make us content and that these fruits transform our hearts, changing fear and anxiety into security and the desire to give to others.