

Getting Ready for Chapter 1

Take Home



Revelation and Response

This chapter introduces the story of our ancestors in faith with the Old Testament figures Abraham and Sarah, who accepted God's plan even though they were unsure of what God had in store for them. Like Abraham and Sarah, we often experience challenges that make us wonder about God's plan for us and how he expects us to respond.

ACTIVITY

A Family Faith Tree Create a colorful family tree showing not only lineage but each person's journey of faith. Include what you know about major events in each person's life, as well as the dates of his or her Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and so on.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

At Mass, listen to the readings and the homily for stories about people whose faith helped them through major changes.

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 Joseph,
Husband of Mary**

Saint Joseph was chosen by God to be the protector of Jesus and Mary. He carried out this calling with fidelity and humility. He is an example for us of trust in God and obedience to his will.

Patron Saint of: the universal Church

Feast Day: March 19



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, may we learn from the example of your faithful servants Abraham and Saint Joseph to trust in your love and surrender to your will. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Abraham A link that binds Christians, Jews, and Muslims is a reverence for Abraham, our common ancestor in faith. Although each religion emphasizes somewhat different qualities in Abraham, at the core of his identity for all three religions is his friendship with God. For Jews, Abraham is honored for his complete obedience to God. Christians honor him as a model of faith in God. And for Muslims, Abraham is a model of one who exhibits *islam*, or unconditional surrender to God's will. Learn more about Abraham's faith in God and obedience to him by reading Genesis 12:1–9 and 22:1–12.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in the Old Testament

A Common Ancestor God promised Abraham, "I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars" (Genesis 22:17). Today, thousands of years later, followers of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism consider Abraham part of their religious heritage. Christianity has about 2 billion followers, including Catholics, Protestants, and members of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Islam is the religion of more than 1 billion people. Followers of Judaism number about 14 million people.