

# Living for Triumph

"LIVING MY RELIGION SERIES" BOOK 7

CONTAINING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM NO. 2 OFFICIAL REVISED CONFRATERNITY EDITION WITH EXPLANATIONS AND BIBLE STORIES

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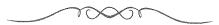
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## A WORD TO THE TEACHER

Dedicated to our dear friend, Monsignor Raymond Ruscitto Ordained May 30, 1953



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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Living for Triumph is offered as a solution of the catechetical problem: How shall we so lead a child to the knowledge and love of God that he will readily use, in his daily life, the manifold graces that come to him as a member of the Mystical Body of Christ?

This textbook is the result of two years of labor, consultation, classroom testing and revision. During this period of labor, many persons have contributed to the success of the project by their counsel, suggestions, criticism and encouragement.

In view of this, the collaborating authors wish to express their gratitude and deep appreciation of all assistance received, and especially to thank Rev. Louis J. Puhl, S.J., Rev. Bede Babo, O.S.B., Rev. John J. Murphy (Kansas City); Sister Mary Perpetua O.P. (Montclair, N. J.), Sister M. Philip, O.S.F. (Peekskill, N. Y.), Mother Francis Regis, O.S.U., and the Sisters of Loretto, Nerinx, Kentucky.

The motivation-theme of the "Living My Religion" series of textbooks in religion is: I live in the faith of the Son of God (Gal. II, 20.)

The statements (Questions and Answers) of Christian Doctrine for Book 7, "Living for Triumph," are chosen from the REVISED BALTIMORE CATECHISM, No. 2.

In accordance with the motivation-theme of the series, the statements from the No. 2 Catechism were chosen because they bring out the fundamental idea of Living for Triumph which is the special theme of Book 7.

The Catechism Questions and Answers are given in their logical place within the explanatory text of this book. To facilitate their use for review and other purposes they are also given in their numerical order at the end of this book under the title "Truths I Shall Remember."

## The Questions from the Revised Baltimore Catechism No. 2 are printed in bolder type.

The 239 Questions and Answers chosen are: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 189, 191, 192, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 309, 311, 317, 320, 330, 343, 357, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 379, 382, 443, 451, 457, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499.

The Questions and Answers of the Revised Baltimore Catechism No. 2 which are developed in Book 7, "Living for Triumph" of the "Living My Religion" series, continue the work of the series on the Revised

Baltimore Catechism No. 2. The remaining Questions and Answers of the Revised Baltimore Catechism No. 2 will be covered in grade 8.

Throughout the book the terms *Holy Ghost* and *Holy Spirit* are employed synonymously as pertaining to the third Person of the Holy Trinity. The official Revised Baltimore Catechism No. 2 uses *Holy Ghost*, but the New Testament quotations, taken from the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Edition of the Challoner-Rheims version, employ the term *Holy Spirit*.

Since the text of this Book 7 is written against a rich background of Sacred Scripture, a short section on the contents of the Old Testament is added (pp. 249-257) for the information of the Teacher.

The prayers that should be known by children of this grade are given at the end of the book. A selection of indulgenced ejaculations has been added.

The usual list of difficult words, giving merely the word, has been replaced by a *List of Important Words*. This *List* gives not only the pronunciation and the grammatical definition for each word but, wherever practical and suited, includes information of a doctrinal, scriptural, biographical or geographical character.

Finally, the Outline of Contents presents the Unit and topical subjectmatter with page references.

THE AUTHORS.

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## Unit I

### I BELIEVE IN GOD

The Altar to the Unknown God Seeking and Groping for God Finding God Knowing God A Triumph Lesson



Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3)

## Unit I I BELIEVE IN GOD

It was an early autumn afternoon when Father Potter arrived for the first instruction of the school year. In the yard across from the Seventh Grade window stood a great maple tree. The changing red and yellow leaves were ablaze with the glow of the sun, and a brisk breeze was blowing through them. They looked like little flames of fire in a giant furnace.

"That glowing tree reminds me of a story," said Father, "the story of the men in the fiery furnace. They were so full of faith that a miracle happened. Faith always works wonders."

"Father, is it the story about the men in the furnace that was seven times hotter than usual? Sister read it to us last year," said Harry.

"Yes," Father said, "three men with strange names refused to adore the statue set up by the king. Threatened with death in the furnace, they still refused to worship the false god. They were thrown into the furnace, but God's power saved them from death. Is that your story, Harry?"

"Yes, Father; but they sang, didn't they? That's the part I like best."

"Yes. To the amazement of all who stood around, they began to sing in the flames. The beautiful hymn they sang was not a new one, but they were so filled with joy that they added to it. It was a psalm which called upon all creatures to praise God, the Supreme Being. That psalm is a great act of faith in God's power."

"Do they ever sing that hymn in church?" asked Anne. "I know all the usual hymns."

"No, the people do not, but the priest prays it daily in the Divine Office. That is the prayer he must say every day in the name of all the people. It is everybody's duty to praise the Lord, but people either forget or think they have not the time; so the priest does it for them. In the name of all people, the

priest recognizes that God is the supreme and infinitely perfect Spirit. The hymn goes like this:

> "Sun and moon, bless the Lord; Cold and heat, bless the Lord; Nights and days, bless the Lord; Mountains and hills, bless the Lord, Praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Seas and rivers, bless the Lord; Beasts and cattle, bless the Lord; Sons of men, bless the Lord; Servants of the Lord, bless the Lord, Praise and exalt Him above all forever."

(Daniel 3)

"Father, in that hymn, just about everything that God made is called upon to bless God," Mary said.

"God made all creatures, Mary, to praise Him. If they had human voices they would sing to Him all day and always, but God leaves that to man to do. Man looks at these things. He sees that they were made by the infinitely perfect Being. Then he praises God. The men in the furnace did their duty, even though they were in the worst possible place to do it."

"Every time I look at the tree for the next week, I'll think of the story," said Johnny, "but I heard on the radio the other day that millions of people never think of God. So, I am going to praise God for them. Maybe, you will let us have the words of the hymn, Father. We could learn it."

"It will help you, Johnny, to appreciate your faith in God. That is going to be our special study this year, the meaning of 'I believe in God.' We shall go through the Apostles' Creed and learn about all our beliefs. It will help you to have a lively faith. Saint John in one of his letters, (1 John 5) said that faith makes you work wonders like the men in the furnace. 'This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith.'"

### Point for Class Discussion

During the vacation, we have been looking at beautiful things in nature: trees, flowers, sunsets, rivers, mountains, woods, fields, or the wild birds and animals that live in lonely places. What sacred lessons can we draw from them?

## Scripture Study

Daniel 3: 1-6, 8-24, 46-50, 91-100—The Fiery Furnace

1: 6-7—Six Names for Three Boys 3: 25-45—The Prayer of Azarias

: 51-90—The Hymn of Praise

Q. 5 From whom do we learn to know, love, and serve God? We learn to know, love, and serve God from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who teaches us through the Catholic Church.

Q. 6 Where do we find the chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church?

We find the chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church in the Apostles' Creed.

Q. 7 Say the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell, the third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

## The Altar to the Unknown God

"Father, may I ask a question?" asked Marie. "I found a book at home about Saint Paul. It has a picture showing him standing out in a park, beside something that looks like a monument. On it is written, 'To the unknown god.' What does that mean?"

"Well, Marie, at all times in human history, even long before the coming of Christ, thoughtful men wanted to know something about the Creator of the world in which they lived. When they looked around and saw all the living things in the world, they were filled with wonder. They began to see that there are forces like the sun and moon, the wind and rain, that are controlled by some unseen power. So, they believed in gods or powers they could not see; and they continued to look for one Supreme Being, greater than all the others. The Greeks, in their big city, Athens, made an altar 'To the unknown god,' the unseen power they were looking for. That is what is in the picture you saw."

"Did Saint Paul ever tell the Greeks about the true God?"

inquired Alice.

"He surely did. When he saw the altar 'to the unknown god,' he said, 'What you worship in ignorance, that I proclaim to you.' (Acts 17: 23) 'It is he who gives to all men life and breath and all things'."

"Did they know, Father, what he was talking about?"

Harry asked.

"Maybe not, when he began to speak; but he told them much more about God, Harry. He showed them that they must acknowledge their dependence on the Supreme Giver of life. It was for this that God came to earth in human form, in order that all men might know Him as the Giver of life. Don't ever forget those wonderful words spoken by Our Lord in the Gospel scene about the sheep and the Good Shepherd: 'I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly' (John 10: 10). It was to prove His power over life and death that He afterward raised Himself from the dead. As the risen victorious Christ, He will judge the whole world."



"When Saint Paul told them about God did they all believe?" asked Helen.

"Some learned to believe. Others said, 'We will hear thee again on this matter.' So Paul went away."

## Scripture Study

Acts 17: 16-34—Saint Paul in Athens

If you look up *Areopagus* in the notes at the back of the book, you will find some interesting facts about the men to whom Saint Paul was speaking.

## Activity

Send a committee to the Public Library to locate interesting pictures of Athens in the days of Saint Paul.

- Q. 1 Who made us?

  God made us.
- Q. 2 Who is God?

God is the Supreme Being, infinitely perfect, who made all things and keeps them in existence.

- Q. 3 Why did God make us?

  God made us to show forth His goodness and to share with us His everlasting happiness in heaven.
- Q. 4 What must we do to gain the happiness of heaven?

  To gain the happiness of heaven we must know, love, and serve God in this world.

## Seeking and Groping for God

"Father, what is meant by saying, 'Some learned to believe?' " asked Henry.

"Learning to believe about God means that the mind thinks about what we see around us in the world. Men learn a great deal about God this way. But when we come to the end of our thinking, God helps us by telling us about Himself. The first part of this process, our part, is learning by reason. The second part is learning by revelation of faith, learning to believe. In his talk the Saint told the Greeks that God made the world, made all mankind . . . 'that they should seek God, and perhaps grope after Him and find Him.' It always reminds me of a man in the dark, feeling his way to safety.

"But it is not so dark. The mind of man is bright enough to see in the dark. Let me tell you the steps men follow as they grope after God. First, men can see that there are living things, things with their own power of movement. Take vegetables, for example. They grow and reproduce themselves by seeds. Next, man observes animals. They grow, reproduce themselves, and have senses or feeling. Above them is man. His life shows in his power to grow, reproduce, use his senses. Like the animals, he has the outside senses of sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. Inside, he has memory, imagination and in-

stinct. But more than the animal, man can think and make free choices."

"Father, my uncle says that man is a thinking animal," Joan said.

"Thinking is the highest kind of life, Joan. Did you notice that life gets more perfect as it goes up the ladder? Man is at the top of the living things we see. But he is not perfect. The highest life he has, his thinking, is limited. Man does not know everything. Nor is his will powerful enough to control everything. It is plain that man is not at the top of the ladder. There must be a Perfect Being above man who is Life Itself. All the lower orders of life, the animal, vegetable and man must share in the Perfect Life of the Supreme and Perfect Being."

## Points to Remember:

Anyone can learn that there is a God if he will do a little straight thinking:

Could a stone make itself? A blade of grass? An ant? Could the earth make itself? The sun? The moon? The stars? The Maker must have existed before He made anything? He must have existed always, of and by Himself. He is the first Being, owing His existence to no other being. He is the self-existing Being, the Supreme Being. Our name for Him is God.

## Example:

Look up again *Areopagus* in the Word-List at the back of this book. You will find there a story about *Socrates*, a pagan who did some straight thinking.

- Q. 22 Can we know by our natural reason that there is a God?

  We can know by our natural reason that there is a God, for it tells us that the world we see about us could have been made only by a self-existing Being, all-wise and almighty.
- Q. 8 What do we mean when we say that God is the Supreme Being?

  When we say that God is the Supreme Being we mean that He is above all creatures, the self-existing, and infinitely perfect Spirit.

Q. 9 What is a spirit?

A spirit is a being that has understanding and free will, but no body, and will never die.

Q. 10 What do we mean when we say that God is self-existing?

When we say that God is self-existing we mean that He does not owe His existence to any other being.

## Finding God

"Father, did God ever help men to find Him?" asked Thomas.

"Oh, yes, the Bible is full of stories of God revealing Himself to individual men. One that you probably know, from the Old Testament, is the story of Moses. Moses was tending sheep on a hill, and over yonder he saw a burning bush. Being curious, he went nearer. Then he heard a voice saying 'Take off thy shoes, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.' Moses did so, and the voice continued, 'Thou shalt say to the children of Israel: He who is hath sent me to you. I am who am' (Exod. 3: 14). This was God's own way of telling Moses that He is the Supreme Being, that He always exists."

"Then the Israelites came to have the one, true God?" inquired Michael.

"Yes. In addition God gave them other signs that helped them to know Him better. When gypsies are on a journey, they drop stones and other little objects behind them so that other gypsies will know that they have passed that way. God has done something like that. Man can see that everything in the world has been made by God for the benefit of man, so that he can use them. By His gifts God is always proving the love He has for us. On the road of life man can find God by watching for the gifts God has left behind Him. Wherever we look, we can see, as did the Hebrews, that God is in His world."

"Can anybody find God, if he goes looking for Him?" Mary asked.

"Yes. Saint Paul said, as he stood by the altar to the unknown god, 'Grope after him and find him, though he

is not far from any one of us. In him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17: 27-28).

## Scripture Study

Exodus 3: 1-15

God often spoke to Moses, and he wrote these revelations in the first five books of the Old Testament. If you wish to have a sketch of his life let each pupil look up and report on one of the following:

- 1. Moses is saved from death by Pharao's daughter. Exodus 2: 1-10
- 2. Moses defends a Hebrew from a cruel master. Exodus 2: 11-14
- 3. Moses has to leave Egypt. Exodus 2: 15-22
- 4. God calls Moses to deliver his people. Exodus 3: 1-15
- 5. Moses begs Pharao to set his people free. Exodus 5: 1-4
- 6. Pharao is even more cruel to the Hebrews. Exodus 5: 5-23
- 7. God punishes Pharao with plagues. Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10 Nine pupils, each one plague.
- 8. God tells Moses about the paschal lamb. Chapter 12: 1-28 The first Passover. Paschal lamb type of Lamb of God.
- 9. The angel of death slays the firstborn. Chapter 11: 1-9
- 10. Moses leads his people through the Red Sea. Chapter 14: 1-31
- 11. God gives Moses the Ten Commandments. Chapter 20: 1-20
- Q. 23 Can we know God in any other way than by our natural reason?

  Besides knowing God by our natural reason, we can know Him from supernatural revelation—that is, from the truths, found in Sacred Scripture or in tradition, which God Himself has revealed to us.

## **Knowing God**

"You know a person by the gifts he gives," said Father. "They show his thoughts, his interests, his plans. It is the same with God. As you look around at all that God has given us, you can learn much about Him. Can anyone give us some examples?"

"The other day," Charles said, "I was reading an article about water. The article said that all the rivers and streams of the earth flow into the sea, but the sea never overflows. The

water rises from the sea in clouds, and falls back on the earth in dew, fog, rain and snow. This goes into springs, the springs into streams, the streams back to the sea. Twice a day the water in the sea flows from the center to the shore and back in a tide, to keep from going stagnant. Isn't that a sign of God's wisdom?"

"You certainly read well, Charles. It makes me think of the words of David, 'How great are thy works, O Lord. Thou hast made all things in wisdom'" (Ps. 103: 24).

"Father, last year," said Helen, "Sister asked us to learn words of Our Lord that tell about God's providence, His thoughtfulness of us. 'See how the lilies of the field grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I say that not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these. If God so clothes the grass of the field, how much more you?" (Matt. 6: 28-30).

"I hope you never forget them, Helen. Edward, you seem to have something to say."

"My father's hobby has told me a lot about God," Edward said. "His hobby is stars. There are millions of stars, he says, and the nearest fixed star is twenty billions of miles away. God made them all."

"David the Psalmist said something about that. 'The Lord telleth the number of the stars, and calleth them by their names. Great is our Lord, and great his power, and of his wisdom there is no number' (Ps. 146: 4-5). So, all God's gifts make us say with triumphant faith, 'I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."

## Points for Class Discussion

Let each pupil bring to class an example of God's power or goodness or providence as seen in the everyday affairs of life. After each gives his example, let the class decide whether it falls under the idea of power, goodness, or providence. Let them see if any example illustrates all three perfections.

Q. 20 What do we mean when we say that God is almighty?

When we say that God is almighty we mean that He can do all things.



- Q. 14 What do we mean when we say that God is all-good?

  When we say that God is all-good we mean that He is infinitely lovable in Himself, and that from His fatherly love every good comes to us.
- Q. 18 Does God see us.

  God sees us and watches over us with loving care.
- Q. 19 What is God's loving care for us called?

  God's loving care for us is called Divine Providence.

## A Triumph Lesson

"Saint John said, 'This is the victory that overcomes the world, your faith.' What did he mean, Father?" asked Caryl. "Well, suppose we take a lesson from what we have just learned. You are able to say 'I believe in God, the Father

Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.' That means you believe that God is more powerful than anything in the world. He made all things. He is above them. If you believe that firmly, nothing in the world will frighten you. That is plain from the story of the martyrdom of the Machabees," said Father.

"Are they the seven sons who refused to give up their faith in God?" asked Michael.

"Yes, they were Hebrews who refused to fit in with the plans of pagans. They are Jewish martyrs, and the Church celebrates their feast on August first; we learn about them from the Old Testament. There were seven of them. When it came to the turn of the youngest to suffer, his mother was afraid that he might weaken. The executioners tried to coax him away from God; but his mother, reminding him of his belief in God, said: 'I beseech thee, look upon heaven and earth and all in them. Consider that God made them out of nothing, and mankind also. So thou shalt not fear this tormentor'" (2 Machabees 7: 28-29).

"I guest he didn't forget that God is the Supreme Being," said Thomas.

"Yes, the simple idea that God is the Supreme Being is a powerful idea. Saint Paul used it, too, to get the people to turn away from idols. "Turn from these vain things," he said, 'to the living God who made heaven and earth and the sea and all things that are in them" (Acts 14: 14).

"Father, there are people who come around to houses nowadays and try to get folks to believe in the Lord God Jehovah. They say the Bible is all about Him, and that if you believe, you will have great power. We wouldn't let them into our house, although they wanted to play records about their teaching. They give the Bible to people, too," said Jane.

"Yes, I've seen and heard them. They have no infallible Church to guide them. The Bible was written by men who had the help of God. The Holy Spirit guided those men to write down the truth about God; so the Church teaches that the Bible is inspired. That does not mean that everyone knows how

to explain it. Explaining it is the work of the Catholic Church. The Church encourages us to read the Bible. Many of the words, however, need to be explained; so the Church prefers that we wait until we are grown up to read it by ourselves."

"You can buy a Bible in the five-and-ten," Michael said.

"Whenever a Catholic wants to buy a Bible," Father said, "he should remember to buy the Douay version, for that is the Catholic version. Indeed if a Catholic buys any religious book he should always examine the page back of the title page; if that page contains anywhere the Latin word *Imprimatur*, which means 'Let it be printed,' the book is approved as containing nothing against Catholic faith or morals."

"Do the stories in our Bible History come from the Bible?"

asked Agnes.

"Yes, some of the stories in the Bible history are put in simple language. From time to time, the priest and the Sister will tell other stories from the Bible. The stories in the Old Testament help us to understand Our Lord better. In fact, many of them were God's way of getting us ready for Christ," said Father.

"Was that the way God got the people ready for the Saviour, Father?" Lucy asked.

"Adam, Abel, Noc, Melchisedech, Isaac, Joseph, Job, Moses, Josue, and Jonas are all men who did great things that pointed ahead to the fulfillment of God's promise to send a redeemer," Father explained.

"Father, I remember a priest saying that the manna in the desert, the brazen serpent in the desert, and all the sacrifices of the Old Law were God's ways of letting the Hebrews know gradually about Calvary and the Eucharist," said Albert.

"Surely. That is why people read their Bible, and love to listen to Bible stories. Those stories tell the story of God's abiding love. They tell how the Supreme Being acts toward the creatures of His hand. When you hear Bible stories you get to know God better. Your faith grows. You want to praise God and to get everybody else to praise Him, as David did: 'Praise the Lord, all ye nations, praise him, all ye people. For his

mercy is confirmed upon us, and the truth of the Lord remaineth forever' " (Ps. 116).

## Two-Minute Talks by the Teacher:

Show how each of these heroes proved that he truly believed in God the Father Almighty: St. John the Evangelist, the Machabees, St. Paul, Adam, Abel, Noe, Melchisedech, Isaac, Joseph, Job, Moses, Josue, and Jonas. See the Scripture Study below for information.

## Scripture Study

- II Machabees 3: 1-27—A Great Act of Faith in God. 5: 11-17—The Tyrant Antiochus.
  - 7: 1-42—The Martyrdom of the Machabees.

Acts 14: 7-19—St. Paul at Lystra.

First Epistle of St. John

2: 1-17—St. John's Advice.

Genesis

- 3: 12-19—Adam's Great Lesson.
- 4: 3-10—Abel's Sacrifice.6: 8-22—Noe's Faith in God.
- 14: 13-20—Melchisedech's Sacrifice, a Type of Mass.
- 22: 1-18—The Sacrifice of Isaac, a Type of Calvary. "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son . . ." John 3: 16.
- 41: 1-8; 14; 16; 25-36—Joseph's Faith in God.

Job 1: 1-22—Job's Trial.

Deuteronomy 18: 13-19—Moses Foretells the Coming of Christ.

27: 1-10 and 28: 1-10—Last Words of Moses.

32: 1-12—The Song of Moses.34: 1-12—The Death of Moses.

31: 1-8 —The Call of Josue.

Josue 1: 1-9 — The Words of God to Josue.

6: 1-20—The Miracle at Jericho.

Jonas 1; 2; 3; 4—The Story of Jonas.

Exodus 16: 12-27—The Manna.

Numbers 21: 6-9 — The Brazen Serpent.

- Q. 11 What do we mean when we say that God is infinitely perfect?

  When we say that God is infinitely perfect we mean that
  He has all perfections without limit.
- Q. 12 What are some of the perfections of God?
  Some of the perfections of God are: God is eternal, allgood, all-knowing, all-present, and almighty.
- Q. 13 What do we mean when we say that God is eternal?

  When we say that God is eternal we mean that He always was and always will be, and always remains the same.
- Q. 15 What do we mean when we say that God is all-knowing?

  When we say that God is all-knowing we mean that He knows all things, past, present, and future, even our most secret thoughts, words, and actions.
- Q. 16 What do we mean when we say that God is all-present?

  When we say that God is all-present we mean that He is everywhere.
- Q. 17 If God is everywhere, why do we not see Him?

  Although God is everywhere, we do not see Him because He is a spirit and cannot be seen with our eyes.
- Q. 21 Is God all-wise, all-holy, all-merciful, and all-just?

  Yes, God is all-wise, all-holy, all-merciful, and all-just.

## Self-Test for Unit I

The Answers to these Questions cover what we have learned in this Unit.

- 1. Who made us?
- 2. Who is God?
- 3. Why did God make us?
- 4. What do we mean when we say that God is the Supreme Being?
- 5. What is a spirit?
- 6. What do we mean when we say that God is self-existing?
- 7. What do we mean when we say that God is infinitely perfect?
- 8. What are some of the perfections of God?
- 9. What do we mean when we say that God is eternal?
- 10. What do we mean when we say that God is all-good?

- 11. What do we mean when we say that God is all-knowing?
- 12. What do we mean when we say that God is all-present?
- 13. What is God's loving care for us called?
- 14. Is God all-wise, all holy, all-merciful, and all-just?
- 15. Can we know by our natural reason that there is a God?
- 16. Can we know God in any other way than by our natural reason?

## Activity for Unit I

Produce a play entitled: PROVE IT, JAN

## HINTS:

Jan and his sister, Agatha, escaped from a concentration camp after the death of their parents who were devout Catholics and had instructed their children secretly in religion. They had lived through the summer in the great forest, as other children like them were doing. Jan had kept them in food by killing doves and rabbits with his sling-shot; Agatha, by searching for roots and berries.

As winter drew near Jan, Agatha, and other wandering children decided to live in a cave. Around their campfire, a discussion arose. Some of the group had never heard of God. Others had heard only the talk of atheists against God. Jan and Agatha proved the existence of God and His perfections. Remember, that just such groups of wandering children were found by our soldiers at the end of World War II. There may be groups of them even now. Make the questions and answers as nearly as possible just what you think such boys and girls would say.

Some of the group agreed with Jan and Agatha. Some of those who had been taught by atheists did not. The wind had grown high and cold. Their little fire was not enough to protect them from freezing. One of the jeering group said, "Jan, if your God could get us a warm place to stay tonight, I'd believe in Him." Jan answered, "God can do that. If it is His holy will, help will come. Perhaps he may help us by letting us freeze to death and go to heaven." Agatha begins to say the rosary. Jan joins in. Others follow, except the sneerers. The fire dies low. The children huddle together, suffering the cold but still praying.

A flashlight plays over the group by the dying fire. A soldier steps in: "Well, of all things! Hey, Mike, Joe, Higgins, all of you. Look what I've found. Wrap coats around them. Get them down to the jeep and safe behind the firing lines before morning."

#### Unit II

## THE UNITY AND TRINITY OF GOD

The Mystery of the Trinity
The Gospels Tell about the Trinity
The Epistles Tell about the Trinity
A Triumph Story