

## Chapter 2 **The Son**

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.  
*Luke 2:52*

### **To the Parents:**

In chapter 2, your child learned the following:

- Jesus grew up in a human family, which deeply influenced his life.
- Jesus' life was shaped by his family's Jewish heritage.
- Jesus grew in wisdom, and age and grace before God.
- The name Jesus means "God saves."

Like all of us, Jesus came into the world as a helpless infant, dependent on his parents to love him, to care for his emotional, spiritual and physical needs, and to teach him in the ways of faith. Mary and Joseph lived out their lives as pious Jews, and they modeled for their son, Jesus, the teachings, values, and practices that defined their faith. From them Jesus learned compassion, mercy, kindness, courage, respect for all persons, and the ability to tell a good story. The human family of Jesus provided the foundation on which Jesus' mission in the world was built.

As Jesus grew up, the experiences and teachings of his Jewish family were brought to perfection as he began to live out his mission as Son of God. He looked beyond the laws and practices of Judaism to present a new creation—the reign of God in a world of peace, justice, and love for all people.

### **With Your Child:**

1. Read the story of Mary and Joseph losing the twelve-year-old Jesus in Jerusalem (*Luke 2:43–51*), and then relate their reactions to what your reactions would be in their situation. How are they the same? How are they different?
2. Think of your family history and tradition and share some of them. What new traditions has your family started? How did they get started?
3. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for the Holy Family and for your own family.
4. Together read about Maria and Luigi Quattrocchi on the Review and Explore page.