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God Strengthens Us to Be Holy

Goals

The children will learn about their obligation as Christians to live like Jesus, loving God and others. They will be encouraged to appreciate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, the Eucharist, and the Ten Commandments.

5 We Are Called to Follow Jesus

Jesus teaches us how to live. He shows love and concern for others by healing them, forgiving them, and teaching them. He prays to his Father and teaches us the Lord's Prayer. In this chapter the children are encouraged to follow the path of Jesus and to make prayer and good works part of their daily lives.

6 Jesus Invites Us to Receive God's Mercy

We are all sinners and in need of God's mercy. In this chapter the children are helped to recognize both their need for mercy and God's readiness to grant it if they are sorry for their sins. They learn about conscience and the importance of forming it according to Jesus' teachings so that their consciences may help direct and evaluate their choices. They study the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as a means of overcoming weaknesses and learning to love God more.

7 We Worship God

As creatures of God, we acknowledge our Creator through worship. In this chapter the children learn that they can worship God through loving adoration and service. They learn that Jesus offered perfect worship to the Father, and they unite themselves with him. They also learn from the example of the saints how they can use their unique gifts for the worship of God.

8 God Gave Us Laws for Living

In the Old Testament God gave his people the Ten Commandments as a pattern for living. The children learn that these laws are a sign of God's love. They are encouraged to recognize the commandments as a guide to a rich, happy life on earth and eternal joy in heaven. The children are motivated to love these laws of love as the Israelites did.

9 We Honor Mary

In Mary we find the model for all we are meant to be. Her assent to God's will in the Annunciation is characteristic of the holiness to which we are called. The children learn the Angelus and review the key concepts of this unit.

We Are Called to Follow Jesus

Faith Focus

Jesus shows us how to love God and others.

Reflecting on the Faith Experience

Take a few moments to reflect prayerfully before preparing the lesson.

Listening

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

Reflecting

The love of God the Father becomes visible in Jesus. The Gospels show Jesus meeting each person's needs, responding to each one's unique dignity and calling each to live more fully in his love. God's love for us asks for nothing less than a total response: We are to share that love with each person we encounter in our daily lives. Christ asked his Father "that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them." (John 17:26)

Jesus tells us that we are to share God's goodness with all. We are to love one another with the power we receive from him:

His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power. Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so

that through them you may come to share in the divine nature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love.

2 Peter 1:3-7

At each Eucharist we express our willingness to die with Christ so that others might live. In the opening prayer of liturgies and at pastoral or spiritual meetings, the Church prays for Christlike love:

Pour out on us, O Lord,
we pray,
a spirit of truth, understanding
and peace,
that we may know with all
our hearts
what is pleasing to you
and, with one accord,
pursue what we have come
to know.
Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Collect Prayer

Mass for a Spiritual
or Pastoral Gathering

*When discouraged by evil, do I recall
that life in Christ empowers me to
meet evil and suffering with kindness
and concern?*

Responding

Holy Spirit, make the children more and more like Jesus.

Scripture for Further Reflection

Matthew 7:12 Do to others what you would have them do to you.

James 2:14-17 Our faith in God must be expressed by works of love that meet the needs of others. Faith without good works is dead.

Preparing for the Faith Experience

Day One

Kindness Brings Joy

Day Two

Forgiving Love Heals People

Day Three

We Pray to Our Just God

Day Four

Kindness Helps People in Need

Day Five

Extending the Chapter

Church Documents

Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The themes of this chapter correspond to the following paragraphs: 1882–1885, 1889, 2447.

General Directory for Catechesis #85.

Jesus turned to his Father with adoration, praise, thanksgiving, filial confidence, supplication, and awe for his glory, and all these sentiments are reflected in the Lord's Prayer.

Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People #31c (Vatican II).

Works of charity and mercy are a striking testimony to the Christian life; the faithful, from childhood on, must be taught to be compassionate and generous to those in need.

Instruction on Prayers for Healing, Introduction.

(Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith). In the Church we understand sickness to be a means of union with Christ and of spiritual purification. For those who find themselves in the presence of a sick person, it is an occasion for the exercise of charity.

Music in This Chapter

For a list of all the music suggested in this program see page T480.

Enriching the Faith Experience

Use the activities at the end of the chapter to enrich a lesson or to replace an activity with one that better meets the needs of your class.

Scripture in This Chapter

Matthew 9: 18–25 Raising of Jairus's Daughter

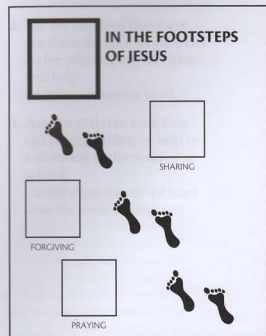
Mark 2:1–12 Healing of the Paralyzed Man

Catholic Social Teaching

- The Poor and Vulnerable
- Solidarity

Bulletin Board

A suggestion for a bulletin-board design for this chapter is pictured. Place a picture of Jesus in the top frame and pictures of people sharing, forgiving, and praying in the others.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

The children will be able to

- discuss how Jesus expressed his concern for people by relieving their sufferings.
- explain that as Christians we are called upon to show concern for others and try to relieve suffering.

Before You Begin

Even though his daughter was dead, Jairus trusted in Jesus' power. Jesus responded by restoring the girl's life. God does not always work miracles that restore physical health, but he truly heals every faithful person who cries out to him in need.

A Letter Home

Dear Parents and Family,

Unit Two of *Christ Our Life* presents children with the ultimate road map to good living: the teachings of Jesus.

At the beginning of this unit, the children are reminded of their responsibility as Christians to live as Jesus did, loving God and others. They are encouraged to follow the path Jesus left for us, making prayer and good works part of their daily lives. The children's study of prayer provides a great opportunity for you to make prayer a bigger part of your family life.

Of course, everyone gets a little lost now and then. In Unit Two, the children will pause and reflect on their need for mercy, as well as on God's readiness to grant it if they are truly sorry for their sins. The children will deepen their understanding of conscience and how to form it in accord with Jesus' teaching. Acknowledging the times when they are lost will foster a greater appreciation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You can share your own appreciation of this opportunity for forgiveness by participating in the sacrament in your parish.

Finally in Unit Two, the children will learn the importance of worshipping God. In fact, it's one of the Ten Commandments, a clear set of guidelines to living right, a gift demonstrating God's love for us and bringing us close to him.

At the end of each chapter in this unit, the children will find a review of the chapter along with either the Building Faith or the Family Faith section. These features give you a good opportunity to reinforce your child's learning and offer practical ways to reinforce so that the whole family may benefit.

Visit www.christianlife.org/family for more family resources.



UNIT 2

God Strengthens Us to Be Holy

Whenever acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God, God reveals his love and his plan for us.

1 John 4:19

28 UNIT 2 God Strengthens Us to Be Holy

Centering

1. Direct the children to the picture on page 27.

- What is the boy in the photo trying to do? (climb the rope)
- What does he need to get to the top? (strength)
- We also need strength to be followers of Jesus and live holy lives. Who gives us strength? (God)
- Have a volunteer read the unit title.


2. Recall the last unit.

What is the best way God reveals himself and speaks to us? (through Jesus)

- Ask a child to read the paragraph of **Jesus Teaches Us How to Live** on page 29.
- This year you will be learning more about what it means to follow Jesus.
- Read the quotation from John's Gospel silently. Now let's read it together. [Read it.]
- Just as Jesus came to give us life, we too must be life-giving.
- Today's story tells of a father who felt very sad because his daughter had died. You will find out a little later just what Jesus did.

Sharing

- Discuss with the children ways in which they can work with Jesus to help people in today's world. ✱ **Solidarity**
 - We are going to read a story today about a very special life-giving thing Jesus did. Because he was the Son of God, Jesus did many things for the people he met. We are not able to do all that Jesus did, but we can help people in our world by praying for them and asking Jesus to help them. When do people need our prayers? (when they are sad and have troubles; when they find it hard to be good; when they need food, clothing, or a home) Do you know any people who need our prayers? What could we ask Jesus to do for them?
 - We can make sacrifices for people. That means we can give our own things or our time, out of love for God, to those in need. Our sacrifices can even help people who live far away. How can they help? (Money, clothes, and food help missions and other groups who work to help people in need.) ✱ **The Poor and Vulnerable**
 - What kind words can we say to help people feel happy? (hello; thank you; please; I'm sorry; you did well; may I help you?)



CHAPTER

5


We Are Called to Follow Jesus

Jesus Teaches Us How to Live

During his lifetime in Palestine, Jesus showed us how to be the best persons we can be. By his words and actions he taught us how to live holy and happy lives. Baptized Christians try to live like Jesus and follow his teachings. We are called to bring his life and love into the world. Jesus said,

"I came that you might have life—and have it to the full."

adapted from John 10:10



29

- What kind deeds can you do for others? (run errands; carry things; put things away at home; ask another child to play; help someone who got hurt; give a card or gift to a sick person) You can see that there are many things we can do. The important thing is to do them. There are some people who spend their lives helping others, as Jesus did. Do you know some of them? (doctors, nurses, priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, lay missionaries, teachers, research scientists, volunteers)



- Tell the children that there are three things everyone can do for others: pray, sacrifice, and help. List these words on the board.

- Ask the children how they can pray, sacrifice, or help in a situation in the news or at school. List their suggestions on the board under the proper headings.

4. Introduce the children to the people in the illustration on page 30. (Jesus, Jairus [JIE ruhs], Jairus's wife and daughter)

5. Let the children read the story of Jairus called **Jesus Showed Love and Concern**.

- ✦ **Jairus knew that Jesus would help him.** Even though his little girl was dead, Jairus still went to Jesus. **How did Jesus help Jairus?** (He brought the little girl back to life.)
- ✦ **Responding to the needs of others brings them and us joy.** Recall all the ways we talked about earlier that we can work with Jesus to help people in today's world.

6.  Discuss prayer for others in trouble.  **Solidarity**

- ✦ We give our first love and concern to our own families. However, as Christians we must be concerned about everyone. We are all brothers and sisters.
- ✦ What should we do when we hear about disasters and tragedies? (pray for the people concerned; help in some way, if possible)
- ✦ Do you remember a time when you prayed or helped people suffering from a disaster even though you did not know them personally?

Acting

1. Encourage the children to pray daily for the special people in their lives.

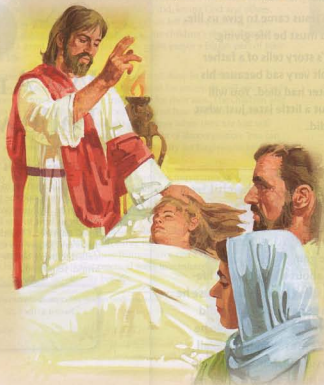
- ✦ **Jairus asked Jesus to help his daughter.** We can be like Jairus and ask God to bless those we love. **Do you pray every day for your parents?** [Pause.] You could decide right now for whom you will pray every day. [Pause.] When will you pray for them—as soon as you get up or just before you go to bed? Setting a definite time to ask God to bless those we love helps us remember better.

Jesus Showed Love and Concern


A man named Jairus rushed through the crowd to reach Jesus. He knelt before Jesus and said, "My daughter has just died. But come, lay your hand on her, and she will live."

Jesus went with Jairus to his house. He took the little girl by the hand, and she got up. Jesus gave life back to her. Jairus and the girl's mother were filled with joy.

adapted from Matthew 9:18-19:23-2



30 UNIT 2 God Strengthens Us to Be Holy

✦  Let's take time to pray for them now. [Pause.]

2. Ask the children to tear out page 28 to take home for their parents.

Explain that this is an important letter for their parents to read.

CHECKPOINT

- Were the learning outcomes achieved?
- Do the children share ideas of how they can respond to the needs of others?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The children will be able to

- explain the transforming effects of forgiveness.
- discuss the power of forgiving love.
- explain that Jesus prayed to his Father.

Materials

- BLM 8, one hand-puppet copy for each child
- Markers
- Song of forgiveness and peace, such as "Prayer of Peace" from *Singing Our Faith* or "God Is Rich in Mercy" from *Young People's Glory and Praise for Acting #1*

Centering

- Let the children share their experiences of being forgiven and forgiving others.
 - When we are forgiven, many wonderful things happen. Do you remember a time when someone said to you, "That's OK. I forgive you." How did you feel?
 - How did you feel when you said to someone, "I forgive you" or "That's OK"?
 - Forgiveness always makes us feel good. It makes us want to do the right thing the next time. When we forgive others, we heal hurts. It's like giving a dying plant the water and sun it needs to become strong and healthy again. Forgiving is like giving life back to people.
 - What story did you read recently about giving life? (the raising of Jairus's daughter)
 - What did you learn you could do to be life-giving? (pray, sacrifice, help)

Before You Begin

- When Jesus forgave the sins of a paralyzed man, Jewish leaders challenged him by protesting, "Who but God alone can forgive sins?" (Mark 2:7) Jesus gave them a visible sign of his divine power by curing the man's body so that the man was able to get up, pick up his stretcher, and walk away.
- There is an interesting difference between the Lord's Prayer in Matthew's Gospel and the one in Luke's Gospel. The text in Matthew reads: "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." The text in Luke reads: "forgive us our sins for

we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us." The Matthean version seems to imply that we ask for the same degree of forgiveness that we extend to others. The Lucan text seems to say that we ask for forgiveness because we have earned the right to do so by forgiving others. In either case, it is clear that Jesus wants us to ask for God's forgiveness, and he also wants us to be forgiving people. Forgiving and forgiven—the two cannot be separated. It is by forgiving others that we open ourselves up to God's forgiveness. Both Matthew and Luke would agree on that.

- Introduce the story of the paralyzed man.
 - Today you will read another story that teaches us a way to give life. It is about a man who is **paralyzed**. (Print *paralyzed* on the board.)
 - What does *paralyzed* mean? (not being able to move, either partially or totally)

Sharing

1. Direct the children to read **Jesus' Forgiving Love Healed People** on page 31. Have several volunteers read the paragraphs and one child read Jesus' words.
2. Check the children's understanding of the story.
 - ✦ How do you know that the paralyzed man had good friends? (They brought him to Jesus by letting the man down through the roof.) When they brought him to Jesus, what was the first thing Jesus did? (forgave the man's sins)
 - ✦ Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins before he healed him? (to show that God forgives sins; to show that being forgiven is more important than being able to walk; to show that forgiveness is a kind of healing)
 - ✦ We can't work a miracle as Jesus did, but we can forgive people who hurt us or make us angry.
3. **BLM 8** Use the BLM 8 Puppet Pattern to create puppets.
 - ✦ Let the children create characters with their puppets and use them to act out situations in which the children handle angry feelings in a Christian way. Say:
 - ✦ I will start several plays, and you may finish each one. Think about the feelings each puppet has. Think of ways the puppets can tell how they feel and still bring the peace of forgiveness to each other. Raise your hand when you are ready to end the play. We can have several endings for each play.
 - 1. Cesar sat next to Nathan on the bus. He said unkind things about Luis. Luis heard the boys talking and felt hurt and very angry. Nathan got off the bus, and Cesar watched Luis going through his baseball cards. He asked Luis if he could see them.

Jesus' Forgiving Love Healed People

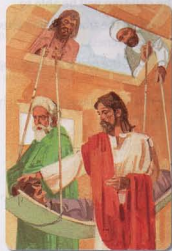
One day Jesus was teaching in a house. Many people gathered to hear him speak. They crowded into the house and around the door.

In the crowd was a paralyzed man who wanted to see Jesus. Because the man couldn't get into the house, his friends carried him to the roof. They lifted up part of the roof until they had a large opening. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat.

Jesus stopped teaching. He looked at the sick man and said, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

Then he cured the man's body. The man got up, picked up his mat, and walked out in front of everyone.

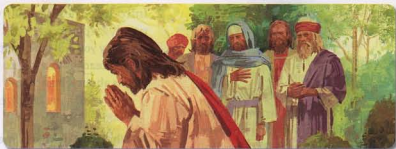
adapted from Mark 2:1-5:11-12



Jesus Prayed to His Father

The apostles watched Jesus when he was at prayer. They could see that he knew how to speak to God our Father. Afterward they came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Then Jesus taught them the prayer we call the Lord's Prayer or the Our Father. We should try to pray it every day. In this prayer we praise God and ask for all our needs. We ask to be forgiven as we forgive others. We also ask to be saved from evil.



We Are Called to Follow Jesus CHAPTER 5

31


2. Grace got angry because Chloe embarrassed her. Chloe told the other girls that she didn't like the new dress Grace wore to school. Now Chloe wants Grace to go skating with her. Grace doesn't want to be embarrassed again.
3. Angelo didn't follow Tyler's instructions and broke Tyler's kite when he used it. Tyler felt angry, but Angelo said he was very sorry and would be much more careful in the future. Now he wants to try out Tyler's new model airplane.
4. Elena feels bad because she can't draw as well as her brother Salvador can. Salvador boasts about the contests he's won, and he teases Elena about her drawings. One day Elena tears up one of Salvador's pictures. Now both children feel angry.

4. Read the paragraphs in **Jesus Prayed to His Father** on page 31.

- ✦ Then have the children look at the picture.
- ✦ **Who are the men standing in the background?** (apostles)
- ✦ **What are they doing?** (watching Jesus pray)
- ✦ **Jesus looked so happy and peaceful. He was speaking to his heavenly Father and nothing else seemed to matter.**
- ✦ **What did the apostles want to do when they saw Jesus praying?** (They wanted to pray like Jesus.)
- ✦ **What did they say to Jesus?** ("Lord, teach us to pray.")
- ✦ **Jesus wanted his apostles to know his Father and speak to him freely and easily. What prayer did Jesus teach them?** (the Lord's Prayer)

"We pray that all people will belong to God's kingdom. We pray that God will rule in the kingdom of our hearts. We want all people on earth to do God's will, just as all those in heaven do it."

Acting

1. Play a song about forgiveness and peace.
 - ✦ **Tell the children to think of Jesus forgiving the man who is paralyzed as they listen.**
 - ✦ **Play the song again and invite the children to sing along.**
2.  Lead the children in a litany asking to be more forgiving.
 - ✦ Ask the children to think of a hurt that's hard to forgive. Let those who wish to do so add their petitions to the petitions below. For each petition, the children may respond, "Lord, help us forgive."
 - ✦ **When people say mean things to us ...**
 - ✦ **When we are teased or laughed at ...**
 - ✦ End the litany by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

CHECKPOINT



- Were the learning outcomes achieved?
- Do the children demonstrate an understanding that forgiving others can heal the hurt of anger?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The children will be able to

- explain the significance of the Lord's Prayer as a prayer taught by Jesus.
- define words and phrases of the Lord's Prayer.

Key Terms

hallowed—blessed; treated in a holy way

trespass—sin, fault, hurtful action

Centering

1. Recall the last lessons.

- ✦ What have you learned that followers of Jesus should try to do to be like him? (show love and concern, bring life, forgive)
- ✦ Today you will learn something else from Jesus.

2. Use the GLM 8 Puppet Pattern to create puppets.

- ✦ Let the children create characters with their puppets and use them to act out situations in which the children handle angry feelings in a Christian way.
- ✦ I will start several plays, and you may finish each one. Think about the feelings each puppet has. Think of ways the puppets can tell how they feel and still bring the peace of forgiveness to each other. Raise your hand when you are ready to end the play. We can have several endings for each play.
- ✦ Cesar sat next to Nathan on the bus. He said unkind things about Luis. Luis heard the boys talking and felt hurt and very angry. Nathan got off the bus, and Cesar watched Luis going through his baseball cards. He asked Luis if he could see them.

Materials

- White drawing paper
- Markers

Before You Begin

We pray the Lord's Prayer, also commonly referred to as the Our Father, with the knowledge that our loving, just, and merciful God listens to his children. God gives us what we ask, providing even more than we request. In our prayer we express our reverence and let God

know that we are one with him in will and desire. We ask God to meet our earthly and spiritual needs, and we pray for God's forgiveness for our thoughtlessness and deliberate sins, stating our willingness to forgive others. Finally, we ask God to deliver us from temptation and evil, knowing that God will give us strength by responding to our plea with guidance and loving concern.

2. Lead the children to discover that we can learn how to pray by watching others at prayer.

- ✦ Have you ever watched your parents, teachers, or someone else at prayer and wondered what they were saying?
- ✦ There's a story of a priest who saw a workman come into his church every evening. The priest watched the man and wondered what he was saying to God. One day the priest waited for him outside the church door. He greeted the man and then asked, "Why do you come to the church every day?" The man said, "Well, I talk to him." "What do you say?" questioned the priest. "I say 'Hello' and then he looks at me, and I look at him."
- ✦ That workman shows us how easy it is to pray. Jesus made it easier for us to speak to God by teaching us a prayer. Do you remember what prayer Jesus taught his apostles and us? (the Lord's Prayer)

Elena feels bad because she can't draw as well as her brother Salvador can. Salvador boasts about the contests he's won, and he teases Elena about her drawings. One day Elena tears up one of Salvador's pictures. Now both children feel angry.

Sharing

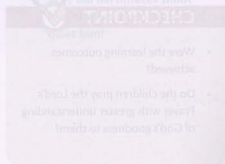
1. Discuss phrases of the Lord's Prayer.

- ♦ **By what name does Jesus call God?** (Our Father)
- ♦ **Why is God our Father?** (God takes care of us. We are God's children. God has given us everything we have.)
- ♦ **In the Lord's Prayer what do we say about where God is?** (who art in heaven)
- ♦ **What does "hallowed be thy name" mean?** (We want God's name to be kept holy.)
- ♦ **How do we show reverence for God's name?** (by never speaking it when we are angry; by using it in prayer; by speaking of God with love)
- ♦ **What is the next part of the prayer?** ("Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.") **We pray that all people will belong to God's kingdom.** We pray that God will rule in the kingdom of our hearts. We want all people on earth to do God's will, just as all those in heaven do it.

- ♦ **What is the next part of the Lord's Prayer?** ("Give us this day our daily bread.") **What are we asking from God?** ("our daily bread") Bread is a symbol of all that we need in our lives. We are asking for food, clothing, and shelter. We also are asking for the Bread we need in order to grow in God's life—Holy Communion.
- ♦ **What is the next phrase?** ("Forgive us our trespasss as we forgive those who trespass against us.") **What are trespasses?** (sins) Trespass also can mean any hurtful or mean action. Because we are not God, others cannot sin against us in the same way as they do against God. What must we do if we want God to forgive us? (forgive those who trespass against us)
- ♦ **What else do we ask of God?** ("Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.") **God allows us to be tempted but gives us strength not to give in.** We ask God to keep us from evil and to help us be holy.

2. Recall the value of the Lord's Prayer.

- ♦ **Gordie Howe, who is in the Hockey Hall of Fame, is considered one of the greatest players in the history of professional hockey.** Gordie played the rough game of hockey for more than 30 years, and before every game he prayed the Lord's Prayer to ask God to keep the players on both teams safe.
- ♦ **Why do you suppose he chose to pray the Lord's Prayer?** (It is the prayer Jesus gave to us.)
- ♦ **What part of the Lord's Prayer means the most to you?**
- ♦ **Think about this, but you don't need to answer out loud. When will you pray the Lord's Prayer?**



3. Direct the children to work the Lord's Prayer activity on page 32 and check their answers.

4. Divide the children into groups.

- Give each group drawing paper and a phrase of the Lord's Prayer to print and illustrate; one group can design a cover and another an Amen page.
- Tell the children the book will be in the classroom for them to use at any time.

Acting

Teach the children the gestures that convey the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father,

[Hold your hands at your side with the palms turned outward.]

who art in heaven,

[Slowly raise your hands upward and toward the front.]

hallowed be thy name;

[Lower your outstretched arms to the side and bow low.]

thy kingdom come;

[Raise and stretch your arms out to the side.]

thy will be done

[Cross your arms over your chest.]

on earth as it is in heaven.

[Swing your right arm down toward the ground and then raise your left arm.]

Give us this day our daily bread;

[Extend your open hands, palms up, in front of you.]

and forgive us our trespasses

[Bow your head and strike your chest with your right hand, while your left hand falls easily to the side.]

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

[Turn and shake hands with the person next to you.]

and lead us not into temptation,

[Take one step back and put the palms of your hands outward.]

but deliver us from evil.

[Bring your arms upward with a sweeping motion and look heavenward.]



Now let us pray the Lord's Prayer together using the gestures we just learned.

Lord's Prayer

Print the phrase from the Lord's Prayer that matches each sentence. The prayer on the inside cover of your book can help.

God, everyone's loving Father, has given us life.

Our Father,

Heaven is where God lives.

who art in heaven,

We pray that all people will respect God and God's holy name.

hallowed be thy name.

We pray that all people on earth will belong to God's kingdom and do God's will.

Thy kingdom come; thy will be

done on earth as it is in heaven.

We ask for food and for the living bread, the Eucharist. We ask for the things we need every day.

Give us this day our daily bread;

We ask God to forgive us our sins as we forgive others.

and forgive us our trespasses as we

forgive those who trespass against us

We ask God to help us in time of temptation.

and lead us not into temptation

We ask God to keep us from all evil, especially sin.

but deliver us from evil.

32 UNIT 2 God Strengthens Us to Be Holy

CHECKPOINT



- Were the learning outcomes achieved?
- Do the children pray the Lord's Prayer with greater understanding of God's goodness to them?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The children will be able to

- discuss Jesus' compassionate love for people.
- describe ways to show kindness and concern for the feelings of others in everyday situations.
- demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts in this chapter.

Materials

- Bible
- Scrambled word *PLHE* on the board
- BLM 9 Quiz

Before You Begin

1. Christ's miracles draw attention to the fact that in him the Kingdom of God was truly at hand. Beyond that, the significance of the miracles lies in their individual messages. As he cures Bartimaeus who is blind, Jesus tells him that his faith has saved him. (Mark 10:52) Hearing this story, the children can sense the importance of their own faith and, upon further reflection, realize that Jesus calls them to be especially kind to anyone in need.

2. When planning today's lesson, keep in mind that Day Four is when the children take the quiz for this chapter. Reserve time at the end of class for this assessment. The quiz can also be administered on Day Five.

Centering

1. Recall the last lessons.



We have been talking about ways we can imitate Jesus.

What are some of these ways?

(showing love and concern, forgiving others, praying)

✠ *The Poor and Vulnerable*

2. Lead the children to a deeper realization of the feelings of people in need.

- ✦ Were you ever in a big crowd and not able to see what everyone around you was excited about seeing? How did you feel?
- ✦ Did someone lift you up or help you get to a place where you could see what was happening? How did you feel then?
- ✦ Whenever someone does a kind deed, it makes life happier for someone else. Today we have a story about how Jesus helped a blind man. The blind man's name was Bartimaeus (bahrtim AY uhs). [Print Bartimaeus on the board and have the children say it.]

Sharing

1. Read or tell the story of Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46–52.
 - ✦ Discuss the story.
 - ✦ What makes you think Bartimaeus must have heard about Jesus? (He called to Jesus for help.)
 - ✦ What did he call out to Jesus? ("Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me.")
 - ✦ What did the people around him do? (tried to keep him quiet) Why?
 - ✦ Why did Bartimaeus shout louder when the people tried to quiet him?

- ✦ What did Jesus do when he heard Bartimaeus call for help? (He stopped and asked what he wanted.)
- ✦ How do you think Bartimaeus felt? (happy and excited)
- ✦ What did Jesus say to Bartimaeus after he healed him? ("Go your way; your faith has saved you.")
- ✦ What do you think Jesus meant by this? (Bartimaeus was healed because he believed in Jesus.)
- ✦ What do you think Bartimaeus did after he was healed?

2. Contrast Jesus' compassion for Bartimaeus with the attitude of the people who tried to quiet him.

✦ The people around him heard Bartimaeus cry for help and were annoyed. In fact, they tried to make him be quiet. They didn't care about helping him. How do you think that made Bartimaeus feel?


✦ Why didn't Jesus act the way other people did?

3. Have the children read **People Who Act Like Jesus** and work page 33.

Explain to them that all of the people in the examples cared about others, but they showed it in different ways depending on their situations.


4. Ask the children to unscramble the word **PLHE** on the board.

✦ When you unscramble the word, you will find out what you should do whenever you see anyone in need. (HELP)

✦  Then ask them to think of ways to help that begin with each letter in the word **help**.

(Examples: Hold the door open. Empty the wastebasket. Listen.

Pray.) * **Solidarity**

5.  Lead the students in praying **A Moment with Jesus**.

✦ Invite the children to find a comfortable position for prayer, to breathe deeply several times, and then close their eyes. Read **A Moment with Jesus** slowly and reverently, giving the children time to speak with Jesus.

✦ At the end of the reflection, invite the children to talk to Jesus for a few moments about anything that is on their minds.

✦ Tell the children to open their eyes and turn their attention back to the room.

Now let us pray the Lord's Prayer together using the gestures we just learned.

People Who Act Like Jesus

Here are three examples of people who have done what Jesus taught. Read each story and then write the word that matches the deeds described in the story: **pray, serve, or forgive**.

A young driver made a serious mistake. She drank too much and then drove. This caused an accident that took the lives of a young man and a young woman. While in prison, the driver became very ill. Mrs. Reyes, the mother of the young woman who had been killed, wrote a letter to the state. In it she asked for the release of the driver, who was responsible for the death of her daughter.

Mrs. Reyes knows how to

forgive

While troops were being sent to the Middle East before the war with Iraq, the fourth graders at Ascension School set aside a special corner in their classroom. There they took turns asking God for peace.

These children know how to

pray

When Sister Emmanuelle visited Egypt, she found that thousands of people lived in the garbage dumps. This is where they made their homes. They were bare, with dirt floors and roofs made from palm leaves. Both parents and children survived by collecting garbage, sorting it, and reselling it. Most of these people didn't know how to read or write. Sister moved in with them to give them hope and to teach them that God is love. She has built a school, a clinic, a vocational center, and soccer fields. She says, "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else because here I feel I am giving the life of Jesus Christ to the children."

Sister Emmanuelle knows how to

serve

A Moment with Jesus

Is there someone in your family who needs your prayers? Pray to Jesus now for that person, telling him about this family member's needs. Trust that Jesus will bring peace and comfort to him or her. Thank Jesus for his loving care.



We Are Called to Follow Jesus CHAPTER 5 33

6. Lead the children through the Review activity on page 34.

Some volunteers may share with the entire group what they shared with their partners.

7. Read **We Remember and We Respond** with the children on page 34.

8. **BLM 9** Distribute and administer **BLM 9 Chapter 5 Quiz**.

✦ Use this opportunity to assess the children's understanding of the main concepts in the chapter.

✦ If there is not sufficient time for the children to complete the quiz, consider moving it to Day Five.

Acting

1. Discuss the feelings and needs of each person in the stories on page 34.
 - ✦ Guide the children in choosing an ending for each story that is most like Jesus' response to Bartimaeus.
 - ✦ Then have the children make up their own stories.
2. Direct the children to the pictures of Jesus in this chapter. Tell them to think about what Jesus is doing and what he wants them to do when they hear that people need help.
3. At the end of class, have them tear out page 34 to take home. Encourage them to share Building Family Faith with their parents.

CHECKPOINT

- Were the learning outcomes achieved?
- Do the children seem more aware of people and their needs?

5

Review

Add a Happy Ending

- Tyrone bumped into Carlos in the hall. Carlos' lunchbox opened, and food spilled onto the floor.
- All of Danica's friends brought money to buy a treat, but Danica was unable to bring any money.
- Miguel and Connor were good friends. Both boys tried out for a part in a play. Miguel got a part, but Connor did not.
- Marisol laughed and teased her brother about his new haircut.
- Sophia's friend Molly will not talk to her because Sophia went skating with other friends without inviting Molly.

Can you think of a time when you received kindness? Share this with a partner.

We Remember

What does Jesus say about forgiving others?

Jesus says,

"If you forgive others . . . your heavenly Father will forgive you."

Matthew 6:14

We Respond

I will forgive those who hurt me.



Building Family Faith

CHAPTER SUMMARY The Gospel shows Jesus curing sick people, forgiving sins, and teaching all how to live in his love. As Jesus' followers, we share his concern for others and forgive those who have hurt us.

REFLECT

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. . . . They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

Mark 2:13

DISCUSS AS A FAMILY

- how loving acceptance and forgiveness are the greatest gifts we have to share with friends and family.
- times that you have forgiven someone who hurt you and how you worked through your anger, sadness, and pain.

Visit www.christianlife.org/family for more family resources.

PRAY

Jesus, open my eyes to the needs of others.

DO

- Plan a family help day: Volunteer for a parish outreach effort; clean out closets, bookshelves, and toy boxes, and donate these items to a charity.
- Make a pact with your family that together you will work through any arguments or hurt feelings, not simply sweep them under the rug.
- Think globally, act locally by studying as a family the problems of poverty and hunger in the world and learning what you can do in your community to help a family in need.

34


Day Five Extending the Chapter

For ongoing Day Five suggestions, such as preparing for the Sunday Scripture readings or using activities on the Christ Our Life Web site, see page T476.

Chapter 5 Enriching the Faith Experience


Use the following activities to enrich a lesson or to replace an

activity with one that better meets the needs of your class.

1. Divide the class into small groups. Assign a story from page 34 to each group. Have the children select a leader, plan a playlet, choose parts, and practice. Then let each group perform for the others.
2.  Have the children bring canned food and extra clothing for the poor on a specified day. You may wish to give the contributions directly to poor families or to the

St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution.

The Poor and Vulnerable

3.  Provide a daily "peace time" in class. Gather the children into a circle, recall one way Jesus showed special care for someone in need, and invite the children to share some of the kind things they have seen others doing for people in need. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or another appropriate prayer.

Solidarity