

## Chapter 5

# Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

## We Pray to God

Scripture Focus: Colossians 3:15–17

### Lesson Goals

- to recall the importance of gratitude
- to define *prayer* and identify different ways we can pray
- to identify the Mass as the greatest prayer of thanksgiving

### Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1866 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Colossians 3:15–17).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

### Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.

**Brainstorm** with your child different things you are thankful for.

**Tell** your child that together you will learn about talking to God, listening to him, and thanking him.

### Dive In! (20 minutes)

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1866 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Colossians 3:15–17).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- What does Christ give to us to help guide us in our decisions? (*peace*)
- What should we have in our hearts when we sing to God? (*thanksgiving*)
- Everything we do or say should be done in whose name? (*Jesus' name*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1867 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.

*Answers: sad, mad, alone, upset (crossed out)*

### Discover! (20 minutes)

**Read** with your child the article "Thank You, God!" on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child's understanding.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.  
*Answers: 1. Jesus, 2. friend, 3. love, 4. good*

### Go! (10 minutes)

**Invite** your child to share one thing he or she learned from today's lesson.

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 5 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

**Ask** your child to find the sticker sheet and the Seek and Find sheet in the folder. Tell your child to place the chapter 5 sticker in the correct location on the Seek and Find sheet.

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 5 activity booklet.



## Chapter 5

# Thank You, God!

Many families talk about their day as they eat dinner. You might talk about what you learned at school, or what a classmate did on the playground. Your parents might mention a project at work. Your brother or sister might share some nice words ("Good job!") from a teacher.

Talking to God is like talking with family—but it is so much more. **Prayer** is the special way we talk to God. He made us and knows everything about us, and he doesn't need us to say a word. But he still wants us to share our thoughts and feelings with him so we can feel close to him.

When we talk as a family, we say words out loud. But when we talk to God, we can say words out loud,

or we can talk to him in the quiet of our minds. We don't need to be in a special place, either. We can pray anywhere, in any way.

We offer different kinds of prayers to God. We can ask God to help us, or ask him to help someone else. We can thank God for everything he gives us and does for us. We can just rejoice in God! We can express our joy in just how amazing he is!

We pray in all these ways during Mass—out loud, in our minds, and even while singing. Mass is the greatest prayer of thanksgiving we offer to God, especially for the gift of Jesus. The next time you go to Mass, share your **gratitude**: "Thank you, God!"

### Key Words

**gratitude** Feeling of being thankful or grateful.

**prayer** A special way we can talk to and share with God.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activities in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "Prayer Is Talking to God" + activity, pages 48–49
- "We Pray Together" + activity, pages 52–53

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

Answers: 1. Both! 2. Anywhere. 3. Ask God to help ourselves or others, thank God, and rejoice in God.  
4. Jesus

### Review

1. Do we pray to God out loud or in our mind?
2. Where can we pray to God?
3. What are some different ways we can pray to God?
4. At Mass, what gift do we especially thank God for?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

