

Chapter
5

Discover!
Finding Faith in Life

We Thank God

Scripture Focus: Philippians 4:4–7

Lesson Goals

- to explain that we can be joyful and thankful because God loves us
- to discuss that peace is the result of having joyful and thankful hearts
- to explain that expressing gratitude for what God has given us is called a prayer of thanksgiving

Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1858 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Philippians 4:4–7).
- 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.

Invite your child to list some things she or he is thankful for.

Tell your child that together you will learn how we can be thankful because God's love is permanent—he always loves us, in good times and in bad.

Dive In!

Read the Featured Story on page 1858 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Philippians 4:4–7).

Ask your child these questions:

- What does Paul want us to do when we are in union with God? (*to be joyful*)
- What should we ask God for in our prayers? (*what we need*)
- When we pray, what should be our attitude? (*We should be thankful.*)
- What does Saint Paul say we have difficulty understanding, and why? (*God's peace, because it is so great and wonderful.*)

Read the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1859 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

Invite your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 5 activity booklet. *Answer: See solution on the third page of this home guide chapter.*

Discover! (10 minutes)

Read the article on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words, and ask the review questions.

Invite your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 5 activity booklet. *Answers: gratitude, thanksgiving*

Go!

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

Encourage your child to complete the puzzle handout on the fourth page of this home guide chapter. *Answer: Thank God!*

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



Chapter 5

Love Is . . .

What does it mean to love someone? How do you feel when you know you are loved? What do you think love is? God's love for us is **enduring**, or permanent. That means it never goes away! God created us out of love, and he gives us this love to carry with us always.

Some things we want bring us only **temporary** happiness—like a TV show or a cupcake. Temporary happiness doesn't last. But God's love is all we truly need. When we know the difference between things we want and things we need, we find deep **peace**. Peace is the calmness we carry deep inside us, even when life is difficult. We find peace when we have a joyful and thankful heart.

In today's reading, Saint Paul tells us to rejoice because we are loved by God. Our response to his love is joy, or happiness. Rejoicing and having a

good attitude are two ways to show God we are thankful for his love. Prayer is another important way we show our gratitude to God for what he has given us. Saint Paul tells us to have a thankful heart and not to worry when we pray. When we talk with God and thank him, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

The Mass is our greatest prayer of thanksgiving. The word Eucharist means "thanksgiving." During the Mass, when we say "Amen," we are telling God we are thankful. In your bedtime prayers tonight, tell God what you are thankful for today—and end with a big, heartfelt "Amen!"

Key Words

enduring Lasting; permanent.

peace Calmness that we carry deep inside us, even when things are difficult, as a result of having a joyful and thankful heart.

temporary Not permanent or enduring.

We Know and Live Our Faith

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

- "The Prayer of Thanksgiving" + activity, pages 58–59

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

Review

1. How long does God's love last?
2. What is our response to knowing we are loved by God?
3. What does lasting joy or happiness give us?
4. How can we show gratitude for God's love?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. God's love endures, or lasts forever. 2. Joy or happiness. 3. Peace. 4. By rejoicing, thanking God in prayer, and going to Mass.



Chapter
5

Answer Key

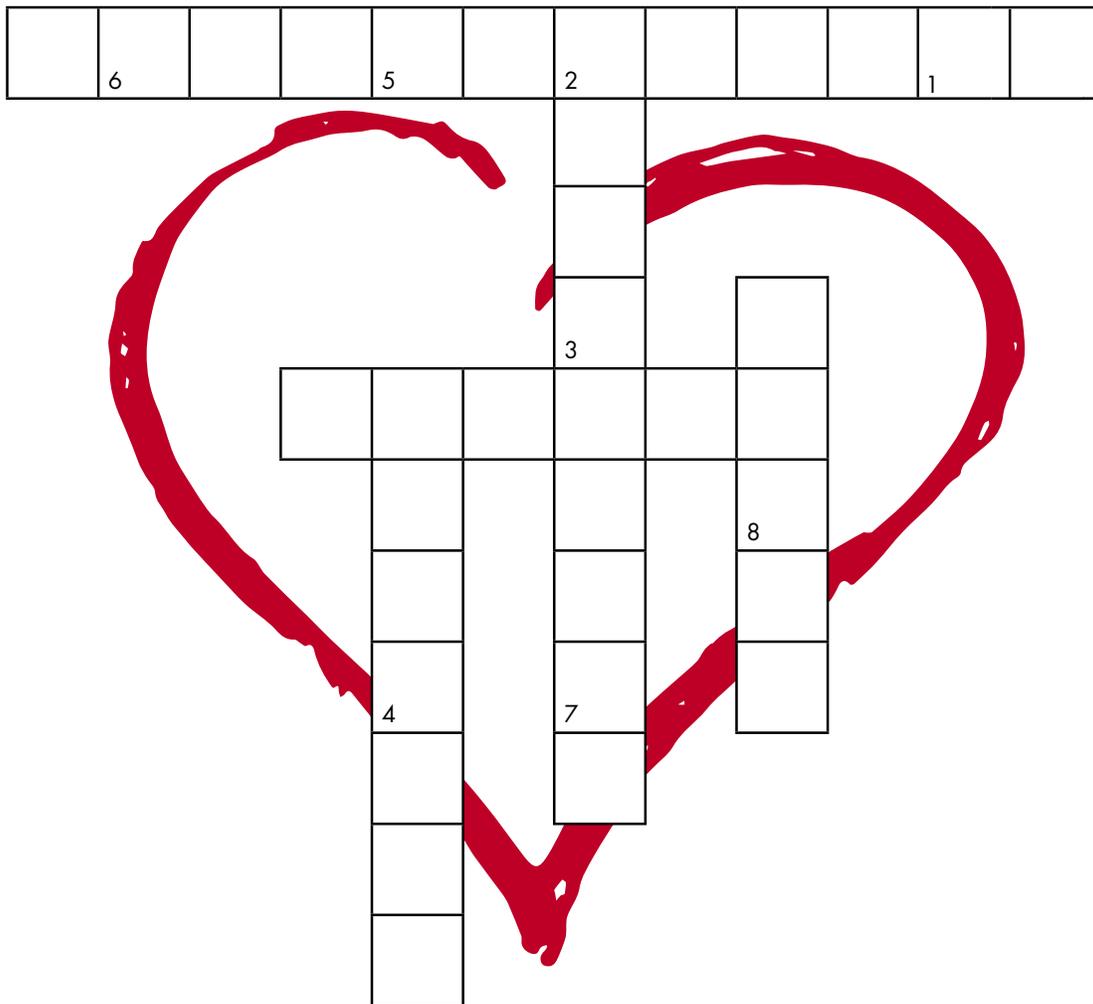


Handout

A Grateful Heart

Place the following words into the correct boxes. Then use the letters in numbered boxes to solve the code and see what we are called to do when we are grateful. Finally, transfer the circled letter in your final answer to the spaces marked with the number 5 on the back of your folder.

gratitude heart rejoice praise thanksgiving



 3 6 8 1 5 2 4 7 !

