



# Confirmed in Grace

### Before You Begin

- Print the Chapter 8 BLM: Word Search found at the end of this document.
- Download and print the Chapter 8 Prayer Service: God's Kind and Generous Love.
- Have a Bible available during the session for reference.
- Make sure your child has his or her *My Confirmation Journal* to record any insights during the session and to do the activities on pages 71–83 after the session.
- Download and print the Novena for Confirmation and the Candidate Checklist.
- If you have the *Faith to Faith* magazine, encourage your child to use it to reflect on the session with his or sponsor.

### Engage: Page 85

- ◆ You might choose to begin by reviewing the previous chapter. Invite your child to recall important concepts from Chapter 8.
- ◆ Invite your child to open his or her book to page 85. Read aloud the chapter title and discuss the questions on this page with your child. Say: **In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit helps us grow into mature followers of Jesus.**
- ◆ Say: **The Sacrament of Confirmation sets our hearts afire, strengthened by the Spirit, so that we might be faithful followers of Christ.** Pray together the words on this page from the Rite of Confirmation.

### Explore: Pages 86–93

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the Scripture passage on page 86 and summarize it in his or her own words.
- ◆ Then have your child read silently *Understanding Scripture*. Ask: **Why did Saint Paul consider the baptism of these people to be incomplete?** (*They had not been baptized in the name of Jesus, nor did they receive the Holy Spirit.*)
- ◆ Read aloud *Scripture and You*. Ask: **If you found a time capsule from the day of your Baptism, what would you probably find inside?** (*a container of holy water, a candle, a white garment, a container of oil*)
- ◆ Ask your child to spend a few moments silently reading *Reflecting on God's Word*. Allow time for reflection. Encourage your child to record insights in his or her journal.
- ◆ Take turns reading *As You Grow*, *Spiritual Growth*, and *Confirmation*. Ask: **What privileges do we receive in Baptism?** (*We receive God's grace. We become a child of God and a member of Jesus' Church. We are able to receive the sacraments.*) Ask: **Why is Confirmation usually celebrated during the Eucharist?** (*to express the unity of the Sacraments of Initiation*)
- ◆ Read aloud *The Rite of Confirmation* on page 87. Say: **Let's learn now about how the Mass for Confirmation follows a set pattern.**

- ◆ Invite a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph of *The Confirmation Mass* and *Presentation of the Candidates* on page 88. Ask: **What does standing before the bishop symbolize?** (*your desire to declare yourself a Christian and to live as one*)
- ◆ Read aloud the section Homily. Ask: **What happens during the bishop's Homily?** (*The bishop explains how the Scripture readings reveal a deeper understanding of the mystery of Confirmation.*)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of *Renewal of Baptismal Promises* on page 88 and complete the My Turn Activity.
- ◆ Have your child open the inside back cover of his or her book. Lead your child in renewing his or her baptismal promises. Point out that the words of the baptismal promises are taken from the Apostles' Creed.
- ◆ Say: **When we pour water into a large container, it flows freely and abundantly. In the Confirmation Rite, the bishop prays that God the Father will "pour out the Holy Spirit."** Read aloud the rest of *Renewal of Baptismal Promises* on page 89.
- ◆ Read aloud *Laying On of Hands* on page 89. Model the position that the bishop takes when praying the prayer of the laying on of hands: both arms outstretched with elbows slightly bent. Ask: **What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?** (*wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord*) Have your child complete the My Turn activity.
- ◆ Have your child read silently *Anointing with Chrism* on page 90. Using the description in the book, demonstrate how the *Confirmation* takes place. Say: **Just as we can never stop being someone's cousin, brother or sister, son or daughter, we can never stop being a child of God.**
- ◆ Have your child read silently *Prayer of the Faithful* on page 91. When your child has finished, ask: **How does our relationship with one another change after the Confirmation Rite?** (*We are bound together more closely.*)
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud *The Mass Continues*. Ask: **What does God's blessing enable us to do?** (*to be his children; to have courage in professing our faith; to be faithful and loving; to receive the joy of God's kingdom*)
- ◆ Have your child complete the My Turn activity and the Chapter 8 BLM: Word Search.
- ◆ Ask your child to open the Bible to Romans 8:16–17 and read aloud the Scripture passage. Say: **Saint Paul encouraged the early Christians to imitate Jesus. To be a disciple of Jesus is to try to imitate him.** Have your child read aloud *Living Your Commitment* on page 92. Ask: **How do we grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus?** (*by cooperating with the Holy Spirit*)

### Rite: Page 90

- ◆ Have your child read aloud *Rite* on page 90 and then you read aloud *Meaning*. Say: **After Jesus died, the Apostles were scared. But the Holy Spirit came to them and appeared in the form of tongues of fire to give them strength and guidance. This event is called Pentecost. We celebrate the Feast of Pentecost each year.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud *Daily Life*. Say: **After Confirmation, we have a new sense of strength and purpose, given to us by the Holy Spirit. We use these new gifts as resources when we face difficult choices and actions.**
- ◆ Read aloud *Life of Faith*. Say: **The fire we receive from Confirmation is in our heart. It is powerful and full of transformative energy that we use to be faithful followers of Christ.**

**Witness: Page 92**

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the *Witness* section on page 92. Ask: **Think about how you want your life to be in 10 years. How about in 20 years? Or in 40 years? Where does God fit into your life?** (*Accept reasonable answers.*)
- ◆ Say: **Saint Ignatius of Loyola had a different life planned. That plan changed when he saw that his life held greater purpose. Led by the Holy Spirit, Saint Ignatius looked to God for guidance and followed his direction. It is important that we, too, look for God's direction in discovering what is really important for our lives.**

**Act and Pray: Page 93**

- ◆ Read aloud the *Act* section on page 93. Ask: **What are some ways you can show you care for God's creation?** (*Accept reasonable responses.*) Say: **When we demonstrate our love for God's creation, we are doing God's will.**
- ◆ Say: **God's love surrounds you. His love is in everyone and everything.** Have your child read aloud the *Pray* section.

**Reflect: Page 94**

- ◆ Tell your child that you are going to celebrate a prayer service that will focus on their preparation for Confirmation. Proceed to your family's prayer space.
- ◆ Tell your child that Saint Ignatius of Loyola wrote the *Spiritual Exercises* as a way to help people discern God's deepest desire for them in their daily lives. The exercises involve using one's imagination and all the senses to place oneself inside a Scripture passage or a meeting with the Lord. Encourage your child to try this method as a way to enter more fully into the reflective-prayer experience.
- ◆ Choose who will read the parts for the Leader and Readers 1 through 3. You and your child will both read the parts labeled "All." Lead by example, participating actively and with reverence.
- ◆ Pray *God's Kind and Generous Love* on page 94. Adapt it to your circumstances if needed. Observe the periods of silence and keep a prayerful pace. Allow time in between sections for reflection.
- ◆ Pause for a moment of silence before concluding.
- ◆ Encourage your child to refer to and pray this prayer often during his or her preparation for Confirmation.

**Respond: Page 95–96**

- ◆ Read aloud the Faith Summary section on page 95. Ask: **When does the Holy Spirit come to us?** (*at Baptism and Confirmation*) Ask: **In what sacrament does the Holy Spirit empower us?** (*In Confirmation*) **What does the Holy Spirit empower us to do?** (*to live God's life more fully and witness to our faith more courageously*)
- ◆ Read aloud the Remember section. Make sure your child understands the main points of the chapter.
- ◆ Read aloud the Words to Know and review the definitions. Complete definitions can be found in the Glossary on pages 115–118 and in the online Glossary.

- ◆ Encourage your child to write in the *My Confirmation Journal* to enter more deeply into this chapter. Be sure that your child completes pages ii–viii at the beginning of the journal. The corresponding pages to this chapter are 71–80. Be sure that your child completes pages 81–83 at the end of his or her journal. Remind your child that no one else will read his or her journal.
- ◆ Ask your child to choose one Reach Out item to complete and to reflect privately on the outcomes.
- ◆ Encourage your child and his or her sponsor to reflect on this chapter as they strengthen their relationship and grow in their faith. They may want to use the *Faith to Faith* magazine.
- ◆ Conclude the chapter by praying together the closing prayer on page 95. Encourage your child to use this prayer throughout the week.
- ◆ Your child can use the review activities on page 96 to review and reinforce the key concepts of this chapter.
- ◆ Use the following questions to check your child’s comprehension of the chapter:
  - ◆ How well can your child explain the significance of Baptism as he or she approaches Confirmation?
  - ◆ Can your child identify the role of the bishop in the Rite of Confirmation?
  - ◆ Does your child understand how he or she can become more like Christ through the Rite of Confirmation?
- ◆ Invite your child to pray the Novena for Confirmation in the course of the last nine days of preparation before his or her Confirmation.
- ◆ Review the Candidate Requirements Checklist with your child and make sure he or she has completed all the tasks required before his or her Confirmation.

# Word Search

Find the 25 Confirmation words hidden in the box below. Look up and down, across, and diagonally. Use each word in a sentence to show how it is related to Confirmation.

L	O	P	X	C	S	P	O	N	S	O	R	B
Z	B	F	E	T	M	R	A	O	I	L	I	A
T	Q	A	F	N	W	I	B	I	S	H	O	P
S	P	I	R	I	T	P	O	T	U	A	T	T
I	G	T	N	S	D	E	S	I	S	N	G	I
R	C	H	I	E	N	A	C	S	I	D	R	S
A	O	R	E	A	A	C	V	O	W	S	O	M
H	H	R	O	L	M	E	N	P	S	X	W	C
C	C	X	T	S	E	A	I	M	V	T	T	H
U	C	H	R	I	S	M	L	I	O	C	H	U
E	D	E	H	I	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	R
I	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	F	K	X	C
V	R	I	N	I	T	I	A	T	I	O	N	H

ANOINT	BAPTISM	BISHOP	CHRISM	CHRISTIAN
CHURCH	CREED	CROSS	EUCCHARIST	FAITH
GIFTS	GROWTH	HANDS	IMPOSITION	INITIATION
NAME	OIL	PEACE	PENTECOST	SEAL
SPIRIT	SPONSOR	STRENGTH	VOWS	WITNESS