

# Profile of a First-Grade Child

(AGES 6–7)

The first grade, ages 6–7, might be considered the “golden age” of childhood. It is a time of many changes. Physically, children are growing rapidly and always seem to be losing teeth! They are very enthusiastic, industrious, active, and curious. They are experiencing an increase in motor activity and may often appear restless and easily distracted. Friendships outside of the family allow them to begin to understand the feelings of others and to develop important social skills.

## Children at this age

- ♦ are open to spiritual realities.
- ♦ have a sense of the sacred.
- ♦ have a sense of awe and wonder.
- ♦ are comfortable with prayer.
- ♦ need an atmosphere of warmth and security.
- ♦ think of God as a provider and protector.
- ♦ enjoy periods of silence.
- ♦ are capable of taking simple prayers to heart.



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## The First-Grade Program

The first-grade program of *Christ Our Life: New Evangelization Edition—God Is Good*—provides a simple overview of the mysteries of our faith. By learning about the goodness of God, who created and saved us, and the love of Jesus, your child is drawn to respond to God in friendship and in prayer. The first-grade program lays the foundation for your child's spiritual growth and the development of his or her knowledge of the Catholic faith.

New Gather and Go Forth pages at the end of every chapter reveal to children a fundamental truth—to be Catholic is to evangelize. Children grow in their knowledge and love of God and recognize the missionary heart of the Church. Inspired by the Good News, they share their most precious gift, a lived faith, with others.

**Unit 1** introduces Jesus, whose words and actions proclaim his Father's saving love. In and through Jesus, your child will come to know God as Jesus' loving Father, who is truly our Father too. Your child's wholesome self-image grows, as do loving relationships with God and others. Your child will see God's greatness in the gifts of life and freedom and in God's goodness in the other gifts of creation. Your child will hear of God's love calling him or her to eternal happiness with God in heaven.

**Unit 2** presents the goodness and mercy of God in sending us his Son as our Savior. Your child is taught about God's gifts to Adam and Eve and their destiny to live with God forever. He or she will learn how sin changed God's plan but brought the promise of a Redeemer,

the Son of God, who would win back for the human family a share in God's life and the possibility of eternal happiness in heaven. Your child is led to share God's love with everyone but especially with the members of your family. The Advent and Christmas lessons of this unit prepare your child for a meaningful celebration of these seasons.

**Unit 3** presents Jesus revealing the Father's love through the words and deeds of his public life. Your child will learn that Jesus teaches us to love God with our whole heart and to love others as he loves us. As your child sees Jesus reaching out to heal, encourage, and dispel fear, and hears him calling apostles to continue his ministry of reconciliation and healing love, he or she will be led to respond to the needs of others with Christlike concern.

**Unit 4** presents the Paschal Mystery: how Christ, by his suffering, Death, and Resurrection, reconciled the human family to God. Your child will learn that, because of Christ's victory over sin and death, all people can once more share in God's holiness. Your child is introduced to the mystery of the Church as the family of God, led on earth by the pope and bishops. Your child will learn that the risen Jesus is with him or her through his Spirit and that he helps us spread the Gospel message and give glory to God.