

NOTE TO FAMILIES

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AGES 5-6

Goals of the Program

The *God Loves Us* program of the *Christ Our Life* series is designed to make young children aware of God's love through the many good and beautiful people, events, and things he has placed in their lives. Each chapter leads the children to appreciate their uniqueness and sense God's presence in all the wonderful things around them. As the year progresses, children are introduced to themes designed to lead them toward a greater desire to love God in return through their prayers and acts of kindness for others.

Format Designed for a Family Program



Because your faith makes a profound impact on your child, the *Christ Our Life* series provides a Building Family Faith feature at the end of each chapter, which summarizes the chapter's message. This feature also offers suggestions for living the message in your family. Since the children's text contains the message, you are encouraged to read it over with your child each week after the material has been presented in your child's religious education class.



Each unit ends with a Growing Faith feature to further nurture your family's faith and provide activities to do at home. A Celebrating Faith feature ends each Special Seasons and Days lesson, offering background information on saints and seasons of the Church, as well as suggestions for additional family-centered faith experiences.

Visit www.christourlife.com/family for more family resources.



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Educating Your Child to Live in Christ Jesus

As parents, you have a sacred trust. You are the primary religious educators of your child. God calls you to nurture not only the physical life of your child but also the life of grace he or she received at Baptism. This responsibility requires that you grow in your own faith and share your faith with your family. Here are some ways to deepen your relationship with God and with your family this year:

- Set aside a time (about 15 minutes) and a quiet place for private prayer each day. Read the Bible, Bible commentaries, or spiritual books, and listen to the Lord speak to you. Respond to him.
- Set aside a time for family prayer each day, preferably at mealtimes.
- Celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays or Saturday evenings as a family, if possible. Children learn much from your example of prayer.
- Make reconciliation—forgiving and being forgiven—a part of family living. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) regularly.
- Attend adult faith formation programs scheduled in your parish.
- Involve your whole family in service projects for the Church and civic community.
- Proudly live out your faith at home, at work, in the neighborhood, and in the world.



10 Principles to Nurture Your Child's Faith

- 1 Listen with your heart as well as with your head.
- 2 Encourage wonder and curiosity in your child.
- 3 Coach your child in empathy early. It's a building block for morality.
- 4 Display religious artwork in your home. This will serve as a steady witness that faith is an important part of life.
- 5 Gently guide your child to a life of honesty.
- 6 Whenever appropriate, model for your child how to say, "I'm sorry."
- 7 Eat meals together regularly as a family. It will be an anchor for your child in days to come.
- 8 Pray together in good times and bad. Worship regularly together as a family.
- 9 Be generous to those who need help. Make helping others an important focus of your life as a family.
- 10 See the wonder that God made in your child. Communicate your conviction that your child was created for a noble purpose—to serve God and others in this life and to be happy with God forever in the next.