

Jesus Shows Us How to Love God Our Father

FOCUS: In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that when we obey God's commandments and love God with all our hearts, we are happy.

Jesus' mission on earth was to show us the Father's love and to bring us to him. Jesus showed us how to keep the Father's Word and how to pray. Above all, prayer is listening to God. Prayer strengthens our relationship with God. A prayerful attitude makes us aware of what the Lord has done for us. Our daily prayer is a continuation of the gift of love we offer to the Father at each Mass. As we praise God's name for that love, our lives are shaped by Christ's gift of himself, which unites us to God and to one another.

Basically, the Christian life consists of listening and responding to God as Jesus taught. To live as a Christian is to believe that the Father's love is at work in everything and to return his love by doing the things that please him. As we follow Christ, we experience the joy that comes from above, the joy that no one can take from us.

Scripture in This Chapter

Psalms 139:1–5 God's Watchfulness

Mark 12:30 Love of God

John 15:10–11 Fullness of Joy

1 John 2:3 Keep His Commandments.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1166, 2143–2144, 2173, 2599, 2765

In this chapter, help your child to

- ✦ explain that God satisfies our longing for happiness.
- ✦ explain the first three commandments of God.
- ✦ discuss how he or she can respond to God by prayer throughout the day.
- ✦ explain why we use God's name reverently.
- ✦ describe how celebrating the Lord's Day manifests love.

Words Your Child Should Know

- ✦ commandments
- ✦ Lord's Day
- ✦ Ten Commandments

Key Terms for Your Information

- ✦ Abba—a Hebrew word for *Father*
- ✦ hallowed—holy
- ✦ reverence—a great respect for someone or something