

Eucharist, Chapter 1 – WE BELONG

What We Will Learn:

In your time together your family will deepen its understanding and living of the Church's faith. The faith theme of this lesson is:

Baptism makes us sharers in the life of God. This sacrament joins us to Christ and to the members of the church community.

- **Preparation:** Read and reflect on the background essay.

Step One: Celebrate the Ritual

- **Gathering**

Gather your family around a table on which there is a large bowl of water. Invite everyone to become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized.

ALL: *Making the sign of the cross, say,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
You are with us as we come together in prayer
Send the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to your word.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son.

ALL: Amen

Point out that after each family member thanks God for the gift of their Baptism, you will bless yourselves with water. Invite your child to thank God quietly, or pray a brief prayer of thanksgiving with your child.

LEADER: Now let us each dip our right hand into the water and bless ourselves, making the sign of the cross.
As each person blesses themselves, say,
(Name), be blessed by this water and remember the gift of your Baptism.

ALL: Amen.

- Invite everyone to share what it was like to experience the family ritual. Be sure to affirm all responses.
- Open the child's book to pages 4 and 5. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the photographs.
- Read, discuss, and complete the rest of page 5.

Step Two: Share the Scripture Story

- Look at the illustration on pages 6 and 7. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the illustration.
- Point out the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as they listen to the Scripture story.

Proclaim or invite someone to proclaim the Scripture story “The Baptism of Jesus” (Matthew 3:13-17) from your family Bible. An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 6 of your child’s Eucharist book.

LEADER: Let us now listen to a story from the Bible.

READER: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and over their heart, saying, Glory to you, Lord.*

READER: *Proclaim the Scripture. Conclude the reading, saying, The gospel of the Lord.*

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

- Read, discuss, and complete pages 6 and 7. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”

Step Three: Discover the Faith of the Church

- Look at the photograph about Baptism on pages 8 and 9. Ask your child how water is being used in the photograph.
- Point out and read the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read these pages.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 8 and 9. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”
- Explain that when we make the sign of the cross, we remember that we are baptized. Be sure that you child can pray the Sign of the Cross.
- Look at the photographs about Confirmation on pages 10 and 11. Point out that the bishop is anointing the person’s forehead with chrism. Explain that chrism is also used at Baptism.
- Point out the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read these pages.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 10 and 11. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”

Step Four: Make a Difference

- Read, discuss, and complete page 12. Encourage everyone to share a faith choice.
- Read, discuss, and complete page 13. Choose one activity from “Sharing Together” that will help you live your faith as a family.
- Turn to the back of the child’s book and punch out the Scripture card “The Baptism of Jesus.” Talk about the card and where you can keep it to serve as a reminder of this lesson and your time together.

Step Five: Closing

Conclude your time together by using this prayer or one of your own choosing. Begin by blessing yourselves, saying,

ALL: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
we thank you for the gift of our Baptism.
You welcome us into your Church.
Send us the Holy Spirit to help us learn to live as children of God.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
we thank you for the gift of new life
that you have given us in Baptism.
May the Holy Spirit help us live as followers of Jesus.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Eucharist, Chapter 2 – WE GATHER

What We Will Learn:

In your time together your family will deepen its understanding and living of the Church's faith. The faith theme of this lesson is:

God calls our church family together to celebrate Mass. At Mass we worship God. We give thanks to God, listen to God's word, and break bread as the first Christians did.

- **Preparation:** Read and reflect on the background essay. This will help you understand where this lesson fits into your own life.

Step One: Celebrate the Ritual

- **Ritual Entrance Procession**

With a leader holding a cross, invite the entire family to process through the inside or the outside of your home to the place where you will gather for prayer. Invite everybody to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

- **Gathering**

Alternative: Place a cross on a table you have prepared for the ritual. Invite your family to come forward silently and gather around the cross. Ask them to settle themselves and become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

LEADER: Let us begin by praying the Sign of the Cross, which reminds us of our Baptism.

ALL: *Making the sign of the cross, say,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father, we gather around the cross of your Son, Jesus. Send the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to your word. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son.

ALL: Amen.

- Invite everyone to share what it was like to experience the family ritual. Be sure to affirm all responses.
- Open the child's book to pages 14 and 15. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the photographs.
- Read, discuss, and complete the rest of page 15.

Step Two: Share the Scripture Story

- Look at the illustration on pages 16 and 17. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the illustration.
- Point out the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as they listen to the Scripture story.

Proclaim or invite someone to proclaim the Scripture story “The First Christians” (Acts of the Apostles 2:41-47) from your family Bible. An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 16 of your child’s Eucharist book.

LEADER: Let us listen to the word of God.

READER: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and over their heart, saying, Glory to you, Lord.*

READER: *Proclaim the Scripture. Conclude the reading, saying, The word of the Lord.*

ALL: Thanks be to God.

- Read, discuss, and complete pages 16 and 17. Explain that the first Christians did not have churches like the ones we have today. Instead they gathered in homes. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”

Step Three: Discover the Faith of the Church

- Look at the photographs showing the introductory rites of the Mass on pages 18 and 19. Ask your child to describe what they see.
- Read the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read these pages.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 18 and 19. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”
- You might like to use pages 62 and 63 of your child’s *Eucharist* book to help your child better understand and become familiar with the rites and prayers of the introductory rites of the Mass.

Step Four: Make a Difference

- Read, discuss, and complete page 20. Encourage everyone to share a faith choice.
- Read, discuss, and complete page 21. Then choose one activity from “Sharing Together” that will help you live your faith as a family.
- Turn to the back of the child’s book and punch out the Scripture card “The First Christians.” Talk about the card and where you can keep it to serve as a reminder of this lesson and your time together.

Step Five: Closing

Conclude your time together by using this prayer or one of your own choosing. Begin by blessing yourselves, saying,

ALL: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: Let us pray.
God, our loving Father,
today we gather around the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Send us the Holy Spirit to help us remember to follow Jesus
every day.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: God, our Creator,
we praise you for your generous love for us.
We thank you for sending us your Son, Jesus.
Send us the Holy Spirit to help us live
as your children.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

- **Ritual Recessional Procession**

Invite everyone to once again follow the cross in procession around the inside or the outside of your home.

Eucharist, Chapter 3 – WE LISTEN

What We Will Learn:

In your time together your family will deepen its understanding and living of the Church's faith. The faith theme of this lesson is:

The Bible, or Sacred Scripture, which is proclaimed during the Liturgy of the Word, is God's own word to us.

- **Preparation:** Read and reflect on the background essay.

Step One: Celebrate the Ritual

- **Gathering**

Gather your family for prayer around a Bible. Invite everyone to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

LEADER: Let us begin by remembering our Baptism by praying the Sign of the Cross.

ALL: *Making the sign of the cross, say,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
You are with us as we gather around the Sacred Scriptures.
May we remember your word in our thoughts.
 Invite everyone to make the sign of the cross on their forehead.
May we remember your word when we speak.
 Invite everyone to make the sign of the cross on their lips.
May we remember your word in our hearts.
 Invite everyone to make the sign of the cross over their heart.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

- Invite everyone to share what it was like to experience the family ritual. Be sure to affirm all responses.
- Open the child's book to pages 22 and 23. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the photographs.
- Read, discuss, and complete the rest of page 23.

Step Two: Share the Scripture Story

- Look at the illustration on pages 24 and 25. Ask your child to describe what is happening in the illustration.
- Point out the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as they listen to the Scripture story.

Proclaim or invite someone to proclaim the Scripture story “Samuel Listens to God” (1 Samuel 3:1-10) from your family Bible. An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 26 of your child’s Eucharist book.

LEADER: The Bible is God’s own word to us. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us listen to the word of God by making the sign of the cross on our forehead, lips, and over our heart.

READER: A reading from the First book of Samuel.
Proclaim the Scripture. Conclude the reading, saying,
The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

- Read, discuss, and complete pages 24 and 25. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”
- Explain that our response to the first two readings at Mass is “Thanks be to God.” Ask your child, “Why do you think we thank God after listening to the Scripture readings at Mass?” (Possible responses would include: God’s word to us is a gift. God speaks to us because he cares for us and loves us.)

Step Three: Discover the Faith of the Church

- Look at the photographs on pages 26 and 27. Ask your child to describe what they see.
- Read the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read these pages.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 26 and 27. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”
- You might like to use pages 64 and 65 of your child’s *Eucharist* book to help your child better understand and become familiar with the Liturgy of the Word rites and prayers of the Mass.

Step Four: Make a Difference

- Read, discuss, and complete page 28. Encourage everyone to share a faith choice.
- Read, discuss, and complete page 29. Choose one activity from “Sharing Together” that will help you live your faith as a family.
- Turn to the back of the child’s book and punch out the Scripture card “Samuel Listens to God.” Talk about the card and where you can keep it to serve as a reminder of this lesson and your time together.

Step Five: Closing

Conclude your time together by using this prayer or one of your own choosing. Begin by blessing yourselves, saying,

ALL: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
today we gather to listen to your word.
Send us the Holy Spirit to help us listen to and follow your word.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

READER: A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

ALL: Glory to you, Lord.

READER: *Proclaim Mark 10:13-14. Conclude by saying,*
The gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

LEADER: God has spoken his word to us.
May he bless us with gifts of the Holy Spirit.
May he give us courage to live as his children.
May God bless us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Eucharist, Chapter 4 – WE GIVE THANKS

What We Will Learn:

In your time together your family will deepen its understanding and living of the Church's faith. The faith theme of this lesson is:

We worship God as the source of all goodness and blessings. God always loves and cares for us.

- **Preparation:** Read and reflect on the background essay.

Step One: Celebrate the Ritual

- **Gathering**

Gather your family around a table where you have placed a variety of breads in a basket. Invite everyone to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized.

ALL: *Making the sign of the cross, say,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
you have called us to come together
in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.
We give thanks for the love and care you have for us.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Pass the basket of breads among family members and invite everyone to share the bread.

LEADER: Now we will pass the basket of breads around.
When you pass the basket, offer it, saying, "Jesus is the
Bread of Life." When you receive the basket,
respond, "Thank you."

All: *Take a piece or several pieces of bread, pass the basket to another person, and then eat the bread.*

- Invite everyone to share what it was like to experience the family ritual. Be sure to affirm all responses.
- Open the child's book to pages 30 and 31. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the photographs.
- Read, discuss, and complete the rest of page 31.

Step Two: Share the Scripture Story

- Look at the illustration on pages 32 and 33. Ask your child to describe what is happening in the illustration.
- Point out the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as they listen to the Scripture story.

Proclaim or invite someone to proclaim the Scripture story “Jesus Feeds the People” (Luke 9:10-17) from your family Bible. An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 32 of your child’s Eucharist book.

LEADER: Let us make the sign of the cross on our forehead, lips, and over our heart and ask the Holy Spirit to help us listen to the word of God.

READER: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and over their heart, saying, Glory to you, Lord.*

READER: *Proclaim the Scripture. Conclude the reading, saying, The gospel of the Lord.*

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

- Read, discuss, and complete pages 32 and 33. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”

Step Three: Discover the Faith of the Church

- Look at the photographs on pages 34 and 35. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the pictures.
- Read the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 34 and 35. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.” Emphasize that all our blessings come from God.
- You might like to use pages 66 and 67 of your child’s *Eucharist* book to help your child better understand and become familiar with the rites and prayers of the preparation of the altar and gifts and of the preface.

Step Four: Make a Difference

- Read, discuss, and complete page 36. Encourage everyone to share a faith choice.
- Read, discuss, and complete page 37. Choose one activity from “Sharing Together” that will help you live your faith as a family.
- Turn to the back of the child’s book and punch out the Scripture card “Jesus Feeds the People.” Talk about the card and where you can keep it to serve as a reminder of this lesson and your time together.

Step Five: Closing

Conclude your time together by using this prayer or one of your own choosing. Begin by blessing yourselves, saying,

ALL: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
All our blessings are from you.
Today we celebrate your love.
We gather to share the love you give us
and to give you thanks.
Send us the Holy Spirit to help us remember
to give you thanks every day.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Let us thank God for the gifts he has given us.

ALL: Thank you, Lord.

LEADER: For food,

ALL: Thank you, Lord.

LEADER: For our family,

ALL: Thank you, Lord.

LEADER: For our Church,

ALL: Thank you, Lord.

LEADER: God is the source of all our blessings.
May he bless us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
May he fill our hearts with joy.
May God bless us, the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Eucharist, Chapter 5 – WE REMEMBER

What We Will Learn:

In your time together your family will deepen its understanding and living of the Church's faith. The faith theme of this lesson is:

Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

- **Preparation:** Read and reflect on the background essay.

Step One: Celebrate the Ritual

- **Gathering**

Gather your family around a table where you have placed bread and grapes. Invite everyone to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized by
praying the Sign of the Cross.

ALL: *Making the sign of the cross, say,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
You are with us as we gather to remember your Son, Jesus.
Send the Holy Spirit to open our hearts
to listen to your presence with us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Point out that when we gather as a community for Mass, we come together to remember Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. During the Eucharistic prayer, we pray or sing the memorial acclamation.

LEADER: Repeat after me as we pray the memorial acclamation. (*You may say or sing this acclamation.*)

LEADER: When we eat this bread,
All: When we eat this bread,

LEADER: When we drink this cup,
All: When we drink this cup,

LEADER: We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
All: We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,

LEADER: Until you come in glory.
All: Until you come in glory.

- Invite everyone to share what it was like to experience the family ritual. Be sure to affirm all responses.
- Open the child's book to pages 38 and 39. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the photographs.
- Read, discuss, and complete the rest of page 39.

Step Two: Share the Scripture Story

- Look at the illustration on pages 40 and 41. Ask your child to describe what is happening in the illustration.
- Point out the "Faith Focus" question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as they listen to the Scripture story.

Proclaim or invite someone to proclaim the Scripture story "The Last Supper" (Luke 22:17-20) from your family Bible. An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 32 of your child's Eucharist book.

LEADER: God is with us in a special way
when we listen to his word, the Bible.
Let us make a sign of the cross on our forehead,
lips, and over our heart and ask the
Holy Spirit to help us listen to the word of God.

READER: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and over their heart, saying, Glory to you, Lord.*

READER: *Proclaim the Scripture. Conclude the reading, saying,
The gospel of the Lord.*

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

- Read, discuss, and complete pages 40 and 41. Pay special attention to "Together as a Family."

Step Three: Discover the Faith of the Church

- Look at the photographs on pages 42 and 43. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the pictures.
- Read the "Faith Focus" question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 42 and 43. Pay special attention to "Together as a Family."
- Help your child discover how the different names the Church gives to the Eucharist help them come to a better understanding of the Eucharist.
- You might like to use pages 67 and 68 of your child's book to help your child better understand and become familiar with the rites and prayers of the eucharistic prayer.

Step Four: Make a Difference

- Read, discuss, and complete page 44. Encourage everyone to share a faith choice.
- Read, discuss, and complete page 45. Choose one activity from “Sharing Together” that will help you live your faith as a family.
- Turn to the back of the child’s book and punch out the Scripture card “The Last Supper.” Talk about the card and where you can keep it to serve as a reminder of this lesson and your time together.

Step Five: Closing

Conclude your time together by using this prayer or one of your own choosing. Begin by blessing yourselves, saying,

ALL: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
Today we gather to remember your Son, Jesus Christ.
We know that Jesus is always with us.
Send us the Holy Spirit to help us live as Jesus taught us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.

LEADER: By his death and resurrection,
Jesus has shown God’s great love for us.
May the love of God fill our hearts.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: May the Holy Spirit help us share
God’s love with others.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: May almighty God bless us, the Father,
and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Eucharist, Chapter 6 – WE CELEBRATE

What We Will Learn:

In your time together your family will deepen its understanding and living of the Church's faith. The faith theme of this lesson is:

Sharing the Eucharist in Holy Communion strengthens our union with Christ and with the church community.

- **Preparation:** Read and reflect on the background essay.

Step One: Celebrate the Ritual

- **Gathering**

Gather your family around a table where you have placed a lit candle. Invite everyone to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized.

ALL: *Making the sign of the cross, say,*
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
You give us the gift of new life in Jesus, your Son.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to your word
and to help us share the gift of Jesus with others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Point out that at church, the Easter candle reminds us of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The light of the Easter candle reminds us that Jesus is present with us.

LEADER: To celebrate that Jesus is with us, let us pray the prayer Jesus gave us.

All: Our Father...

LEADER: Jesus gave us the gift of peace.
Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

All: Share a sign of peace.

- Invite everyone to share what it was like to experience the family ritual. Be sure to affirm all responses.
- Open the child's book to pages 46 and 47. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the photographs.
- Read, discuss, and complete the rest of page 47.

Step Two: Share the Scripture Story

- Look at the illustration on pages 48 and 49. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the illustration.
- Point out the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as they listen to the Scripture story.

Proclaim or invite someone to proclaim the Scripture story “The Road to Emmaus” (Luke 24:13-35) from your family Bible. An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 48 of your child’s Eucharist book.

LEADER: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us listen to the word of God.

READER: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and over their heart, saying, Glory to you, Lord.*

READER: *Proclaim the Scripture. Conclude the reading, saying, The gospel of the Lord.*

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

- Read, discuss, and complete pages 48 and 49. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”

Step Three: Discover the Faith of the Church

- Look at the photographs on pages 50 and 51. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the pictures.
- Read the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 50 and 51. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”
- Emphasize that the consecrated bread and consecrated wine we receive at Mass are really and truly the Body and Blood of Christ.
- You might like to use pages 69-71 of your child’s *Eucharist* book to help your child better understand and become familiar with the rites and prayers of the communion rite of the Mass.

Step Four: Make a Difference

- Read, discuss, and complete page 52. Encourage everyone to share a faith choice.
- Read, discuss, and complete page 53. Choose one activity from “Sharing Together” that will help you live your faith as a family.
- Turn to the back of the child’s book and punch out the Scripture card “The Road to Emmaus.” Talk about the card and where you can keep it to serve as a reminder of this lesson and your time together.

Step Five: Closing

Conclude your time together by using this prayer or one of your own choosing. Begin by blessing yourselves, saying,

ALL: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
You have given us the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Send us the Holy Spirit to help us share Christ's love
and peace with others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father, gives us food from heaven,
the Bread of Life. May the lord bless us and keep us.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: May his face shine upon us and be gracious to us.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: May he look upon us with kindness and give us his peace.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: May almighty God bless us, the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Eucharist, Chapter 7 – WE LIVE

What We Will Learn:

In your time together your family will deepen its understanding and living of the Church's faith. The faith theme of this lesson is:

Sharing the Eucharist strengthens us to live as disciples of Christ and share in the mission of the Church.

- **Preparation:** Read and reflect on the background essay.

Step One: Celebrate the Ritual

- **Gathering**

Gather your family around a table where you have placed a small glass bowl of fragrant oil. Invite everyone to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized.

ALL: *Making the sign of the cross, say,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
you give us the Holy Spirit as our helper and guide.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to listen to your word.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son.

ALL: Amen.

Explain that you will anoint the palms of each person's hands with oil, making the sign of the cross while you say, "You have the gift of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Point out that all will respond, "Thanks be to God," as they rub their hands together, rubbing the oil into their hands.

LEADER: *In a small glass bowl, which you have placed on the table, mix olive oil and a few drops of a fragrant oil. Dip the thumb of your right hand into the oil. Then make the sign of the cross on the palms of each person's hands, saying, (Name), you have the gift of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

ALL: *Rubbing their hands together, respond, Thanks be to God.*

- Invite everyone to share what it was like to experience the family ritual. Be sure to affirm all responses.
- Open the child's book to pages 54 and 55. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the photographs.
- Read, discuss, and complete the rest of page 55.

Step Two: Share the Scripture Story

- Look at the illustration on pages 56 and 57. Ask your child to describe what is happening in the illustration.
- Point out the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as they listen to the Scripture story.

Proclaim or invite someone to proclaim the Scripture story “The Gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts of the Apostles 1:12, 2:1-42) from your family Bible. An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 56 of your child’s Eucharist book.

LEADER: Let us make a sign of the cross on our forehead, lips, and over our heart and ask the Holy Spirit to help us listen to the word of God.

READER: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
Proclaim the Scripture. Conclude the reading, saying,
The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

- Read, discuss, and complete pages 56 and 57. Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”

Step Three: Discover the Faith of the Church

- Look at the photographs on pages 58 and 59. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the pictures.
- Read the “Faith Focus” question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 58 and 59. Explain that the word *Mass* comes from a word that means “to be sent out.” Pay special attention to “Together as a Family.”
- Help your child discover how the different names the Church gives to the Eucharist help them come to a better understanding of the Eucharist.
- You might like to use page 71 of your child’s *Eucharist* book to help your child better understand and become familiar with the rites and prayers of the concluding rite of the Mass.

Step Four: Make a Difference

- Read, discuss, and complete page 60. Encourage everyone to share a faith choice.
- Read, discuss, and complete page 61. Choose one activity from “Sharing Together” that will help you live your faith as a family.
- Turn to the back of the child’s book and punch out the Scripture card “The Gift of the Holy Spirit.” Talk about the card and where you can keep it to serve as a reminder of this lesson and your time together.

Step Five: Closing

Conclude your time together by using this prayer or one of your own choosing. Begin by blessing yourselves, saying,

ALL: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
Today our hands were anointed with oil.
We were reminded that at Baptism we received
the gift of the Holy Spirit and were anointed as
followers of your Son.
Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit
who helps us live as Jesus taught us.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: May the Holy Spirit be with us to help us
live our lives every day.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: May almighty God bless us, the Father,
and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.