

# Profile of a Fifth-Grade Child

(AGES 10–11)

Children at this age love to learn factual information. They have mastered the rules of most games, school, and family and are in love with order. It is a time of significant cognitive growth marked by the beginning of abstract thought. They are developing a sense of community and enjoy participating in planning. It is also a time of physical changes with the onset of puberty—especially for girls, whose physical development is normally ahead of that of boys. With the excitement and confusion that can occur at this time, it is a critical time for faith formation.

## Children at this age

- ♦ are interested in preparing for and participating in meaningful liturgy and prayer.
- ♦ love symbols and ritual.
- ♦ enjoy Bible stories (especially about Jesus) and the lives of the saints.
- ♦ have a need for acceptance by the Church community.
- ♦ are beginning to recognize how they can use their gifts to serve the community.
- ♦ enjoy quiet.
- ♦ are capable of reflecting for longer periods of time.
- ♦ are capable of taking more complex prayers to heart.
- ♦ have a desire to experience prayer that is focused on emotionally confusing issues and conflicts.



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## The Fifth-Grade Program

The fifth-grade program of *Christ Our Life: New Evangelization Edition—We Worship*—focuses on the sacraments, especially the Eucharist as the center of Christian life. This program is designed to help your child realize the wonderful gift God has given us in sharing his divine life. Your child is shown how to celebrate this life and deepen it through the liturgy. He or she is encouraged to foster it by following the commandments that guide us in loving our neighbor.

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** helps your child to reflect on worship. Your child will see Jesus as a model of worship, someone to follow in prayer, loving service, and sacrifice. Your child will learn how the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist) draw us into worship by making us children of God and members of God's holy people.

**Unit 2** takes an in-depth look at the Eucharist, our most important form of worship. Your child will study the rites of our celebration of Christ's saving acts. The lessons will challenge your child to welcome the Word of God by listening to God's message and responding to it generously. He or she will be encouraged to

offer thanks to God the Father through Jesus by uniting himself or herself with Jesus' sacrifice. Your child will be encouraged to live the Mass by proclaiming God's love through words and deeds.

**Unit 3** focuses on the Sacraments of Healing. Your child will be led to appreciate God's love and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Your child will study the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and will be encouraged to reach out with Christian love to those who are sick and elderly.

**Unit 4** is devoted to everyone's call to holiness. Your child will consider how the various vocations can lead a person to holiness. As your child studies the different vocations, he or she will come to see how God helps people through prayer and the sacraments. Your child will learn about the Sacraments at the Service of Communion—Matrimony and Holy Orders—and will be guided in the process of discerning his or her personal vocation.

**Unit 5** develops an appreciation for living as followers of Christ and as true worshipers of the Father. Your child will review the Fifth through Tenth Commandments and will learn about the works of mercy.