

# Followers of Jesus

## Unit 5 Chapter 17

Grade 1

### Background: Living as Christians

Some people love others because they hope to be loved in return. Christian love, however, is different. Christians try to reach out in kindness and understanding to others without expecting anything in return. Such love is called *agape*, or "selfless love."

The first Church members tried to love one another as Jesus had done throughout his life. They prayed together and celebrated the Eucharist. They shared their food with one another and helped people who were poor.

Today, we try to live as the first Christians did by loving and helping others. We give witness to our faith in Jesus Christ and his message of God's love. This is what it means to say that the Church is *catholic*. The Church offers the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people in all times.

### Getting Ready

1. Before introducing Chapter 17 to your child, read the Take Home pages 193 and 194 of your child's book. Gather the family at a convenient time during the week to participate in the Activity on page 193.
2. With your child, read about Saint Peter the Apostle, the Saint of the Week. Learn more about him at [SaintsResource.com](http://SaintsResource.com).
3. Invite your child to look at the illustration in the Scripture Background section on page 194. Explain that in this chapter you will read the story of how the first Church members celebrated the Eucharist. Later, take personal time to read the Scripture Background section and the suggested Scripture passages.
4. Explain to your child that the photograph in the Our Catholic Tradition section shows the domes of the Cathedral of St. Basil in Moscow, Russia. Point out that the colorful domes help the people think of Heaven.



### Focus

Christians try to live and act like Jesus. They pray together, share, and help those in need.

### The Church Teaches

[The parish] is the place where all the faithful can be gathered together for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. The parish initiates the Christian people into the ordinary expression of the liturgical life: it gathers them together in this celebration; it teaches Christ's saving doctrine; it practices the charity of the Lord in good works and brotherly love: . . .

*Catechism of the Catholic Church 2179*

### Prayer

Holy Spirit, guide the leaders of our parish. Fill them with wisdom and give them the gift of understanding. Be with parishioners who are in need of healing and with the families of those who have died this day. Help my family appreciate the gift of our parish community. Show us how we can love and serve our family in faith. Amen.

## Exploring the Chapter

### Share

1. Light the candle. Pray aloud the Scripture verse at the top of page 195. Talk about things that fill you with joy. Pray again the Scripture verse.
2. Read aloud the Share section. Talk about other things you can do with friends.
3. Read aloud the directions to the Activity and give your child time to complete it. Discuss his or her drawing.

### Hear and Believe

4. Discuss the illustration on page 196. Explain that some of the first Christians are sharing a meal together. Read aloud *The First Christians*. Talk about all the things they did together.
5. Read aloud *Acting as Christians* and the *We Believe* statement at the top of page 197. Ask your child when we are true Christians. (*When we show love to others*) Review the Faith Word **faith** and invite your child to write the word in the Write-in Glossary at the back of his or her book.
6. Read aloud *Our Church Teaches*. Invite your child to recall specific times when we say the word Amen. Review the Faith Word **Amen** and have your child write the word in the Write-in Glossary.
7. Read the directions to the activity and give your child time to complete it.

### Respond

8. Take a moment to look at the illustration on pages 198 and 199. Read aloud *Saint Paul's Parish*, then discuss the illustration and all the ways the people of the parish are showing love to others. Talk about ways the people in your parish show love to others too.
9. Read the directions and invite your child to complete the Word Search puzzle on page 199.
10. Take the part of Leader and Reader 1. Invite your child to take the part of Reader 2 and to pray the All response, "Amen," with you. Read aloud the introduction and then pray together *A Prayer of Faith* on page 200. You may wish to conclude by singing the Unit Song on page 192.
11. Have your child complete the Chapter Review. See page 48 of this guide for the answer key.
12. Work with your child to complete *Faith in Action* on page 202. It highlights the Catholic Social Teaching of **The Rights of All People (Rights and Responsibilities)**.

*We really liked . . .*

*We want to learn  
more about . . .*