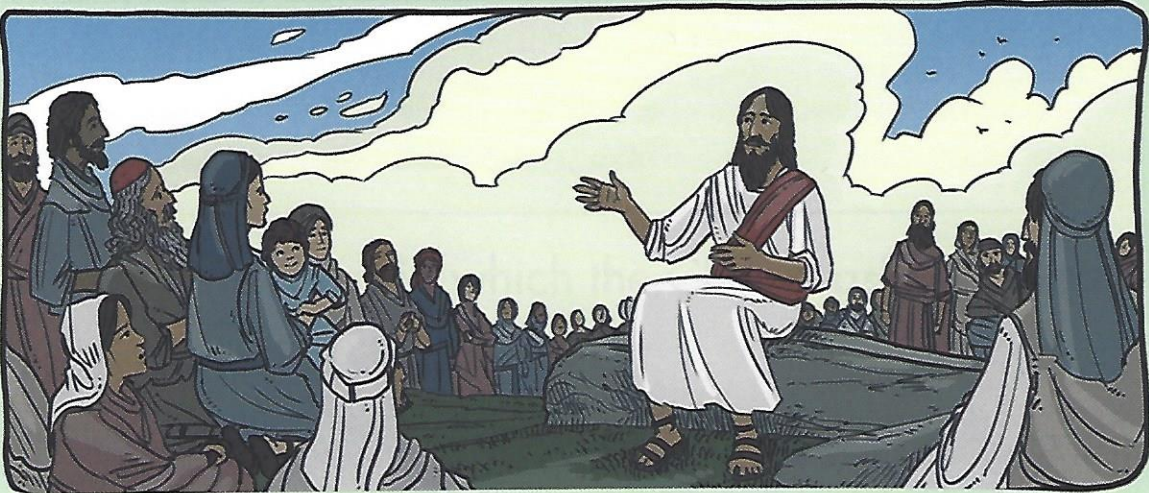
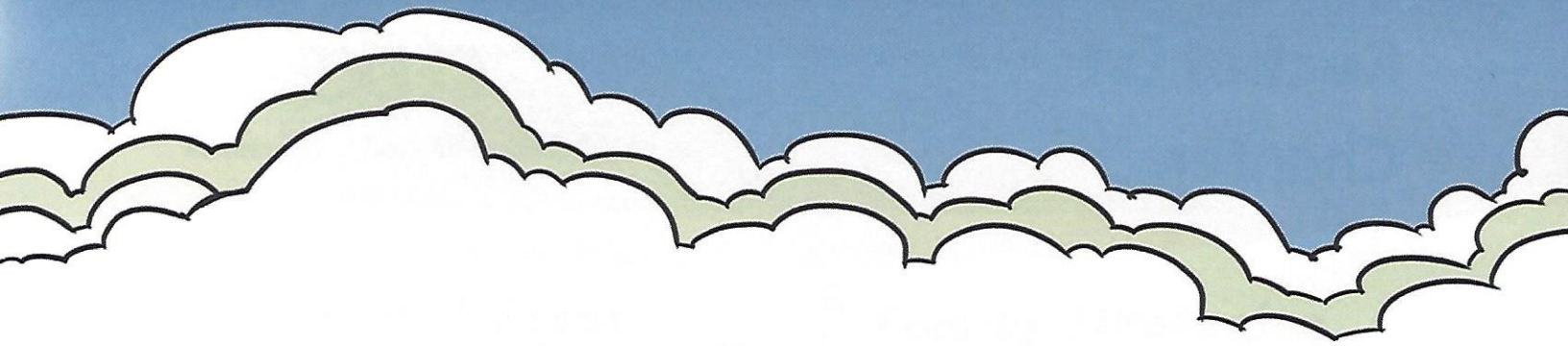


We Ask for Forgiveness

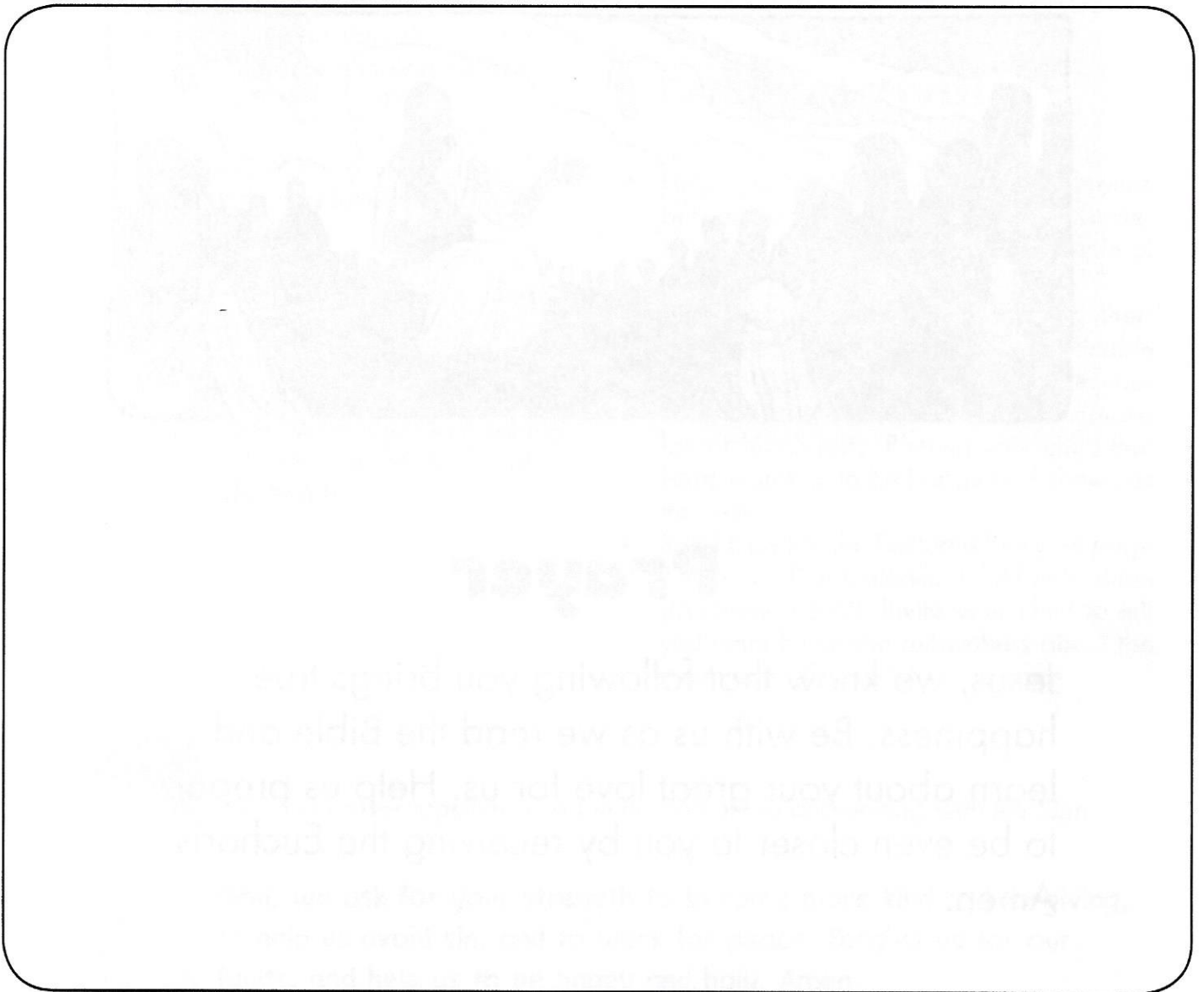


Prayer

Jesus, we know that following you brings true happiness. Be with us as we read the Bible and learn about your great love for us. Help us prepare to be even closer to you by receiving the Eucharist. Amen.



Write one of the three ways we should act to be happy on the line below. Then draw a picture in the box of someone acting that way.





Complete the sentences with the words given below.

Penitential Act

forgiveness

mercy

sin

The _____ is a prayer in the Mass in which the Church asks for God's forgiveness.

God's love and forgiveness is called _____.

A _____ is something we say or do that hurts our relationship with God and with others.

We pray for God's _____ to prepare us to receive the Eucharist.

Family Page

Background Focus

Eating together is a sign of unity and love. If we think back to some of our most happy and significant moments with family and friends, they often involve food and drink. We may also have direct experience of the importance of making up our differences before we sit down to eat together in order to preserve this sign of unity and love.

When we gather around the table at Mass, we do something similar. We ask for forgiveness and for the prayers and support of the community in the Penitential Act. This helps us prepare to receive the Eucharistic meal with awareness of the great gift that it is and honor the unity and love that it offers to us.

This chapter provides an opportunity to make the connection between being truly happy and being a person who is merciful, pure of heart, and focused on peace. Forgiveness is at the center of each of these key characteristics and is an important part of our preparation to receive the Eucharist with happy and joyful hearts.

Family Strategies

Modeling healthy forgiveness in your family is a powerful influence for helping your child understand the importance of seeking and offering forgiveness as a follower of Jesus. Take time regularly to discuss actions in your home that need forgiveness, and make sure to ask your child for forgiveness when you have made a mistake that affects him or her.

Family Activities

- Help your child recall the difference between a sin and an accident or mistake. Ask your child to give you an example of each.
- View the following YouTube video together: "Pharrell Williams – Happy" (*Despicable Me 2 – Lyric Video*) (3:53). Invite your child to share some of the things that make her or him happy. Remind your child that Jesus wants us to be happy and shows us the way.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1456 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 5:6–9). Invite your child to tell you what he or she remembers about the meaning of this Scripture passage.

Pray It!

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

God, we ask for your strength to become more kind and forgiving, to help us avoid sin, and to work for peace. Forgive us for our faults, and help us to be happy and holy. Amen.

