

Chapter 6

Featured Story

Jesus Prays That His Followers Will Be United
(John 17:9–23)

Lesson Goals

- to express that Jesus wants his followers to be united in faith
- to identify that proclaiming the Nicene Creed together is a sign of our unity
- to recognize the core beliefs expressed in the Nicene Creed

Lesson at a Glance

- 🏠 Go** (10 minutes)
Opening Prayer
Engage Activity
- 📖 Seek** (30 minutes)
Featured Story
Core Learning Activity
- ✂ Find** (20 minutes)
God's Treasure of the Eucharist
Lesson Wrap-Up
Closing Prayer

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible* and chapter 6 activity booklet
- a computer with Internet access

Music Suggestions

- "This I Believe (The Creed) [Live]," by Hillsong Worship (Hillsong Church T/A Hillsong)
- "Profession of Faith," by Tom Booth (OCP)

We Are United in Faith



Background Focus

It can become easy for prayers that we regularly recite by heart to become words that we repeat almost as if on auto-play. We pray them correctly and with good intention, but we can lose touch with the deeper meaning of the words or the significance of praying them with others.

The Profession of Faith at Mass is one of those instances. Our statement of faith represents such a beautiful and significant moment in the Mass, but perhaps it can benefit from renewed attention. If we look around the Church as we focus on the meaning of the words we are saying, we will surely be awed by the significance of the unity of faith we are proclaiming.

This chapter teaches the importance of Christian unity and how the Profession of Faith helps us declare and celebrate that unity. As your child continues to learn this proclamation of faith, make sure to celebrate it as a time when they now proclaim for themselves a faith that was proclaimed for them at Baptism.

🏠 Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite your child to turn to page 1 in the chapter 6 activity booklet and locate the prayer on the page.
- Begin prayer by making the Sign of the Cross, then saying, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Read the prayer, and invite your child to say "Amen," and then close with another Sign of the Cross. Have your child put the activity booklet away for now.

Engage Activity

- Invite your child to share what the word *unity* means.
- Ask your child to think of a group of people—such as a sports team, a club, the Church, or a group of friends—and to share some of the signs that a group has unity. (*Accept all reasonable responses, such as they work together, they share the same goal, they believe the same things, they respect one another, etc.*)
- Tell your child that in today’s lesson they will learn about the importance of unity in the Church and some of the ways we show our unity in faith.

Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite your child to find John 17:9–23 in *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (pages 1694–1695).
- Direct them to turn the page and place an “I found it!” sticker next to the Featured Story (page 1696).
- Ask your child to look at the images on pages 1696–1697, and invite them to point out the different things they notice.
- Read the title and the Featured Story, and then ask your child to share what they think it means when Jesus prays that all of his followers will be one. (*It means that he wants all Christians to be unified / have unity.*)
- Remind your child of the different characteristics of unity that they mentioned earlier. Show them how these characteristics apply to Christians as well.

Understand It!

- Invite your child to read Understand It! on page 1697 and ask them to summarize the key points. Make sure they cover the following:
 - Jesus doesn’t want anything to keep us from loving one another.
 - When we are one, we will not hurt one another with words or actions.
 - Other people will notice our love and joy.

- Remind your child of the first lesson they had about the Body of Christ, in chapter 1. Tell them that the image of one body with many different parts is another way to recall our unity as baptized Christians. Explain that we are all different, but we are united because we share the same faith—we all follow Jesus and share in his mission of love.
- Have your child turn to page 2 in the activity booklet and complete the activity. Read the directions, and invite them to unscramble the words to discover the phrase. *Answer: United in Faith*

Live It!

- Read the directions to Live It! on page 1697.
- Pray the prayer together.

Tell It!

- Ask your child to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1697.
- Encourage your child to summarize the Bible reading.
- Have your child use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story pages that capture their interest. Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the remaining chapters.

Core Learning Activity

Unity Makes Us Strong

- View the video “Team Work – The Smart Way,” available on YouTube (1:22), which contains three short segments.
- Ask your child how the three segments show the importance of teamwork and unity. Tell your child that we are not alone in our beliefs but are part of a large, worldwide Church that is united in faith.
- Encourage your child to share times when they have experienced unity in groups and times when they might not have experienced unity. Explore the difference and discuss which is better for the Church. Tie this back in to Jesus’ prayer that all of his followers might be one.

✕ Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of the Eucharist

- Tell your child that going to Mass is a sign of unity, and knowing that Catholics in our local community and around the world are going to Mass on Sunday helps us remember how we are all connected in faith.
- Explain that another sign of unity in the Mass is the Profession of Faith that happens in the Liturgy of the Word after the homily. During the Profession of Faith, we proclaim a **creed**, which is a statement of our shared beliefs.
- Help your child understand that there are two creeds that can be used in Mass, the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed. Explain that in each creed, we proclaim our belief in God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), God the Holy Spirit, the Church, and life in Heaven.
- Invite your child to turn to page 4 in *The Order of the Mass and Key Words* booklet to see the Nicene Creed. If you have time, you can read this creed,, stopping to explain certain vocabulary and meanings.
- Assure your child that they will continue to grow to understand the full meaning of this creed, but that it states our common beliefs as Catholics and shows our unity.
- Invite your child to turn to page 3 in the activity booklet and complete the activity. Give them a few minutes to number the statements of faith in the correct order that they appear in the Nicene Creed. *Answers: 3, 1, 4, 2*

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite your child to think back over all of the different things they did in this lesson, and ask them to share some of the key things they learned.
- Ensure that the following points are made:
 - Jesus wants his followers to be united in faith.
 - Proclaiming the Nicene Creed together is a sign of our unity.
 - The Nicene Creed expresses our belief in God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), God the Holy Spirit, the Church, and life in Heaven.
- Ask your child to place the chapter 6 sticker in the correct circle on the treasure map.



Closing Prayer

- Direct your child to find the Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed) on page 4 of *The Order of the Mass and Key Words* booklet.
- Begin prayer by making the Sign of the Cross, then saying, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God," followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Proclaim the Nicene Creed together.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that supports the focus of the lesson.
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.

Additional Family Suggestions

For additional ideas, activities, and prayers that can be used by your family for this chapter, please refer to the Family Page on page 4 of this chapter's activity booklet.