

Being Needed

This chapter
will help you

- see how family members depend on one another
- explore ways to grow in love
- discover a way families can pray together

Ricky to the Rescue

Ricky scratched his head. He was confused. His own mother, "Super Mom," was asking for his help! Ricky saw the look of pain on his mother's face. Mom really needed him!

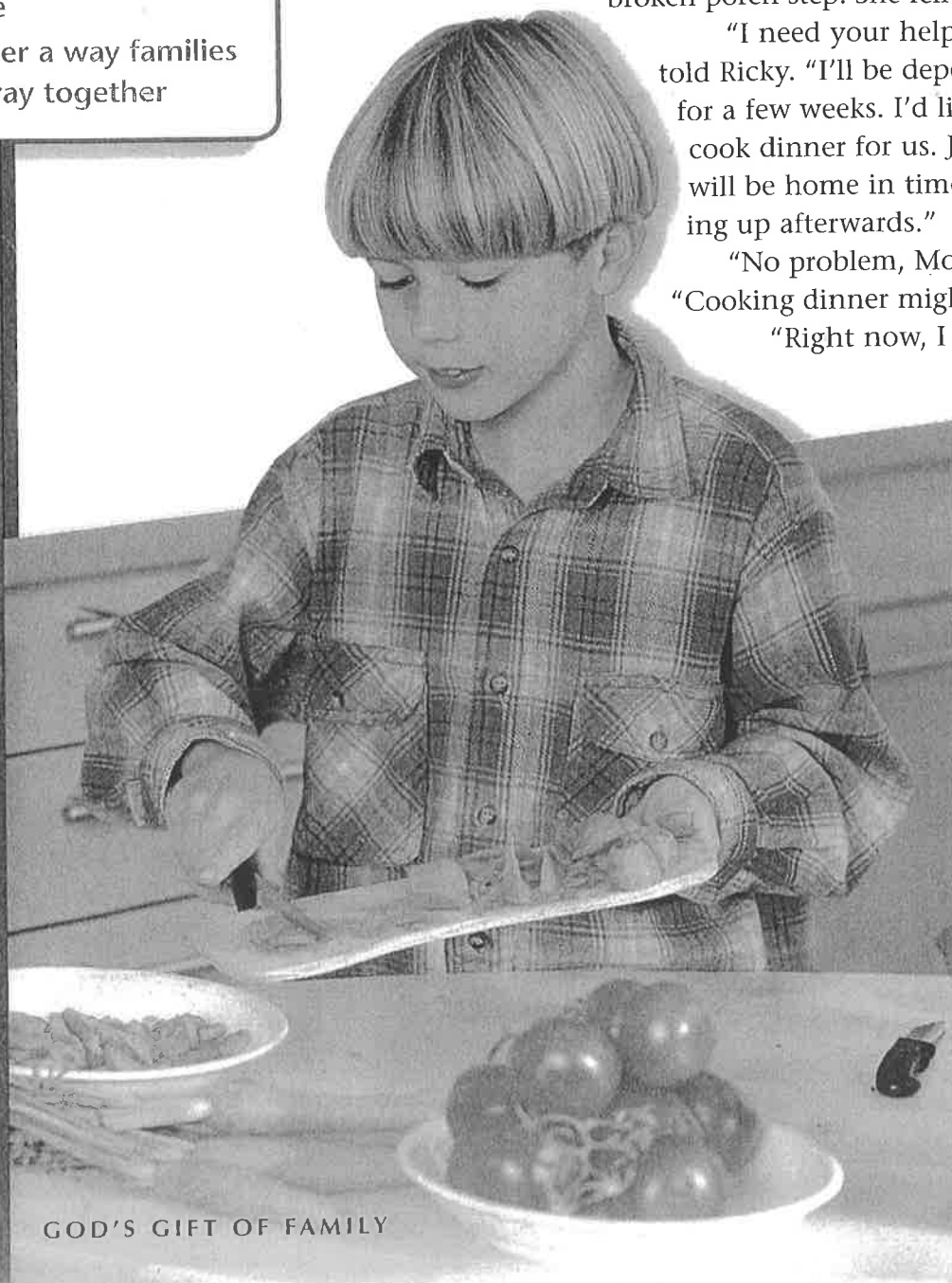
Ricky's mom was lying on the sofa with a white cast on her right arm. Two green pillows propped up the arm to help reduce the swelling. The day before, Mom tripped on a broken porch step. She fell and broke a bone.

"I need your help," Mom now told Ricky. "I'll be depending on you for a few weeks. I'd like for you to cook dinner for us. Jack and Linda will be home in time to do the cleaning up afterwards."

"No problem, Mom," said Ricky. "Cooking dinner might be fun!"

"Right now, I have to rest.

Everything you need is in the kitchen," his Mom assured him. "Call me if you need some help."



The Kitchen King

As his mother shut her eyes, Ricky went to the kitchen. Mom had put out all the things needed to make a hamburger casserole and rolls. At 5 p.m., Ricky slid the casserole and rolls into the oven. The kitchen was a bit messy, but dinner would be a feast!

Ricky felt proud. He was glad that Mom was willing to depend on him. Ricky slipped outside to play basketball for a few minutes. He sank basket after basket. Then he heard Jack come up right behind him.

"You're a hot shot!" Jack said.

"Yeah," Ricky said, grinning, "out here and in the kitchen, too!"

Virtue RESPONSIBILITY.



The habit of recognizing your duty as a member of a family. You must respect and assist parents and family members especially in time of need. Responsibility is a sign that you are a follower of Jesus.

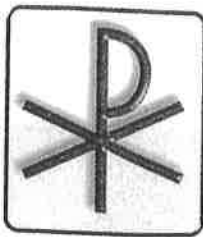
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1. What gave Ricky a feeling of real importance in his family?
2. Tell about a time when your family needed you. How did this make you feel?

Activity

Make a "family constellation." Draw stars in the box. Label each with the name of a family member. Draw arrows to connect all the stars. Near the arrows, list ways that love "shines" in your family.

Catholics Believe



God created people and families to love and help one another. There are many different ways to be a family. Within each family, a person learns about love, responsibility, and forgiveness. Family members can bring one another closer to God.

DEVELOPMENT

I Depend on You

"I need your help." These are words used in every family. Husbands and wives say them to each other. Children say them to parents. Even tiny babies say this by crying.

Soon after birth, some baby animals can see clearly. Some can even run alongside their mothers and get some food. But human babies can't. For a long time, they are very **dependent**. That means that others must do things for them.

You, too, were once a baby. You were very dependent on the care and help of others. Even though you are older and stronger, there are many ways you still depend upon others to fill your basic needs. Think about those ways.

Many Needs

There are many things you need that you can't get for yourself, like food, clothing, and a place to live. You need check-ups from the doctor and dentist in order to stay healthy.

You also depend upon others for things that money can't buy. Your family helps you fill these needs. Family members give you love. They give you encouragement

when you try to do difficult things. Loving family members also give you **guidance**. That means they help you when you're not sure what to do.



Your family also depends on you. Your family trusts that you can be depended on not only at home, but in other places too. You show responsibility at school, at your friend's home, and in church. Wherever you are, you see that helping and being helped depends on love.

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1. What are three ways that your family helps you as a student?
2. What are jobs your family depends on you to do?



Skills to Grow By

Responsibility

Showing **responsibility** is important, especially in family life. Being responsible means not only doing what you're asked to do, but doing things before you're asked. When other people depend on you, you can have the good feeling of knowing you're needed. Showing responsibility is a big step in growing up.

Activity

Create a "No Special Reason" greeting card for a family member. Thank him or her for being so dependable. Give thanks for the big things and the little things you receive.

APPLICATION

Growing in Love

As you grow, you are learning how to grow in love. You see that loving means giving, as well as receiving.

You're growing in love, as well as in inches. There are good ways to show you are growing in love. Answering these questions can help you find some ways.

1

How can I help make life a little better for my family?

2

When was a time I paid attention to the needs of someone else?

3

How have I shown forgiveness in my family?



Elizabeth Seton was born in the United States right before the Revolutionary War. When Elizabeth's husband died, she was left to raise five children on her own. To help raise her children, she became a teacher. She started the first Catholic school in the United States. After her own children grew up, Elizabeth began a community of sisters. They called her Mother, too. It's no wonder that Saint Elizabeth Seton enjoyed calling herself "Mother Goose!"



Family Faith

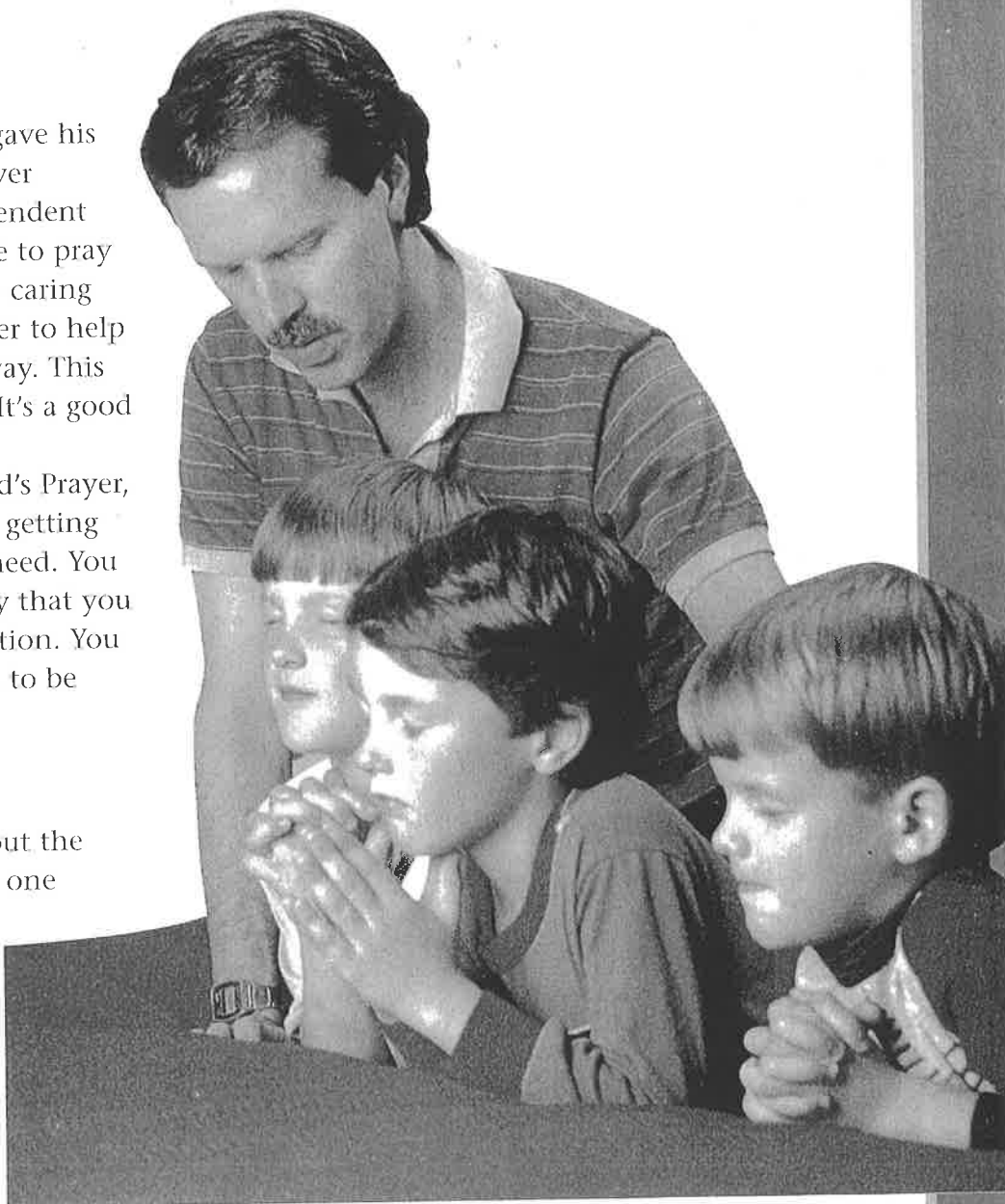
A Perfect Family Prayer

One day, Jesus, God's son, gave his followers a prayer. This prayer shows that everyone is dependent on God. Jesus told everyone to pray to God as a loving Father, a caring Parent. Jesus gave this prayer to help people know God in that way. This prayer is the Lord's Prayer. It's a good prayer for families to pray.

When you pray the Lord's Prayer, you are praying for help in getting the things that you really need. You ask for forgiveness and pray that you will not be led into temptation. You are asking God to help you to be good.

At Home

Ask your family to talk about the ways family members help one another. See what more might be done to help meet your family's needs.



prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Why Rules?

This chapter
will help you

- realize the importance of rules in family life
- explore your freedom to make choices
- see how God's rules work with family rules

Uh-oh! I Forgot!

Teresa Sanchez giggled. What great fun she had after school. She and five other girls played soccer at the vacant lot on Meade Street.

Teresa was very sweaty, but happy. She ran the several blocks home, and then up the stairs two at a time. Teresa fished for her key in her book bag. She let herself in.

"Where have you been, Teresa?" asked Teresa's father from the kitchen.

Surprised, Teresa dropped her book bag. Her dad was home. She thought the apartment would be empty. Suddenly, she knew what was wrong. She had broken a Sanchez family rule.

One of the family rules was that the children come straight home after school unless they had permission to do something else.

"Why didn't you come home right after school, Teresa?" her dad asked. "You know that's the rule."



I See What You Mean

Teresa looked up at her father. His forehead was wrinkled. He looked pretty upset!

"I forgot," she said quietly. "I played soccer."

"Your mother was worried, Teresa," he said. "She had to go to work. She called me to come home from the garage. Your brothers are out looking for you. You know we worry if you don't come right home," he said.

"I know," said Teresa. "I'm sorry. I forgot."

"Teresa," her father said, gently laying his hand on her shoulder. "I've been working on a car that was wrecked in a traffic accident. Often, people are hurt when someone doesn't obey a traffic rule. Rules are made to protect us."

"Okay, Dad," Teresa said. "I see what you mean."

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1. What family rule did Teresa break? Why was this rule an important one?
2. What are three rules you must follow in your family? What do you think are the reasons for having these rules?

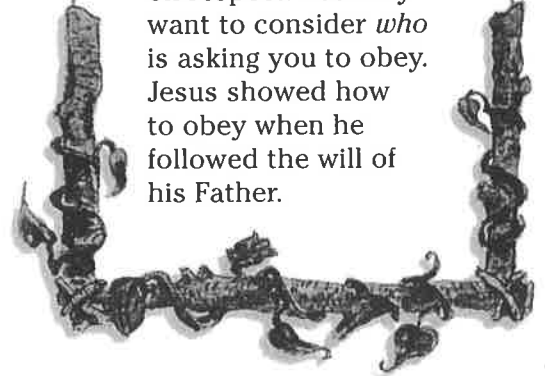
Activity

Design three large street signs that show some of the rules in your home. Your signs should be colorful and easy to read. Make a sign for your kitchen, for your bathroom, and for a family room or bedroom.

Skills to Grow By

Obedience

Be a person who obeys respectfully. Obeying is sometimes easy, sometimes not. Some obedience takes an understanding of *what* is being asked. You may have to think about the reason *why* you're asked to obey. Some obedience is based on respect. You may want to consider *who* is asking you to obey. Jesus showed how to obey when he followed the will of his Father.



Ways to Learn

Many rules, such as the Ten Commandments, come from God. Others come from the Church. Still other rules come from the government, school, or families. Good rules make life orderly and fair.

There seem to be so many rules! Many of the rules start with the word "Don't". "Don't enter." "Don't turn right." Sometimes, seeing so many "Don'ts" is hard. You might forget that there are important reasons for having rules.

You might think that some little rules are silly or useless. But those rules are important, too. Those rules can show you how to follow bigger rules. Making your bed may seem like a useless thing to do. But following that rule is a way of showing respect to your parents who made the rule. This rule also helps you to take care of the things that belong to you.



God Helps

Rules and freedom go together. God gave all people a wonderful gift—the gift of **free will**. This means that you can choose to obey or disobey a rule. You can even choose to do something that is **sinful**, which means that what you do is against God's rules. God's rules are always for your own good. Making good choices brings us closer to God.

Learning to make the best choice takes time. Sometimes your learning comes from making a mistake. Much of what you learn comes from watching others. They teach you about choices and rules. The Church, your family, your teachers, and your friends can show you that following good rules is important. And when you make a mistake, they are there to show you it's all right to try again.

Catholics Believe



God gives everyone the gift of free will that allows each to make choices. You show love for God when you choose to follow good rules. The Church gives us God's rules. When you sin, you choose to turn away from God.



1. Name a church rule, a government rule, and a school rule.
2. How do these rules help you?

Activity

Write a short story telling what your classroom would be like if all students followed good rules at all times. Then, think about what it would be like if everyone in your class did the opposite. Talk about what your classroom would be like.

Decisions, Decisions

"Should I wear a sweater or a jacket?" Some choices that you make are not very important. Unless you are required to wear a sweater, it really doesn't matter what you decide to wear.

Some choices you make are important. A choice is important when it means you will obey or disobey a rule. A choice is also important when it affects another person. Finally, a choice is important when the decision you make may help you to be a better person.



1 Tell about a choice that you made this week that was not very important:

2 Tell about a time when you decided to follow or not to follow a rule:

3 Think about a time you made a choice that either helped or hurt someone:

4 Tell about a decision you made that helped you to be a better person:



Family Faith

Loving Families

There are many ways to be a family. The Church is also a family, the Family of God. The Church continues the work of Christ on earth.

God gave rules for his family. The Fourth Commandment says: "Honor your father and your mother." This rule helps you live your family rules.

As you grow, your parents help you in many ways. They never stop being your parents. They never stop loving and caring for you.

You can keep the Fourth Commandment by listening and respecting your parents. You can be kind, patient, and cheerful. You can follow your family's rules, and see how the rules help you to grow.

At Home

Ask an adult in your family to tell the ways they followed the Fourth Commandment when they were your age.



prayer

Happy am I when I obey God's law,
And seek God with all my heart,
And do no wrong,
But walk in God's ways.

Based on Psalm 19:2-3

Reviewing

Summary

Remember what you have learned in each of the chapters in God's Gift of Family.

Chapter 1: Being Needed

- There are many different ways to be a family. Family members depend on one another. They bring one closer to God.
- Part of growing up is being concerned about others.
- A family is a good place to learn about giving and receiving love.

Chapter 2: Why Rules?

- Rules are important in family life.
- God gave you the gift of free will to make choices. Some decisions you make are more important than others are.

Thinking It Through

1. Complete the sentence in three ways: My family is important to me because...
2. Which family rules do you feel are more important? If you could change any family rule, which one would it be? Why?
3. What are some things that you enjoy talking about with your family members?

Working Together

Create a class family album. Bring in one or two pictures of your family. If you wish, include a picture of your aunts, uncles, and cousins too. Carefully glue the pictures onto a colored sheet of paper. Below the pictures, write the names of the family members. Somewhere on the sheet of paper write a sentence that begins this way: "My family is special because . . ." Your teacher can put all the colored papers together to form a class book.

