

Chapter 9 I Lay Down My Life

He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross. *Philippians 2:8*

To the Parents:

In chapter 9, your child learned the following:

- Jesus freely sacrificed himself for others.
- Jesus freed all from sin and death.
- Christians are called to sacrifice.

To sacrifice means to give up something of value knowing that a greater value will be accomplished. The sacrifice of the death of Jesus was followed by his resurrection, his ultimate victory over death. Believers share in the death and resurrection of Jesus when they follow his example of loving sacrifice for others.

The example of the sacrifice of Jesus is always before those who follow him in faith. The ultimate sacrifice of giving one's life for another is rare, but there are other, smaller sacrifices that are undertaken with love in the name of Jesus. The willingness to sacrifice one's own wants, desires, and even needs begins with the compassion for others. Compassion means putting another person's welfare first. It means trying to help by listening and responding to the feelings and concerns of others. While compassion requires a sacrifice of time, energy, and emotional involvement, believers will heed and follow the example of the loving sacrifice of Jesus.

With Your Child:

1. Before a crucifix, reflect on the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for his friends and for all God's children.
2. Think of a family member or close friend who has sacrificed something of himself or herself for your sake, and then make an effort to be as generous to someone else in return. Be specific about what you will do.
3. Say a prayer for local and world heroes who sacrifice their time, livelihood, or even their lives for the sake of others.
4. Together read about Christian de Chergé on the Review and Explore page.