

Chapter 23 **Christian Hope**

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. *Psalm 31:25*

To the Parents:

In chapter 23, your child learned the following:

- Hope is a gift from God.
- Jesus is the source of Christian hope.
- Christians are called to share hope with others.

Christians are hopeful people. They cultivate a spirit of hope in their attitude, behavior, and personal witnessing. Christian hope resides in the person of Jesus and in his promise of eternal life to those who follow him. Christians' hope is based on their love for God and on God's love for them. They stand ready to provide the reason for their hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as the model for their own lives.

Christian hope is based on faith. When followers of Jesus seek to understand the meaning of his teachings, they are confronted over and over with the difficulty of loving one another "as I have loved you." It takes faith and Christian hope to persevere in loving and serving others as Jesus did. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christian hope comes from the certainty that the example of Jesus provides: eternal life begins here and now, today, when Christians begin to work towards creating a world of peace, justice, and love.

With Your Child:

1. Think of a time when there was sadness or discomfort in your life, and how the hope of things getting better factored in getting through the experience.
2. Hope can be contagious. Find ways to share hope with others, like comforting a sick relative or encouraging a depressed friend.
3. Hope breeds hope. With your family, share life stories that start with despair but end with hopes fulfilled.
4. Read the story of Saint Barnabas on the Review and Explore page.