

Chapter 5 **Be Yourself**

For if we live, we live for the Lord. *Romans 14:8*

To the Parents:

In chapter 5, your child learned the following:

- Every human being is both unique and evolving.
- A life of holiness involves living the moral virtues.
- Making good choices brings one closer to God.

Each human being grows and develops in many ways through his or her life. Growth in compassion, courage, understanding, wisdom, and psychological and emotional health is a continuous process. In the same way, the faith of adults does not remain static. It moves towards maturity as life experiences mold and shape adult believers. Followers of Jesus recognize his call to embrace and to live out the demands of mature faith.

The faith of childhood is often an imitation of the faith of significant adults. Children often accept faith without question or challenge. However, faith can mature from childlike dependency to adult ownership when believers prayerfully reflect on their life experiences and discover how these experiences resonate with the teachings and traditions of their religion. As a result, the mature believer's behaviors and attitudes change to reflect the growing awareness of the presence of God. Thus, he or she can proclaim the Gospel message with conviction and sincerity.

With Your Child:

1. Read about Jesus' expectations of his disciples in Mark 10:17-31, and talk about it.
2. Talk about "bad habits" with your child. How can they be overcome?
3. Discuss with your child some moral decisions that have been made in your family. How did you go about making those decisions?
4. Read the story of Saint Lucy on the Review and Explore page.