

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

*This chapter explores our deepest longings, explains grace as participation in the life of the Holy Trinity, and examines faith as the free, loving gift of God's own life and help.*

### Scripture



Read **Psalms 63:2, 4–5** to find out about our longing for God.

### Catholics Believe

- True happiness can come only through communion with God.
- Religion expresses our relationship with God through beliefs, prayers, and practices.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #27–28 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Augustine, one of the great theologians of early Christianity. He says that our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Communion with God** Children at this age are just beginning to think about what sort of man or woman they will be someday. As they approach middle school, they will become more and more concerned with their own identity. It's important that from the very beginning of this process, they hear that we are all made to be in relationship with God, and that we cultivate this relationship by talking with God and listening to him in the variety of ways he speaks to us.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

*How many people do you know who say they are spiritual but not religious?*

In our culture today, some people have negative feelings about institutions, including organized religion. Some argue that the time, money, and effort it takes to maintain the institution can minimize the mission of the institution. As Catholics, we know that “there is no doubt that the Church is called to be a community of love in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The risen Jesus himself presented a model of Church leadership based in love when he solicited three affirmations of love from Peter (cf. Jn 21:15–17). At the same time, though, the Church has many structures that are needed to build up the bond of love” (*USCCA p. 121*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain faith as a journey.
- Share how you help your child grow in faith.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Augustine, you know we long to know what God wants us to do. Help us to find God, as you did, so that we may rest in his love. Amen.



Visit [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com) for additional resources and activities.