

## Chapter 1: God's Loving Plan

*We find our true happiness and perfect fulfillment in God alone.*

### Chapter Summary

Although all people want to be happy, few actually find true happiness. While many search for happiness in the things of this world, true and perfect happiness are found only when we live in communion with God. All people also are seeking to know the truth. Truth is the correspondence of the mind with reality. God created all things, so He is the author of unchanging truth. God continues to call all people into communion with Himself. Jesus comes to make this communion possible through the forgiveness of sins and the proclamation of the truth. God invites us to be in communion with Him and to be His children. Those who respond to this invitation will find true and everlasting fulfillment.



*“The family is the basis in the Lord’s plan and all the forces of evil aim to demolish it. Uphold your families and guard them against the grudges of the evil one, by the Presence of God.”*

*—Saint Charbel Makhlouf*

### The Need for Action

In Grade 4, Word of Life guides students and families through the truths the Church professes in the Creed. This explains not only what the Church teaches but why it is reasonable to believe these truths.

**Nearly *one-third* of teens ages 13–17 self-identify as unaffiliated with any sort of religion.<sup>1</sup> More concerning, the percentage of Generation Z (b. 1999–2015) who identify as atheists has doubled.<sup>2</sup>**

Parents have the responsibility to raise their children in the faith. They cannot simply rely on the parish or school to raise their children as future saints. Studies show that 70–80 percent of children whose parents enroll them in Catholic school but do not practice the faith with them (such as attending Mass weekly) will leave the faith.<sup>3</sup> This shows that what is most important is that parents model the faith for their children.

With God’s grace and your openness to His truth, your family can live according to His plan and will in all things.

**For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.**