

Chapter 1: The Invitation to Communion

God calls us to be in communion with Him and with one another now and forever.

Chapter Summary

God calls us to communion with Him. The Bible recounts how God created us for union with Him and how we rejected this communion through sin. In the Old Testament, God prepares His people for the coming of Jesus, who is the Word of God. Jesus reveals God most perfectly because He is God. He comes to save us from our sins and lead us to eternal life. Jesus knocks on the door of our hearts so that we may open up and allow His grace to transform us. Our character can change as we grow in virtue and accept God's abundant graces. Those who remain in communion with God will receive true happiness, or beatitude, in this life and in the next.

More for Parents

Being in communion with God can sound abstract. What it boils down to is having a relationship with God much like a friendship we have with another person. Just like with our own friends, we must spend time with God and communicate with Him regularly to grow in our friendship. It's not enough to only *tell* our children this; we must also model it for them. Openly inviting your children into your relationship with God by reading the Bible and praying aloud can show them what a close relationship with God looks like. We are called as parents to show our children that they are created for a relationship with God. Only then can we ensure that our children will have the full and truly happy lives that we desire for them and for which they were created.

Virtue in the Family

We want our character to be strong and founded in Christ. But this character is formed only through consistent choices. Parents must be actively engaged in the lives of their children to encourage them to make choices that will make them into holy and virtuous men and women. The secret to the life of virtue is openness to God and daily choices.

Our Daily Choices

- Pray for the grace to make virtuous choices.
 - As a family, reflect on these words from the Book of Psalms: "Make me to know your ways, O Lord [and] teach me your paths" (25:4).
 - What choice is someone in your family making now? Does he need help making this choice? What choice do you think Jesus would make?
 - Pray out loud to Jesus, asking for His guidance.
 - Conclude by praying together, "Jesus, guide me to make a virtuous choice."
- Pray the Our Father each morning with your children. End the Our Father by having each member of the family share how she wants God to help her be more like Jesus that day.
- Consider attending Mass one additional day this week. Spend extra time after Mass with Jesus in the Eucharist.
- At your local Catholic bookstore, you can find holy water bottles and fonts. Holy water is usually available in the back of your church. If not, ask your parish priest to bless your water. Have each member of your family bless himself with it as a reminder of the theological virtues he has received. Holy water can also be used to protect us from dangers and from sin.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **Bible**
- **character**
- **virtue**

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