

## Chapter 18 **Praying the Scriptures**

You have been born anew through the living and abiding word of God. This is the word that has been proclaimed to you. *1 Peter 1:23, 25*

### **To the Parents:**

In chapter 18, your child learned the following:

- The inherent power of the Scriptures can thoroughly transform a person.
- The Scriptures, particularly the Book of Psalms, are the foundation of the Church's liturgical prayer.
- The Word of God clears and focuses the mind, which helps a person make better choices and decisions.

Those who follow a religious tradition look to their sacred writings for many things: guidance, consolation, inspiration, information, hope, and justification for their beliefs. Those who follow Jesus know that in his words can be found all of these things, and more. In Jesus, Catholics find the words of everlasting life that bring with them the promise of new life with God for all eternity. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus became the Living Word.

Certainly the words of Jesus bring comfort and hope. But Jesus also presents many challenges to those who hear his word. He tells the rich young man to "sell what you have and give to [the] poor... Then come, follow me" (*Matthew 19:21*). He washes the feet of his friends, telling them to do likewise. Jesus is indeed the Living Word of God, present today in those who hear what he has to say and live out his message of justice, peace, and loving service.

### **With Your Child:**

1. Pay special attention to the Liturgy of the Word at Mass and identify the parts of the Bible from which each reading is taken.
2. Read aloud one or two of the Psalms every day and try incorporating them into your family prayers.
3. Learn about the Liturgy of the Hours in your parish and make plans for your family to participate in it.
4. Read about Saints Prisca and Aquila on the Review and Explore page.