

# Thank You, God!

## Allelu!

*Growing and Celebrating with Jesus*

### Lesson 10, ages 3-4

#### Lesson 10 Goal

- Your child will name something for which he or she can thank God and will explore various ways of thanking God.

#### Key Points

- God gives us many different blessings.
- We should say “thank you” to God for all he gives us.



#### Parent Reflection

As we owe everything, including our very being, to God, our proper stance before him is one of gratitude. Mental health research tells us that one of the best ways to avoid and treat depression is to cultivate gratitude in one's life—to make an ongoing list of things for which one is grateful. We really do have so much to be thankful for, most especially for the gift of Jesus and the opportunity to have a relationship with our Creator through him.

In fact, giving thanks to God is one of the primary roles of the Church. So much so, that we use the word *Eucharist* (which comes from the Greek for “thanksgiving”) as the name for our gathering. “Thanksgiving characterizes the prayer of the Church which, in celebrating the Eucharist, reveals and becomes more fully what she is” (CCC, 2637).

#### Reflection Question

How can I show gratitude to God for what he has given to me?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- folded sheet of drawing paper

- Lesson 10 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

### Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Dear God, you are a wonderful God. We sing psalms and praise you. We know you love us and we love you too. Amen.”*

## Discovering

**Give Thanks to God!** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about giving thanks to God.

Ask, “How can you thank God?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

**1. We Thank You, God!** Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he

or she sees. Give your child a crayon or colored pencil. Explain the activity and have your child complete it.

**2. Thank You Cards.** Invite your child to draw on the outside of the folded drawing paper pictures of things for which he or she is thankful. On the inside of the card, write down your child’s message of thankfulness to God.

**3. The Communion of Saints: Saint John de Brébeuf.** Show your child the picture of Saint John de Brébeuf on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint John de Brébeuf to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “Why do you think the people who met John were interested to hear what he had to say?”

Have your child draw about Saint John de Brébeuf using the Lesson 10 Activity Master.

## Sending

**Pray with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

*“Dear God, we sing your praises! We will tell all the wonderful things you have done for us. Amen.”*

## Saint John de Brébeuf

### A Christian and a Canoe

John paddled and paddled through the Canadian wilderness. He had been riding in the canoe for hours. The native Canadians (those are people who were born in Canada) in the canoe were helping him find new people to hear about the Good News of Jesus.

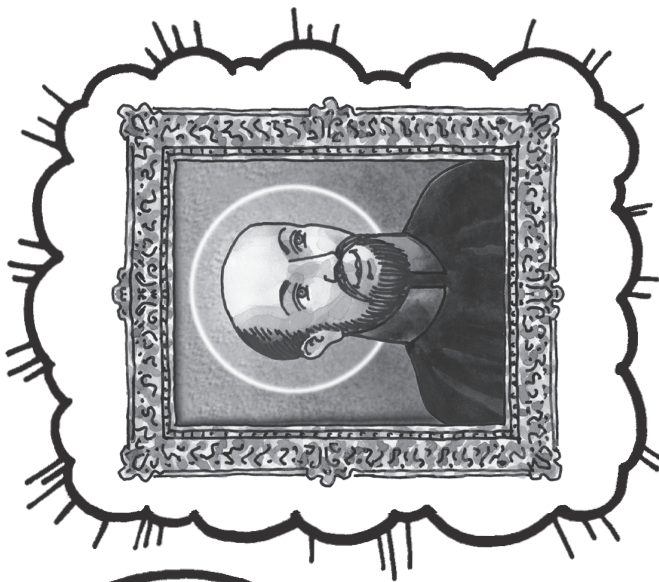
John was born in France, but that seemed so far away now. All around him, the native Canadians spoke a language called Huron. This language was hard for John to learn. He practiced with all the people he met while he was helping them learn about God. Eventually, he knew enough words that he could write a dictionary to help other French missionaries (people who have a mission to help others to know about God) learn to talk with the native Canadians.

The people John traveled with had a Huron

name for him. They called him “Echon” because he was so big and strong. He knew that he would be well liked if he were helpful, so he made sure that he paddled as hard as anyone else did. He also carried the heavy canoes with all the food inside. He did not act like the Hurons should do his work for him. When they trusted him, they were more willing to hear what he had to say about God.

Although John died while being a missionary in Canada, he had written a lot of letters to other missionaries back in France, telling them about his experiences. His good advice and love for the Huron people inspired many other people to make the long trip across the ocean to teach people about God.

**DRAW**



**Saint  
John de Brébeuf,  
pray for us!**