

## God calls us to be close to him.

### WE GATHER

✝ *Loving Father, we believe in your love for us.*

Dawn woke up in a bad mood. She yelled at her brother and talked back to her mother. After breakfast she slammed the door on her way out to school.

At school Dawn remembered how she had acted that morning. She realized her words and actions did not show her love for her family. What do you think she will do now?

### WE BELIEVE

Through our Baptism each of us is called to become more like Jesus. We are called to follow the example of Jesus who always remained close to God his Father.

When we think, speak, and act as Jesus did, we become more like him. Yet, sometimes we do not follow Jesus' example. Instead of moving closer to God, we move farther away from him.

In the Gospel of Saint Luke we can find this story that Jesus told about a father and a son:

“A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’ . . . When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. . . . Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’ So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.”

(Luke 15:11–12, 14, 17–20)

