

## PRAYER OFFERING

**ALL** We welcome this message of faith.

*Now pick up the "blessing" slips from the table and invite each person to come forward to take one. When all have them in hand, invite catechists to offer the blessing on the slip to at least two others in the room. Encourage them to extend a hand toward the person they are blessing. Allow sufficient time for this.*

**LEADER** Invite you now to spend time in silence asking God for particular blessing that you might need.

*Allow three minutes or so for this.*

**LEADER** For each of you, that you may understand your calling, experience the power of God, and appreciate your gifts. Let us pray to the Lord...

**ALL** Lord, hear our prayer.

*Add several petitions that apply directly to all present, and then invite the participants to pray their own spontaneous prayers. When all have prayed conclude as below.*

**Leader** as a community of believers pray together...

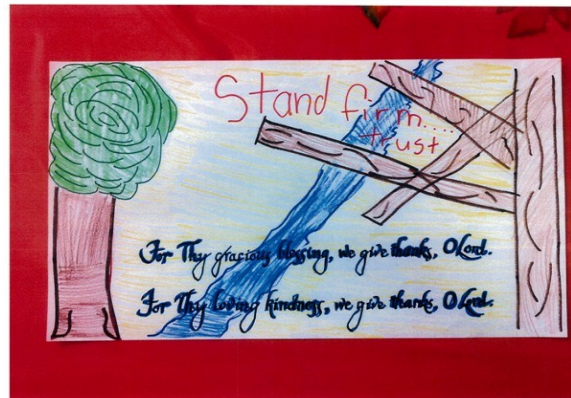
**All** Our Father

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

### LEADER

God, our loving parent and guide, You strengthen us, and above all calm our fears as we go forth to proclaim the good news of your love for us. Watch over us and bless us always. Be with us as we continue to open our hearts to your outrageous love. We make our commitment now, to hold firm entrusting ourselves to you. This we ask in your name.

**Amen.**



Open to an outrageous  
Love of God  
Hold Firm... Trust in the Lord

**September 2011**



*“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like trees planted by the water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease or bear fruit”.*

*Jeremiah 17:7-8*

## Opening our hearts draws us into an outrageous Love of God...

*Hold Firm ....Trust in the Lord!*

### INTRODUCTION

“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord”. Today, we gather together to reflect on one of the key messages presenter David Wells left us with, during our Division Faith Day: ***Opening our hearts draws us into an outrageous love of God.*** We now lay our worldly cares to sit by the trees by the water which sends out its roots by the stream; nourished at its roots by the soil our faith grows and expands in this season of autumn; still receiving the warmth and light of day. We now come to give thanks and praise for gifts given to us in our call to educate our youth.

#### Preparation:

*In your prayer space place a lightened candle, a bible (open to Ephesians 1:15-23), a textbook, and a teacher's manual. Beforehand, write our or type onto slips of paper lines from the following service. For example: "May you understand the great power you have received," or, "May God give you the spirit of wisdom." Place these "blessing" slips in a container on your prayer table.*

### OPENING PRAYER

#### LEADER

It is with God's own power that we are called forth as teachers and catechists. It is only with God's gift of wisdom, revelation, and mercy that we can open our hearts to the Love of God.



### SCRIPTURE READING

#### Reader One: A reading from Ephesians

Ever since I heard about your faith, I have not stopped giving thanks for you and remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking God to give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know God better.

#### Reader Two

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may see what it is God is calling to you to. And may you see the glorious inheritance that is planned for you and understand the great power you have received.

#### Reader Three

This power is the same power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead and to place him above all created things. With Christ, we can now experience the fullness of God who fills up everything in every way.

#### The Word of the Lord.

**ALL** Thanks be to God.



### SYMBOLIC ACTION PRAYER

#### LEADER

(holding up the candle from the prayer table) See this light, a symbol of Christ. May the light of Christ fill your minds and hearts as you prepare to serve the church.

**ALL** We welcome the light of Christ.

**LEADER** (holding up the bible) See this book that contains the Word of God. May you share its wisdom and revelation with those you serve.

**ALL** We welcome the Word of God.

**LEADER** (holding up the textbook) See this textbook that contains a message of faith. May you guide each person who uses it to a greater knowledge and love of God.

