

You may consider using the **Children's Media Manual** to complement each lesson. Through the manual, you can access and choose from a variety of multimedia types, such as audio, video, and interactive content. Find Unit 1 on pages 1–6.



God, Our Creator and Father

Begin

Say: *The title of this book is Finding God.* **Ask:** *Who is God? (our Father and Creator) Where do we find him? Discuss with your child where you each find God in your everyday life. Tell your child that you find God in him or her and in your love for him or her. Read aloud the unit title.* **Say:** *Let's begin this book together by talking about God as our Father and Creator. God created everything that is. His creation shows his love for us.*

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Isidore the Farmer.

Ask: *What was Saint Isidore's job? (farming)*

Say: *A saint is a person who has lived a life of special faith and goodness. The Church has honored many saints. Saint Isidore was a man who loved God and showed special care to the earth and its creatures.*

Read aloud the first paragraph. **Ask:** *Where did Saint Isidore live? (Spain) What did Saint Isidore do while he was farming the land? (pray)* **Say:** *God wants us to take care of the earth. Saint Isidore can teach us about loving the earth.*

Read aloud the last two paragraphs. **Say:** *A patron saint watches over special groups of people, places, or animals.* **Ask:** *Which groups does Saint Isidore watch over? (farmers, farm animals, farming communities, and picnickers)*

With your child add Isidore's feast day, May 15, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the work of Saint Isidore.



God Creates Us

Engage: Page 1

- ▶ With your child think of someone in your family or neighborhood who could use a “Thinking of You” card. Encourage your child to make a card for that person by using construction paper, markers, or crayons. Have your child write this sentence inside the card: *God is good and wonderful, and so are you.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child’s responses.
Say: *In this session we will learn what God makes and why he makes those things.*
- ▶ **Optional use of Media Manual:** From your Bible, read together Genesis 1:26–27. You may also listen to the audio recording and the accompanying article through the media manual.
- ▶ Encourage your child to give the card to its recipient. Point out that God creates things out of love for us, just as your child made the card. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 2–3

- ▶ Cut out paper hearts. Ask your child to write the names of people he or she loves on the hearts. Then ask your child to write a way to show his or her love. Display the hearts in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud page 2. **Ask:** *Who is our Creator? (God) What does he create? (heaven, earth, people, animals, plants) Who are the three Persons of the Trinity? (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)* Point out the picture of the three rings. **Ask:** *How is this design like the Trinity? (It has three parts, and they’re connected to form one object.)* **Say:** *This is just as the Holy Trinity is three Persons in one.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Discuss examples of the good things God creates.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 3. Point out the vocabulary word in dark type. **Ask:** *What is one way to be holy? (to love all God’s creation)*
- ▶ Read aloud Caring for God’s Creation. Have your child complete the sentence. Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Point out the vocabulary words.
Say: *Sacraments give us the grace we need to live holy lives.*

Art Exploration: Page 169

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of God’s creatures of the air, land, and sea.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the shining sun, trees and flowers blooming, and animals in nature.



- ▶ **Say:** *God shows his love for us by creating the world where we live.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 169. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Read aloud the adapted Scripture story. **Say:** *We take good care of the earth because it is a gift from God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Taking Care of God's Earth. Discuss the question. Ask your child to write how he or she takes care of the earth and what your child sees others do.
- ▶ Ask your child to study the picture. **Say:** *Imagine that God has invited you into this scene. Ask your child to use his or her senses while walking through the scene, appreciating what he or she sees, hears, touches, tastes, and smells. Say: Take a moment to speak heart-to-heart with God and share with him the things you like most about all that he created.*

Reflect: Page 4

- ▶ Together look at page 4. **Ask:** *What is the boy in the picture doing? What do you see in the background?* **Say:** *We can talk with God about everything in our lives.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Pray aloud the prayer and have your child repeat it. Slowly read aloud the last paragraph. Give your child time to reflect and then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Thanking God for Creation. **Say:** *To give glory to someone means to give him or her the highest praise.*
- ▶ Read aloud God's Creation Shows His Love. Invite your child to use markers or crayons to complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she loves in God's creation and explain his or her drawing.

Respond: Page 5

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show love for God's world.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



God Gives Us Jesus

Engage: Page 6

- ▶ **Ask:** *How does it feel to receive a gift?* Discuss examples of “gifts of themselves,” such as reading a book aloud to a little sister, helping with chores, or playing a game with a grandmother. Invite your child to write the names of family members or neighbors on squares of construction paper. On the other side, have your child draw a picture of a gift of himself or herself to give each person.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child’s responses. **Ask:** *What gifts does God give us?* (our family and friends, animals, beaches, forests) **Say:** *In this session we will find out about God’s most precious gift of all.*
- ▶ **Optional use of Media Manual:** From your Bible, read together Luke 1:26–33. You may also listen to the audio recording and the accompanying article through the media manual.
- ▶ Have your child give the gifts to the intended recipients. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Have your child draw a picture of his or her favorite possession and place it in a sealed envelope addressed to a loved one. **Say:** *Now imagine that sending the picture of your favorite possession was equal to giving it away.* **Ask:** *How would it feel to give this precious gift away?*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Most Precious Gift. **Ask:** *To whom did God give his Son?* (everyone in the world) *Who is God’s Son who became man?* (Jesus) **Say:** *Imagine what it will be like to live with God in Heaven.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two sentences on page 7. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *When something is consecrated, it is made to be special to God through prayer.*
- ▶ Read aloud the rest of the paragraph. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What does it mean to honor someone?* (to show respect) Discuss the picture of the tabernacle. **Say:** *The Blessed Sacrament is kept in the tabernacle after Mass.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Genuflect. Demonstrate how to genuflect and have your child practice. Have your child write his or her response to the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *Preparing to receive these sacraments is a joyful, challenging, and exciting journey.*

Art Exploration: Page 170

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of the Holy Family.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the faces of Jesus and his parents.
- ▶ **Say:** *God’s greatest gift to us is his Son, born into a special family here on earth.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 170. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Story of Joseph. **Ask:** *Why did Joseph name the child Jesus?* (An angel told him in a dream.) Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *The name Jesus was chosen because Jesus is our Savior.*
- ▶ Read aloud Families Are Special. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with family members.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *These words tell us that Jesus promises to be with us always.*
- ▶ Ask your child to use watercolor paints or markers to make his or her own version of the Holy Family. Remind your child to sign his or her artwork. Discuss the ideas that your child has about the painting as well as how he or she thinks Joseph and Mary cared for Jesus.

Reflect: Page 8

- ▶ Together look at page 8. **Ask:** *What do you think the girl in the picture is thinking about?* **Say:** *Jesus is always with you and loves to spend time with you.*
- ▶ Slowly read aloud the first paragraph. Continue reading, pausing after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray *Amen* and join your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Talk about the meaning of your child's name. Then read the section Another Name. **Ask:** *What does the name Emmanuel mean? ("God with us") What does the word Savior mean? ("one who saves")*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for Names for Jesus. Help your child complete the activity. Discuss names and nicknames of family members. Remind your child that there are many names for Jesus.

Respond: Page 9

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show love to a friend today.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



God Is Our Father

Engage: Page 10

- ▶ Invite your child to help you plan a meal for your family to show that you care. Make each person a special place mat, using construction paper and markers.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *Who do you think gave this girl her bowl of food? Why do you think we prepare meals for one another?* **Say:** *In this session we will find out how God our Father cares for us.*
- ▶ **Optional use of Media Manual:** From your Bible, read together Matthew 6:9–15. You may also listen to the audio recording and the accompanying article through the media manual.
- ▶ Together set the table for your meal and remind your child that God provides for his creation just as you are providing a meal for your family. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 10–11

- ▶ Together make a list of the things you do to care for a real or an imaginary pet. Discuss why it is important to be a loving caregiver.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud God Cares for Us. **Ask:** *Who feeds and cares for birds and flowers in nature? (God)* **Say:** *We can trust God to care for us the way he cares for the birds and flowers.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 11. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What are some reasons we might pray a prayer of petition? (to ask for help with our cares or worries, to ask God to bless our families) For what can you praise God? (my family, home, pet)* **Say:** *The Lord's Prayer is a prayer of praise because we honor God. It is also a prayer for petition because we ask for God's help.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *As you prepare for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and of Reconciliation, your heart shares the excitement your godparents and I had on the day you were baptized.*

Art Exploration: Page 171

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a view of Earth from space.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the land and the water.
- ▶ **Say:** *God takes care of all of his creation, including us.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 171. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Together read aloud Trust in God. **Ask:** *What are some things God has created for us that show his love and care?* (people to care for us, nature, food)
- ▶ Read aloud Resting in God's Hands and discuss the question. Have your child write how it might feel to be held lovingly in God's hands. Compare his or her answer to your own.
- ▶ Invite your child to use blue and green paper on a blue background to make an earth like the one in the picture. Ask him or her to cut out pictures, such as animals and plants, to represent God's creation. Have your child include this caption: *God gives us the gift of his creation.* Display the art in your home.

Reflect: Page 12

- ▶ Together look at page 12. **Ask:** *How does the girl show she is praying?* (hands together, still) Remind your child that he or she is in the holy presence of God while praying.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *This is an important prayer because Jesus taught it to us. It is important to take it to heart. I will help you.* Invite your child to read the Lord's Prayer with you slowly and reverently. Allow time for silent prayer. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first sentence of Praise Him, Praise Him. **Say:** *Find the place in the Lord's Prayer where we praise God. ("hallowed be thy name")*
Say: *Find the place in the Lord's Prayer where we bring God our needs. ("Give us this day our daily bread.")*
- ▶ **Ask:** *How do you feel when you are praising God? Are you happy? Are you alone or with a friend?* Have your child complete the activity.

Respond: Page 13

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can listen to a parent.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



God's Life for Us

Engage: Page 14

- ▶ Together cut out from magazines or newspapers pictures of people doing good things. Arrange the pictures into a collage and glue them onto a sheet of construction paper. Discuss how these people are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's response.
Say: *The Holy Spirit helps us enjoy life by showing us how to do good things for ourselves and others. In this session we will learn more about the Holy Spirit.*
- ▶ **Optional use of Media Manual:** From your Bible, read together Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4. You may also listen to the audio recording and the accompanying article through the media manual.
- ▶ Invite your child to think about ways your family celebrates the gift of life. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 14–15

- ▶ Display your Bible. **Say:** *The Bible is full of wonderful stories, many of them about Jesus. The story we are going to read is about Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus into the Temple.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 14 and discuss the picture. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Messiah means both "Savior" and "anointed with oil."* **Ask:** *When Simeon looked at Jesus, what did he see?* (the Messiah, the one who had come to save his people) **Say:** *Because Simeon listened to the Holy Spirit, he was able to see who Jesus really was—our Savior.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 15. **Say:** *Faith is a gift from God that helps us believe in him and live as he wants us to live.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Learning to Care for Others and complete the activity. Encourage your child to follow through with his or her idea.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Say:** *God wants to fill our hearts with strength, joy, and the desire to love him.*

Art Exploration: Page 172

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus bringing light to a dark world.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting the contrast between the light and the darkness.
- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine the light of Jesus shining on you. When we shine with the light of Christ, the Holy Spirit is working in us.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 172. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the adapted Gospel story The Work of the Holy Spirit. **Say:** *When we choose to help others, we shine with the light of Christ.* **Ask:** *Where would you like to shine the light of Christ?*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Shine a Light on Good Deeds and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *The Bible passage says that we can all be a light to the world.* Encourage your child to take the Scripture to heart and pray it from memory this week.
- ▶ Together sit in a dark room and shine a flashlight. Pass the flashlight back and forth as you complete this sentence: *The Holy Spirit shines through me with _____.* (Possible answers: love, peace, joy, kindness, patience)

Reflect: Page 16

- ▶ Together look at page 16. **Ask:** *What do you think the people are doing?* (comforting each other) Remind your child that he or she can ask the Holy Spirit for help anytime.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. Then invite your child to slowly and reverently pray aloud the prayer with you. Read aloud the sentence following the prayer. Allow your child time to pray silently. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together. You may wish to review the Prayer to the Holy Spirit in its entirety on page 143 of the Children's Book.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first sentence at the bottom of the page. Together brainstorm ways in which the Holy Spirit has guided you this week. Then have your child read aloud the next sentence and complete the activity. Praise your child for allowing the Holy Spirit to fill his or her heart and mind.

Respond: Page 17

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can look for God at home and in the world.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 18

- ▶ Together with your child, look at a calendar. **Ask:** *Why do people use calendars?* (to record important events, to know when to complete tasks, to understand how much time has passed in a year) Together point out dates that are important to your family.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Then ask your child to turn to page 106 in his or her book and locate both periods of Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Ordinary Time—the time of year we learn that Jesus is the Bread of Life.*
- ▶ **Optional use of Media Manual:** From your Bible, read together Matthew 26:26–30. You may also listen to the audio recording and the accompanying article through the media manual.
- ▶ Ask your child to look at your calendar and mark the dates on which you will celebrate Ordinary Time. Then pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 19

- ▶ With your child make a breakfast menu that shows your family's favorite breakfast foods. **Ask:** *Why do we need to eat meals and snacks?* (because we need food to help our bodies and minds work) **Say:** *All living things need food to survive and thrive.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and both paragraphs. Point out the vocabulary term. **Say:** *Jesus is our spiritual food, and we thrive because we are fed by Jesus in the Eucharist.*
- ▶ Read aloud How Can I Grow? and guide your child in completing the first question. **Ask:** *Does playing with your friend or praying and reading your Bible help you learn more about Jesus?* Invite your child to complete the second question. Then discuss the answer.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Like the food we eat, Jesus also nourishes us. He puts love in our hearts and peace in our minds. He is our spiritual food.*

Reflect: Page 20

- ▶ Together recall watching parish members process to Holy Communion. **Say:** *Process means "to move in an orderly and ceremonial way."*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What do you think is beautiful about Holy Communion?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Have your child turn to The Seven Sacraments on page 149. Take turns reading aloud each section on pages 149–152. Discuss each sacrament. **Say:** *God enters our lives through each sacrament. We grow in God's love and grace as we participate in each one.*



Art Exploration: Page 173

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the breaking of the bread at Mass.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, focusing on the prayerful people looking on as the bread is blessed and broken.
- ▶ **Say:** *Ordinary Time is a time to remember that Jesus invites us to the table to break bread and be fed by him.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 173. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud We Celebrate Ordinary Time. **Ask:** *How do we grow during Ordinary Time?* (by learning more about Jesus and showing our love for Jesus and others)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass in Ordinary Time. Point out the vocabulary word. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Give your child a small cardboard box, such as a tissue box, to decorate. Then give him or her four strips of colorful paper. Tell your child to write a short prayer on each strip as a reminder to follow, celebrate, thank, and imitate Jesus in our actions and ways we treat others. Encourage him or her to keep the prayers in the box and choose to say one each day. Close with your child by silently praying a prayer from the box.

Respond: Page 21

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can perform a special deed for someone.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.