

Multimedia for each lesson are accessed by scanning the QR code on the Children's Book page. If you don't have access to a QR code digital device, contact your child's catechist for assistance.

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: Pages 2–3

- ▶ Focus your child's attention on the picture. Ask: *What is Ignatius carrying?* (a Bible and a satchel) *What is his expression?* (thoughtful, serious) Read aloud the first and second paragraphs on page 3. Explain that a monastery is a place where some men live apart from the everyday world to give their lives to God. Invite your child to read aloud the third paragraph. Ask: *Why do you think Ignatius recognized God's love in everything?* (God creates everything and fills it with his love.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask what Saint Ignatius might mean by "abundant grace." (More grace than we can imagine.)

Unit Opener: Page 4

- ▶ Ask your child to imagine he or she is in a beautiful place in nature, close his or her eyes, and think of the sights, smells, and sounds of the place.
- ▶ Invite your child to describe what he or she imagines. Say: *Everything is part of God's creation. We can seek God by paying attention to the lovely things he creates.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the paragraph under it at the top of the page. Say: *Saint Ignatius teaches us that God is always with us. When we pay attention, we can see God everywhere.*

- ▶ Read aloud the activity introduction and directions. Tell your child to take a moment to think about times he or she was aware of God's presence. Ask: ***What person, place, thing, or animal has made you think of God?*** Invite your child to write his or her response on the lines.
- ▶ Repeat the line "I saw God in" and ask your child to share his or her responses.
- ▶ Call attention to the Reading God's Word feature. Remind your child that Ignatius tells us we can be close to God all the time. Say: ***Let's praise God by praying this psalm.*** Invite your child to read the psalm with you.

Created to Be Happy

Engage: Page 5

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Genesis 1:26–31. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Talk about the game of hide-and-seek and how sometimes you can find someone who's hiding because you see a glimpse of that person. Say: ***Although God is hidden from our sight, we can glimpse his presence in all of creation.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: ***What beautiful things does God create for us?*** (Possible answers: the land and sea, animals, food to eat, flowers)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's ask God to help us know him.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Then pause for additional reflection. Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen.*
- ▶ Invite your child to join you for a walk around your neighborhood. Take turns pointing out the beauty and goodness of God's creation. Read aloud the session title. Ask: ***How can we care for God's creation?*** (pick up litter, water plants, take care of animals) ***In this session, we will learn about the wonders of God's creation and how we are called to take care of it.***
- ▶ Ask your child to think about what you saw on your walk and the goodness of God's creation.

Explore: Pages 6–7

- ▶ On a sheet of paper, take turns with your child writing things you believe, such as "I believe family is important" and "I believe in my child."
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 6. Call attention to the words in bold on the page: Apostles' Creed, Apostle, and creed. Ask if your child knows what these words mean. Guide your child to understand that an Apostle was one of the twelve followers of Jesus, a creed is a statement that tells what people believe, and the Apostles' Creed is a statement of what we believe as Christians. Read the first three lines of the Apostles' Creed with your child. Then take turns saying the lines without looking at the page, alternating lines with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***We find God in his creation.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title on page 7. Ask: ***How can creation praise God?*** Read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to read aloud the psalm with you.
- ▶ Discuss beautiful things you saw this week. Read aloud Your Own Song of Praise and invite your child to write his or her own song of praise on the lines provided. Write your own and share it with your child.

Art Exploration: Page 8

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a work of art showing a scene from nature. Discuss with your child what is conveyed in the picture through details such as colors, flowers, plants, animals, any water that is shown, landforms, and the sky.
- ▶ Say: ***Each of these things is created by God and can tell us about him. God gives us life that includes a limitless variety of beautiful living things to enjoy and care for.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 8. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud God's Wonders. Ask: ***How can we give glory to God for his creation?*** (through prayer, taking care of his creation)
- ▶ Read aloud Small Wonders. Ask: ***What does the word wonders mean?*** (something different, special) Discuss other small wonders you and your child have noticed. Say: ***All the wonderful things in nature, even the tiniest of wonders, reflect the beauty of God's creation. God must love us very much to have given us all these beautiful things.***
- ▶ Take a walk with your child or look out the window, and invite your child to complete the activity I Spy a Small Natural Wonder.
- ▶ Consider playing I Spy with your child, such as "I spy something that is green and has three round leaves." Use clues to guide your child to see the small natural wonders of creation.
- ▶ With your child, use watercolor paints, crayons, markers, or colored pencils to draw or paint garden scenes of your own. Include in your pictures both big and small wonders from God, as well as your family enjoying God's gifts.

Reflect: Pages 9–10

- ▶ Together look at page 9. Ask: ***What do you think the child in the picture is feeling?*** (joy, freedom) Say: ***Prayer is a special time to be aware of God's presence.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Invite your child to pray the prayer with you. Read aloud the last paragraph. Invite your child to spend a few moments in silence, using his or her own words, thoughts, and feelings to talk to God. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the title on page 10. Say: ***Think about ways in which we get to know one another. Then think about how we can know God.*** (We get to know others through their words and actions. We can know God through his creation.)
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph. Ask: ***Why did God create all things?*** (because of his love)
- ▶ Read Love for God's Creation and invite your child to complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she loves in God's creation and explain each drawing.

Respond: Pages 11–12

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be kind to people and animals and all of God’s creation. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 12. Talk with your child about which line from the psalm each of you liked best, and why.

Created to Be Together

Engage: Page 13

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud 1 Thessalonians 4:9–12. Then say: *The Word of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God*.
- ▶ Invite your child to name at least three people who helped him or her in the last 24 hours. Say: *We are blessed to have so many people who help us. As you grow older, you will be called upon to help others as well*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *How has God taught us to love one another?* (through his love for us)
- ▶ Invite your child to fold his or her hands as you pray the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.

Explore: Pages 14–15

- ▶ With your child, talk about your own experiences praying. Ask: *When do you like to pray? Is it quiet? Do you tell God about your day?*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 14. Ask: *Who are the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity?* (God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) Say: *Let's think of the Trinity as we pray the Sign of the Cross together*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: *Praying together the Sign of the Cross unites our church community*.
- ▶ Read aloud page 15. Ask: *What does the Glory Be to the Father help us remember about God?* (He created us; he is with us now and always will be.) *What do the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be to the Father have in common?* (They praise God as the Trinity.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *John wrote several letters to his friends about the importance of spreading God's love. We can read his letters in the Bible*. Together find the verse in your Bible.

Art Exploration: Page 16

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 16. Look together at the illustration on the page.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* (people who are happy, living in harmony with animals, sea creatures, and other aspects of God's creation)
- ▶ Read aloud together the Scripture passage. Ask: *How do the picture and the Scripture passage go together?* (The Scripture passage is about God's love being everywhere and shown in our love for one another. The picture shows people celebrating God's love as shown in the world he creates.)

- ▶ Go back and read aloud together the first paragraph of Sharing God's Love. Ask: ***How did Saint Elizabeth share God's love?*** (She started a hospital and cared for others.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Showing Your Love and then complete the activity. Remind your child to begin with small actions and words to spread God's love.
- ▶ Invite your child to make a watercolor painting that shows God's love all around us and how we share it. Display the picture in your home.

Reflect: Pages 17–18

- ▶ Together look at page 17. Ask: ***Where are the children in the picture?*** (On a walking path in nature.) ***Why do you think this place is special to them?*** (It is peaceful.) Remind your child to take several deep breaths before he or she prays. Read aloud the paragraph before the Sign of the Cross. Invite your child to spend a few minutes in silence thanking God. Say: ***Now we'll pray our special prayer of praise to the Trinity.***
- ▶ Say: ***We'll pray parts of the prayer together and then pause so we can imagine walking with Jesus and reflect on each Person of the Trinity.*** Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 18. Say: ***We have heard many Bible stories about Jesus.*** Ask: ***How does Jesus act in these stories?*** (kind, loving, understanding) Read aloud What Would Jesus Say? Invite your child to complete the activity and discuss the answers.
- ▶ Read aloud Kindness Counts and invite your child to complete the activity.

Respond: Pages 19–20

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can respond as Jesus did to people who are sick or who have few resources. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 20. Say: ***Let's remember to share God's love by speaking gently, as Jesus would, when we talk with others.***

God Is Our Father

Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud John 15:11–17. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ With your child, pantomime two conversations, one between two people who don't get along and the other between two people who care for one another. Discuss your differences in behavior in the two scenes. Say: *Jesus teaches us how to put our love into action*. Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: *How can we show love and care for others?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Say: *Let's ask Jesus to guide us as we pray*. Pray the prayer together. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Say: *Jesus taught us how to pray to God*.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: *In this session, we are going to learn about a very special way in which Jesus taught us to pray*.

Explore: Pages 22–23

- ▶ Together with your child, name some of your child's friends. Discuss how these friends are similar and different. Guide your child to recognize that some of his or her friends come from different backgrounds, but they enjoy playing together.
- ▶ Read aloud page 22. Ask: *What does reveals mean?* (making known what was not known before). Point out the word *Abba*. Say: *This is how Jesus referred to God, just as you call me [or your father] _____ [Supply the way in which your child addresses you or his or her father.] God our Father loves and cares for us just as our families and friends love and care for us*.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *In the Lord's Prayer, we praise God. We ask him to give us what we need, and we ask for his forgiveness*.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the top half of page 23. Say: *When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we are telling God we love him*. Pray together this version of the Lord's Prayer from Luke.
- ▶ Read aloud Forgive Each Other. Invite your child to complete the activity. Then share your experiences.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask if your child remembers this from attending Mass with you.

Art Exploration: Page 24

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a painting or other work of art showing children who are friends. Depending on what the picture you selected shows, discuss who the friends in the picture are, how we can tell they are friends, and the fact that friends sometimes have problems that they then work out, say they're sorry, forgive, and go back to being friends.
- ▶ Say: ***God wants us to know that we will always be loved even when we sin. He wants us to love others even when we feel angry with them.***
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 24. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Caring Friends. Ask: ***How can we care for one another? What do we ask for in the Lord's Prayer?*** (to forgive us as we forgive others)
- ▶ Read aloud the directions for What Would You Do? Give your child time to answer the questions. Discuss your child's answers.
- ▶ Ask your child to reflect on a situation when he or she was hurt by someone and then how your child felt when he or she made peace. Invite your child to draw a line down the middle of a sheet of paper. On one side, guide your child to draw a picture showing how he or she felt badly about something. On the other side, invite your child to draw how he or she felt when the problem was resolved. Say: ***God's hands lifted away your heaviness.***

Reflect: Pages 25–26

- ▶ Together look at page 25. Ask: ***What are the man and boy doing? How would this setting make you feel?*** Remind your child to picture having a conversation with Jesus before he or she begins praying.
- ▶ Read aloud each section of page 25, pausing after each part of the Lord's Prayer. Then give your child time to talk to Jesus in his or her own words. Close the prayer by praying *Amen* and praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud How We Show Forgiveness on page 26. Ask your child to write a response to each situation and then discuss each response. Give your child time to draw the scene for one of his or her answers. Say: ***It is always better to forgive than to stay angry and hold a grudge.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***What does this reading have to do with the activity we just did?*** (God wants us to help others and forgive them and show mercy.)

Respond: Pages 27–28

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to describe specific situations in which he or she can forgive someone. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 28. Say: *Keeping God close to our hearts helps us be kind and gentle with one another and with our friends. Having a forgiving heart helps us love others as God loves us.*

Jesus Is with Us

Engage: Page 29

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud John 6:12–15. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord*. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child if he or she remembers being at a meal where there were leftovers. Ask: *Did we wrap leftovers for guests to take? Did we bring home leftovers following a gathering?* Say: *Leftovers from a shared meal continue to nourish us with the love of the people we were with.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs. Invite your child to describe the effect of Jesus' miracle on the crowd.
- ▶ Say: *We can pray to Jesus at any time. Let us pray for his guidance.* Ask your child to fold his or her hands and bow his or her head as you pray the prayer aloud. Conclude the prayer by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Invite your child to write short prayers for special little ones in his or her life or write prayers for all babies. Ask: *How can you help care for a new baby?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to imagine how he or she would help Mary and Joseph get ready for Jesus. Discuss your child's answers. Say: *In this session, we will learn how God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us and to teach us how to live.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she can welcome Jesus into his or her life and heart.

Explore: Pages 30–31

- ▶ Discuss what it means to trust. Ask: *What are some things that you trust me to do for you?*
- ▶ Read aloud Joseph Trusted in God on page 30. Ask: *What did the angel tell Joseph?* (to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt) Say: *Joseph trusted God and knew God wanted the best for Joseph and his family.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: *What does the name Jesus mean?* (God saves us.) *Can you tell me three of the names for Jesus that are on this page?* (Emmanuel, Savior, Son of God)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud page 31. Ask: *How do you feel knowing that God sent his Son to be with you always?* (warm, cared for) Invite your child to write about a time he or she trusted in God. Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *Trust that the Lord is always with you.*

Art Exploration: Page 32

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a work of art showing an angel or angels. Discuss with your child how the angel(s) are characterized and the kinds of feelings they evoke. Say: *An angel is a messenger from God. Joseph trusted the angel that told him Mary would have a baby.*
- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 32. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Ask: *What does Emmanuel mean?* (God is with us.) *What does Christ mean?* (the anointed one)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Our Names. Help your child find the meaning of his or her name in a book or on a website.
- ▶ Provide art materials and invite your child to draw a self-portrait. Then mount the drawing on a sheet of construction paper and write his or her name on it. Ask your child to write around his or her picture all the names to which he or she might answer, such as nicknames and names like *brother, daughter, niece, or friend.*

Reflect: Pages 33–34

- ▶ Together look at page 33. Ask: *How would you describe the girl in the picture?* (She is bowing her head in order to focus on God's love for her.)
- ▶ Remind your child of the first phrase of the Apostles' Creed that he or she learned in Session 1. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 33. Pray the sentence of the Apostles' Creed on this page together. Then invite your child to read the last paragraph. Say: *You can spend special time with Jesus any time.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read the first paragraph on page 34. Ask: *What are some ways that Jesus lived a good life and cared for others?* (He taught others about God, helped Mary and Joseph, and healed sick people.)
- ▶ Read aloud Good Examples. Invite your child to complete the activity and explain the reasons for choosing the pictures he or she circled. Say: *Remember that one way to pray is to say a prayer of thanksgiving. This is the kind of prayer you will write in the last activity.* Read aloud the directions and give your child time to reflect and write. Invite your child to share his or her prayer.

Respond: Pages 35–36

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways of helping others. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 36. Say: *Let's remember to trust in God always, knowing that he is with us.*

Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 37

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Mark 10:13–16. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child to describe ways in which he or she is included in the life of your parish. Say: ***Since the moment when Jesus invited the children to come to him, children have added joy and energy to church communities***. Read aloud the paragraphs. Then ask: ***How are you growing in your faith?*** (Accept reasonable answers.)
- ▶ Say: ***Let's take a moment to talk to Jesus in our hearts***. Pray aloud the prayer. Pray together the Sign of the Cross. End by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title. If your child knows about the two periods of Ordinary Time, say: ***In this session, we will learn more about Ordinary Time, when we express gratitude for our church community***. If not, explain that Ordinary Time occurs between the end of the Christmas season and Ash Wednesday (when Lent begins) and between the end of the Easter season and Advent. Invite your child to create a time line that shows each month of the year. Encourage your child to make Ordinary Time stand out.

Explore: Page 38

- ▶ Talk about the community you live in. Ask: ***What makes up a community?*** (people who live near one another and share common interests) ***What is a church community?*** (people serving Jesus together)
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Say: ***Members of church communities can be Christ to the world by serving in ways such as working in soup kitchens***. Ask: ***What are some other ways we can be Christ to the world?*** (outreach programs, mission trips)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Be Like Christ. Say: ***One way I can be more like Christ in my home and work is by being patient with others***. Invite your child to complete the activity and discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***How do you feel when someone tells you, "Thank you"?*** ***How do you think God feels when we remember to say thank you to him?***

Reflect on the Mass: Page 39

- ▶ Together look at a recent parish bulletin. Ask: *What kind of information do we find in our parish bulletin?* Discuss the various items in your bulletin.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Ordinary Time and What We Experience. Ask: *What do the activities found in a parish bulletin say about our church community?* (Parish members look for ways to serve others in the community and around the world.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the section What We Experience. Ask: *How would Sunday Mass feel different if you attended alone?* (Discuss your responses with one another.)
- ▶ Read aloud My Parish and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *A parish missal contains the information needed to participate in Mass and states the season or feast being celebrated that week.* Together look for that information in your parish bulletin.

Art Exploration: Page 40

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a work of art that represents the Eucharist.
- ▶ As you look at the picture together with your child, discuss aspects of the Eucharist that are shown.
- ▶ Say: *Whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, we are reminded of God's presence in our lives. Whenever we gather at Mass, we are surrounded by the church community.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 40. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Rejoice and Be Glad. Say: *During Ordinary Time, we celebrate our church community.* Ask: *How does the church community spread love?* (religious education classes, parish activities, visiting those who are sick)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Give Thanks for Your Gifts and complete the activity. Say: *We will celebrate Ordinary Time by being aware and thankful for the ways in which our church community helps us.*

Respond: Pages 41–42

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest other ways he or she can spend time with someone in need. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 42. Say: *Let's think of ways we can love and serve the Lord and our church community this week and always.*