

5 With My Family

General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 8 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

Live out your faith together as a family using the With My Family activities in the Grade-Level Children's Book or the modified activities below.



Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 8
1	Show your child pictures in books or online of baby animals. Talk about how God creates animals and people.
2	As a family, look through a family photo album, or put together an album of recent family photos. Talk about how God creates and loves all of us.
3	As a family, plant a flower in a pot or in your yard. Talk about how God creates the plant and the soil and other living things like people.
4	With your child, find a Web site or app that shows different kinds of animals. Spend time looking at the pictures and talking about how God creates animals and that we have a responsibility to care for them.
5	As a family, visit a favorite nature scene, such as a forest, a beach, or a farm. Talk about how God creates the world and all the wonders in it.
6	As a family, look through a children's Bible, such as <i>The Catholic Children's Bible</i> (St. Mary's Press). Spend time reading aloud the stories and looking at the pictures.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 14 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

Live out your faith together as a family using the With My Family activities in the Grade-Level Children's Book or the modified activities below.



Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 14
1	Together write a letter that expresses love to a family member or friend. Invite your child to draw a picture and include it with the letter. Talk about the importance of showing others that you care about them.
2	Using a children's Bible, such as <i>The Catholic Children's Bible</i> (St. Mary's Press), read aloud a Scripture passage of Jesus helping someone, such as Mark 5:35–43 (Jairus's daughter). With your child, draw a picture of the passage. Talk about how Jesus came to show us God's love.
3	As a family, make get-well cards for friends or people in your parish. Talk about how doing this is a way to show love to others. Together deliver the cards.
4	Take a walk around your home and look for objects that reflect your faith, such as a Bible, a crucifix, or a religious calendar. Talk about why these objects are important to your family.
5	Together collect clothes and toys that are in good condition but that you don't use anymore. Take them to an organization that accepts donations. Discuss how these donations will help others.
6	As a family, visit a favorite outdoor place like a park or a zoo. Find ways to show you care about God's creation by picking up litter or learning about the needs of an animal that interests your family.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 20 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

Live out your faith together as a family using the With My Family activities in the Grade-Level Children's Book or the modified activities below.



Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 20
1	Together decorate a bookmark that shows images of God and Jesus. Place the bookmark in your family Bible.
2	Together make up a simple prayer that states that because your family trusts in God, you are free to share his love. Pray aloud the prayer together each day during the week.
3	Together make a paper chain to remind you to be kind and loving. Write the name of a family member, neighbor, or friend on each link that you want to include in your prayers. During the week, reread the names often to remind you to show love and forgiveness to one another.
4	Make a poster of the Act of Hope and have your child decorate it. Display it in your home. Pray the prayer aloud together each day during the week.
5	Watch family movies or look through family photo albums. Point to and identify family members and share stories that have been passed down through your family. Point out how stories in the Bible have also been retold many times.
6	Together look through a family photo album. Point out different pictures and tell how God took care of your family. Discuss how trusting God makes your love and faith stronger.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 26 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

Live out your faith together as a family using the With My Family activities in the Grade-Level Children's Book or the modified activities below.



Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 26
1	Make a simple family tree using pictures of grandparents, parents, and children. Talk about how God is with all your family members.
2	Take a walk around your neighborhood and look for God in the world around you. Take pictures of where you find God. Together pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.
3	Find an American Sign Language Web site to learn the sign for "thank you." Practice giving each other this sign as you find ways to help each other during the week.
4	Make up some family rules for getting along better, such as <i>we encourage one another rather than trying to stop one another</i> . Post the rules somewhere in your home where everyone can see them.
5	Make a Beatitude mobile to hang in your home. Work together to write each Beatitude in your own words on a decorated note card. Use string to attach the cards to a wire hanger.
6	During a meal, discuss challenges you may have faced during the day. Ask for guidance for everyone's challenges in a family prayer.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 30 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

Live out your faith together as a family using the With My Family activities in the Grade-Level Children's Book or the modified activities below.



Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 30
1	Place pictures or other symbols of people, plants, and animals in a decorated gift box. Periodically open up the "present" and identify the gifts from God that you are thankful for.
2	Cut up green straws into small pieces. Together make kindness bracelets by sliding the pieces onto pipe cleaners. Wear your green bracelets during Ordinary Time as a reminder to show kindness to others as Jesus did.
3	Compile a list of people in your community who help your family. Make thank-you cards to show how grateful you are for their service. Deliver the cards as a family.
4	Play music for 5 or 10 minutes while you help your child find toys and clothes in good condition that he or she no longer plays with or wears. When the music stops, talk about how your toys and clothes could help someone in your community. Then deliver them to a local charity as a family.
5	Locate sacramentals that you have at home such as a rosary, Bible, and crucifix. Give a list of the sacramentals, and invite the family to go on a treasure hunt to discover them.
6	Together sit on the floor and toss a ball to one another. When the ball is rolled to you, complete this sentence: Ordinary Time is a time to _____. When everyone has had a turn, lead a family prayer, thanking God for allowing your family to grow closer to him during Ordinary Time.