

5 With My Family

General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 38 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 38
1	Together look at baby pictures and family videos. Discuss ways your family has helped your child and his or her siblings grow. Point out how independent he or she is becoming.
2	As your child draws the numbers 1–10 in the air, in sand, or using finger paints, say the commandment that corresponds to that number. Play the game over and over to familiarize your child with the Ten Commandments.
3	Play the game Hot Potato. Pass a potato or a ball to family members while music is playing. When the music stops, have the person holding the potato tell or show a way they can help someone in your family or community.
4	Together make a deck of Commitment Cards using note cards. Draw pictures or write words that tell how family members can show Jesus' new commandment to others. Tape the cards to the refrigerator or a wall. Encourage one another to look through the cards during the week as reminders of ways to love others.
5	Think of a way your family can volunteer together to help out at Mass or to help someone in your parish.
6	As a family, role-play a time you made a bad choice, how it felt to accept the consequences of your choice, and how you showed others that you were sorry.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 44 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

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Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 44
1	Bring in a branch from outside. Draw pictures or write names of people and animals that your family prays for. Hang the pictures on the branch. Choose different pictures to pray for each night of the week.
2	As a family, think of someone you know who could use your family's help. Together think of ways that your family could help this person during the week.
3	Display a glass jar and a bowl of candy. Have family members place a candy in the "Kindness Jar" each time they do something nice for someone else during the week. Talk about each act of kindness at the end of each day. Share the candy at the end of the week.
4	During the week, say "Peace be with you" before, during, or after family prayer time.
5	Share pictures and stories of times your family has celebrated the sacraments. Reenact the scene using the words and gestures used at a wedding, Baptism, or Confirmation.
6	Cut a heart stencil out of an old folder. Invite the child to use the stencil to make hearts and cut them out. Together write positive messages on the hearts and place them around the house in unexpected places for family members to discover.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 50 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

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Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 50
1	To reinforce understanding of the phrase "Give us this day our daily bread," mold bread dough into a heart-shaped loaf. Bake the dough and eat the bread after praying the Lord's Prayer as a family.
2	Play a game of Follow the Leader. Have each family member take turns being the leader. Leaders should choose something to help around the house.
3	Use a brown paper bag to make a "Happy Bag" for a friend or grandparent. Have your child decorate the bag. As a family, decide what to put in the bag. Ideas might include homemade bookmarks, tea, cookies, and holy cards. As a family, deliver the bag.
4	As a family, visit a church to look at the Stations of the Cross together. At each station, invite a family member to describe aloud what he or she sees. When finished looking at the Stations of the Cross, invite the family to take a moment of silence to pray a prayer of their choice.
5	Make cards for babies or adults who have been recently baptized in your parish. Include words of welcome to your church from your family to theirs.
6	To help learn the Ten Commandments, play a memory game. Write each commandment on separate note cards and the numbers 1 through 10 on other note cards. Mix up the cards and place them face down. Take turns matching them and see who matches the most.

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Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 56
1	Take turns drawing and coloring a picture of Jesus on a large sheet of paper. Then glue cotton balls around Jesus to represent clouds. Make a Jesus in the Clouds poster. Say: Jesus has risen!
2	Play the Good Shepherd game. Choose a "shepherd" who leaves the room while the "sheep" hide. The shepherd looks for the sheep until all have been found. Take turns being the shepherd.
3	Make family prayer necklaces by writing your names on slips of paper. Punch a hole in each strip and string yarn through the slips to make necklaces. At night, pray a special prayer for the people named on your necklace and remember to forgive them if they have hurt you.
4	Make Works of Mercy cards. Each week pick a card at random and discuss how your family can act in this way.
5	Make a stamp by gluing a foam cross to the top of a bottle cap. Design cards for the confirmands in your parish using your stamp, an ink pad, and colored paper. Deliver them to your parish's catechetical leader to distribute.
6	Play a game of charades that shows the rewards of good decisions. Include consequences for the characters who make poor choices. Suggest choosing a scene from a book, movie, TV show, or real life.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 60 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

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Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 60
1	Wrap individual pieces of a Nativity scene in newspaper. Take turns unwrapping each character during Advent to build up anticipation for Jesus' birth. Identify each character. Unwrap baby Jesus on Christmas.
2	Have all family members cut out their own four-pointed star and write their name in the middle. During each week of Advent, show or tell how you brought light to others just as Jesus does. Place a star sticker on each point after the weekly family-sharing time.
3	Make an Advent Kindness Jar. As a family, write about or draw pictures of ways you can help others on slips of paper and place them in the jar. During Advent, have a family member take a slip from the jar and share it. Invite every family member to perform that service during the day and discuss it when he or she gets home.
4	Make a prayer tree. Attach names of family members, neighbors, and friends to the branches of a small Christmas tree. Have family members choose a name to pray for during each week of Advent.
5	Place slips of paper with names of family members in a basket or bag. Choose a name of a family member. Instead of giving a present, write a note to the person whose name you have, explaining why that person is important to the family.
6	Have a special family dinner each Sunday during Advent. Use a purple tablecloth and have an Advent wreath as your centerpiece.