

5 With My Family

General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 68 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 68
1	Prepare your child for Mass by going through some of the actions at home. Practice sitting, blessing yourselves, standing, kneeling, and singing. Say: We (sit, kneel, and so on) at Mass. Repeat using other actions.
2	Together take care of a plant such as an ivy plant. Decorate the pot with the sentence <i>I am the vine</i> . As the plant grows, remind your child how we all grow when we stay close to Jesus' love.
3	Practice the gift of kindness by helping with chores around the house. Write names of chores on slips of paper and place them in a container. Have two family members pick out chore slips at the same time and help each other complete the tasks.
4	Make welcome cards for new families in your parish. Draw pictures and write sentences that tell why you love your church.
5	Together look online for videos of people celebrating Mass in different languages. Say: All these people are speaking in different languages, but they are praying the same prayer. We and all these people are members of the same Church.
6	Visit the Catholic Relief Services Web site at www.crs.org . Together look at pictures and read about people who are served by the Church. Include the people in a family prayer.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 74 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

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Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 74
1	As a family, make a model church out of clay, blocks, or craft sticks. Pray that your church will always be filled with the Holy Spirit.
2	Together trace your feet on paper and cut them out. Think of ways your family can walk in peace, such as saying "I love you." Help each other write peaceful ideas on the cutouts. Display your "Peace Walk" as a reminder to be peacemakers during the week.
3	As a family, view on television or online people working together to help others, such as participating in a walk-a-thon or a winter coat drive. Think of ways your family can work together to accomplish larger tasks.
4	As a family, make a homemade treat and deliver it to your parish priest. Call ahead and make sure the priest is available. Introduce yourselves and share some conversation to get to know one another better.
5	Make prayer sticks by placing pictures of your Church leaders and your family members at the top of craft sticks. Then write their name on the stick. Place the sticks in a can. Take turns pulling a prayer stick out of the can each day and devoting your family prayers to the person whose picture is on the stick.
6	Make a simple board game based on Psalm 23 with the final goal being entering the house of the Lord. Draw ideas from the psalm for losing a turn as well as advancing. Borrow dice and markers from other games. Read Psalm 23 aloud before playing the game together.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 80 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

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Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 80
1	Plan a family meal where you all share cooking and cleanup duties. Say: <i>First we share the work; then we share the food! We show our love for one another by sharing!</i>
2	Take turns tossing a beanbag into a bucket. If someone misses, decide how many chances he or she gets to try again. When everyone has had a turn, say: <i>Just like this game, we give one another second chances when we forgive one another.</i>
3	Collect sacramentals in your home and display them. Identify each one. Then place them out of sight. Take turns making up sacramental riddles, such as "I am made up of many stories" (Bible), and guessing the answer.
4	Together write a special family forgiveness prayer. Post it in a place like the kitchen where the family will read it.
5	Take time during the week to give one another blessings. The blessings can be in the form of a short song, a gesture, or even a one-sentence prayer. Encourage your child to repeat the blessing or use one of his or her own.
6	Together write <i>God heals!</i> on the backs of bandages. Wear them to remind your family to be the Church for others.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 86 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

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Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 86
1	Use modeling clay to make statues of Mary and place them in different rooms of your home. As you are working on the statues, make up a song about Mary that goes with a popular tune like "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." (Mary, Mary, God chose you. You said "Yes!" and we do, too!)
2	Make a Mary Tree. Find a branch and place it in a small container. Together cut out paper leaves and draw or tape a picture of Mary in the center of each one. Attach the leaves to the branch. Take time to say prayers to Mary as you pass the tree each day.
3	Make a Rosary board. Online find images of Mary and the 20 mysteries, and print and cut them out. Draw circles to represent the beads and glue the pictures of the 20 mysteries to a piece of cardboard. Move the image of Mary around the board as you pray.
4	Pick a day on which the Church celebrates Mary's life. Mark it on the calendar. Display flowers in your home in honor of Mary on that day.
5	Design "Thinking of You" cards that are signed by all your family members. Give them to friends and neighbors for no other reason than to say you have them in your family's thoughts and prayers.
6	Together make a Mary banner for your home. Include a picture or words to remind your family that Mary is a model of how to be holy.

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General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 90 of the Grade-Level Children's Book

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Grade Level	Possible Modification for a With My Family Activity from Page 90
1	Find or make a Nativity scene that your child can hold. Name each figure and tell his or her role at the birth of Jesus. Allow the child time to play with the Nativity scene.
2	Give Jesus a birthday gift in the form of charity for others. Collect clothing, books, and/or food and donate them in your community. Say: Jesus, we honor your birthday by helping others.
3	Talk about your Christmas traditions and come up with a new one. An example might be saying a prayer to Jesus each time you see a Christmas angel. Another idea is to give each family member figures from the Nativity scene to put in place each night leading up to Christmas. On Christmas, sing "Joy to the World" as baby Jesus is placed in the manger.
4	Have a family Christmas scavenger hunt. Display a chart with pictures of Christmas objects, such as an angel, a star, a manger, and Nativity-scene figures. Hide these objects in your house. Set a time limit and see how many of the objects your family can find. Identify the importance of each object during the season of Christmas.
5	Share with your family that white is the liturgical color of the season. As a family, plan for each person to wear one item of white clothing when you attend Christmas Mass.
6	Explain that your family is the modern-day Magi. Together think of three gifts of kindness you can give to people you know. Examples could include baked goods, babysitting, snow shoveling, and rides to church. Say: We honor Jesus, our king, with these gifts.