

5 With My Family

General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 128 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 128
1	Use markers and strips of cardboard to make I Love God bookmarks. Help your child write the words on the bookmark. Say: <i>This bookmark will help us remember the most important commandment: Love God!</i>
2	Make an effort to perform random acts of kindness this week as a family. Together come up with ideas for the acts, which can range from sharing a smile to helping someone carry groceries. Tell one another about the reactions you receive as a result of your acts of kindness.
3	Organize a yard sale or book sale. Decide as a family what charity you would like your profits to go to. As a family, remember that charity in your daily prayers.
4	Together make up "I love you" rules, such as <i>I will give you a hug each day</i> or <i>I will help you with your chores</i> . Post these rules in a common space to remind one another of your own "family commandments."
5	Throughout the week, present your child with two choices to make about what he or she eats, when he or she goes to bed, and what he or she wears. Point out how making good choices about these things helps him or her stay healthy.
6	Ask each family member to find an item that once meant a lot to him or her, but he or she has since outgrown. Share the items and memories that you have about the items. Together donate these or similar items to a community charity so other families can make similar memories.

5 With My Family

General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 134 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 134
1	Together make a card for a family member to say "I'm sorry" or "I forgive you." Make multiple cards and put in a spot for all family members to use. Say: When you have hurt someone's feelings, remember to say "I'm sorry." We also remember to accept someone's forgiveness when he or she is sorry.
2	As you are reading together or watching television, look for situations (that are appropriate for children) where characters have to make choices. Ask: What do you think Jesus would do?
3	Together brainstorm a list of good choices your family can make toward one another this week such as greet one another with a smile or do a chore without being asked. Post the list on the refrigerator. At the end of the week, check off the completed choices.
4	After attending Mass, invite each family member to share three things they remember about the Mass, such as the homily, a reading, the priest's name, a song, and any decorations.
5	Go online with your child to look at pictures and read about compassionate people who made good choices and stood up to people who made bad choices. Examples might include Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and Elizabeth Ann Seton.
6	As a family, introduce yourselves to your priest after Mass. To get to know one another better, make conversation by sharing something about your family and ask the priest about his extended family.

5 With My Family

General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 140 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 140
1	Set an example by doing something special for your parents or an older person in your neighborhood to show that you honor them as caregivers. Invite your child to be involved in the planning and presentation.
2	Find opportunities during the week with your family or with television or book characters to point out situations that aren't fair to everyone. Say: <i>Sometimes it is hard to treat everyone fairly, but Jesus wants us to do our best!</i>
3	Designate an "I am loved" day for each member of your family. On his or her day, the family member gets to choose a favorite meal and receives special attention from you and other family members.
4	Give everyone sticky notes. Ask them to use the notes to write messages or draw pictures to give to one another during the week. Encourage all to place the notes in places where each recipient will be surprised.
5	Watch a child-appropriate television show or a movie together. Afterward, talk about which characters showed respect to others.
6	Go outside one evening during sunset. Sit quietly and use your senses to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of God's creation.

5 With My Family

General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 146 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 146
1	With your child, find information on the Internet to learn about an endangered animal that the child is interested in. Find out what the animal needs to survive. Say a special prayer asking God to take care of the animal.
2	Suggest that all family members give a sincere compliment to someone each day of the week. Role-play different kinds of compliments. Talk about your progress at dinner.
3	Write these words on slips of paper and place them in a bag: <i>family, home, neighborhood, animal, God</i> . Let family members take turns drawing a slip of paper each day. Together decide how you can show respect for each category.
4	Together make an "Our Family's Gifts Tree." Draw a large tree on poster board and cut out leaf shapes from green construction paper. Invite each family member to write something he or she is grateful for on a leaf and glue it to the tree.
5	Share pictures of family members or friends who have died. Include their names in prayers for people whom you want to remember.
6	Together make a pledge of peace that encourages respect and forgiveness and opposes the use of violence. Hold hands in a circle of peace and recite your pledge.

5 With My Family

General Directions for Completing With My Family on Page 150 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 150
1	Fill plastic Easter eggs with Bible verses and small treats. Leave one egg empty. Hide the eggs and have family members look for them. Invite each person to read aloud the Bible verse. Have the person who found the empty egg open it and say, "Jesus is risen." Share the treats.
2	Together mark the 50 days of the Easter season from Holy Saturday to Pentecost Sunday on your calendar. Mark off each day by drawing a smile to represent the joy of the season.
3	Take time before Mass to look for signs of Easter such as the color white and lilies that celebrate the joy of Christ's Resurrection. Encourage each family member to wear one article of white clothing to Mass.
4	Enjoy a "peaceful week" by remembering to greet or leave one another with the Sign of Peace. Also include prayers for peace in your prayer before meals.
5	As a family decide on a way to share the joy of Easter, such as helping in a community garden or cleaning up a playground. Your project might help your neighborhood, your community, or your church.
6	Through your parish, find the name of a senior citizen who could use help with outdoor spring cleanup or small chores. Arrange for your family to be caretakers for a few hours and spruce up God's creation.