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# God, Our Creator and Father

## Unit Opener: Pages 2–3

- ▶ 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 lives. 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 Creator and Father. God created everything that is. His creation shows his love for us.***
- ▶ Focus your child's attention on pages 2–3. Read aloud the saint's name and discuss the picture of Saint Francis of Assisi. Ask: ***What do you see in the picture?*** (Saint Francis, animals, trees) ***How do you think Saint Francis felt about animals?*** (He loved them.) ***What is Saint Francis wearing?*** (a brown robe, sandals) ***Is his clothing fancy?*** (No.) ***Do you think he was a rich man?*** (No.)
- ▶ Read aloud page 3. Ask: ***How would you feel if you saw a person talking to a wild animal like a wolf?*** (Possible answers: scared, nervous) ***How did the wolf react to Saint Francis?*** (It was calm and gentle.) Say: ***Saint Francis loved everything God created. He loved the animals as if they were his brothers and sisters. He treated them kindly. We are going to learn how God makes everything and how prayer helps us show our love for all creation.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Ask your child why God's creation of the sun is so important to all of creation.
- ▶ With your child, add Saint Francis of Assisi's feast day, October 4, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love that Saint Francis had for animals.

## Unit Opener: Page 4

- ▶ Ask: **What did Saint Francis of Assisi love?** (the country, trees, Brother Wolf, animals, everything) Say: **Saint Francis loved everything in nature.** Share with your child some of your favorite things in nature. Then ask your child to name some of his or her favorite things in nature. Record your child's answers on a sheet of paper.
- ▶ Point out the title of your child's book, *Finding God*. Say: **Saint Francis found God in everything, especially in nature. All of God's creation filled Francis with joy.** Read aloud the title on page 4 and the two paragraphs. Then read aloud the activity title and directions. Review the list of your child's favorite things. Then help your child write his or answer to finish the prayer.
- ▶ Call attention to the Reading God's Word feature. Remind your child that Saint Francis showed his thanks to God by being joyful. Say: **We can pray joyfully from the Bible. The Bible tells us the Word of God. It tells the story of God's love for us.** Pray aloud each line of the psalm and have your child echo you. Repeat the psalm a second time, this time acting out with your child the words that show joy.

# God Makes Everything

## Engage: Page 5

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Genesis 1:1–8. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Ask: **If you made a gift for a friend and then saw him or her carelessly break it, how would you feel?** (sad, hurt) Say: **When we receive a gift, we show our thanks by taking good care of it. We show our thanks for God's gift of creation by caring for it.** Read aloud the paragraphs on page 5. Ask: **What did God create from nothing?** (the world and everything in it) **Where do we see God's goodness?** (in his creation)
- ▶ Say: **Let's prepare for prayer. Fold your hands and close your eyes.** Pray aloud the prayer. Then say: **Think about how good God is to us.** Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

## Explore: Page 6

- ▶ Have your child look out a window and name some things he or she sees. Write the responses on a sheet of paper. Ask: **Which of these things were created from nothing by God?** (Possible answers: plants; animals; people; the sun, sky, and land)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and two paragraphs. Point out the three boldface terms and have your child say the words with you. Ask: **Who is God?** (the Creator, our Creator) **Why do we call God the Creator?** (because he creates everything from nothing) **Why does God create everything?** (because he loves us and wants us to enjoy his world) **What is creation?** (everything God makes)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Ask your child to name things in the pictures and then complete the activity. When your child is finished, discuss his or her answers. Point out that the bicycle and house should not be circled because they were made from materials by man.
- ▶ Say: **God creates everything because he loves us and wants us to enjoy and love his creation.** Ask: **How can we enjoy and love God's creation?** (Possible answer: by caring for everything God creates) Say: **Always remember to thank God in your heart for the wonderful world he created for us.**

**Explore: Page 7**

- ▶ Ask: **What kinds of things do we recycle at home?** (paper, cans, glass, plastic) **How do we recycle?** (We put recyclables in a container and put the container on the street for pickup.) Say: **When we recycle, we are caring for God's world.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Ask: **What are the children in the picture doing?** (playing together, being nice to one another) **How can we show our love for God's creation?** (Possible answers: by helping others, playing with friends, planting trees, not littering)
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Have your child say the word *Amen* with you. Say: **The word Amen means "This is true." We pray Amen to show we really mean the words we prayed.**
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph. Have your child say the word *saint* with you. Say: **A saint is a holy person who does something to show a strong love for God. A saint is a true friend of God. A saint lives with God forever in heaven.** Ask: **What saint do we know who showed his love for God by caring for God's creatures?** (Saint Francis of Assisi)

**Art Print: Page 8**

- ▶ You might look in a magazine, a book, or online for a picture of Saint Vincent de Paul helping the sick. Ask: **What do you see in this picture?** Encourage your child to describe the actions of Saint Vincent de Paul. Say: **Saint Vincent de Paul helped people who were poor and in need. This is how he showed God his love.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Talk about organizations that build homes for people in need, such as Habitat for Humanity. Explain that some parishes have a St. Vincent de Paul Society of volunteers that helps those in need. Ask: **Why do you think the organization is called the St. Vincent de Paul Society?** (They help people in need, like Saint Vincent de Paul did.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Ask: **What might our family donate to a St. Vincent de Paul center?** (clothes, toys, furniture, artwork) Invite your child to draw and share his or her picture.
- ▶ Then together find clothes in your home that you could donate to a St. Vincent de Paul center or a similar organization in your area and deliver the items.
- ▶ With your child, use watercolor paints, crayons, markers, or colored pencils to create get-well cards for future use. Help your child write *Get Well Soon!* on his or her cards and sign the artwork. When a family member or neighbor becomes ill, have your child choose a card to send or deliver to let the person know that your child cares.

**Reflect: Page 9**

- ▶ Say: ***We've learned a lot about God and his world. We show our love for God by taking care of his world and by praying.***
- ▶ Together look at page 9. Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Say: ***Sometimes we pray our own words, and sometimes we pray special words. Now we'll learn a prayer that reminds us we belong to God. It's called the Sign of the Cross.*** Sit next to your child while you slowly demonstrate the gestures as you pray the Sign of the Cross. Then ask your child to use his or her right hand to perform each gesture with you as you pray the Sign of the Cross together. Repeat the words and gestures of the prayer as needed to make sure your child understands.
- ▶ Say: ***Let's get ready for prayer time by taking a moment to relax and become quiet. Now let's fold our hands for prayer.*** Read aloud the second paragraph. Pause to allow your child to talk to God silently. Then conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together again. Say: ***We're going to pray the Sign of the Cross often, and it will always be meaningful to us because it's the first prayer we learned together.***

**Reflect: Page 10**

- ▶ Read aloud the title and Scripture verse on page 10. Ask: ***What are some of your favorite things that God makes?***
- ▶ Read the activity title and directions. Ask: ***What good things do you see in the pictures on this page?*** (a butterfly, clouds, the sun, birds, hills, flowers, grass) Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***Why are all the things God created so happy?*** (because God makes everything and loves all creatures) ***How can we let God know we're grateful for all he has made?*** (by thanking him in our prayers, by taking care of the earth and everything in it, by taking care of the world)

**Respond: Pages 11–12**

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary on page 11. Then review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and ask your child to suggest a way he or she can show love for God's creation.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child complete the sentence.
- ▶ Have your child prepare for prayer. Say: ***We show that we love God when we are thankful for the gifts he creates for us.*** Pray aloud the prayer on page 11 as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 12. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verse as suggested in the next paragraph. Discuss Faith on the Go. Then complete the activity together if you choose.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.

## God Cares for Us

### Engage: Page 13

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud John 3:16–17. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord**. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*. Explain to your child that this is the response we say when we read a Gospel verse from the Bible. Say that the Gospels were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- ▶ Ask: **How do I show that I love and care for you?** (Accept any answers.) Say: **Parents show their love by providing and caring for their children. God shows his love for us too.** Read aloud the paragraphs on page 13. Ask: **What is the greatest gift from God the Father?** (Jesus) **Who shows us how to love and care for others?** (Jesus)
- ▶ Have your child fold his or her hands and pray silently as you pray aloud the prayer. Then say: **Think about someone you can show God's love to today.** Pause briefly, then close by praying together *Amen*.

### Explore: Pages 14–15

- ▶ Invite your child to look at the pictures on page 14. Ask: **Where were these pictures taken?** (in church) Have your child describe what is happening in the pictures. Say: **church is a special place where we celebrate Mass together.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the two paragraphs. Point out the two boldface words and have your child say the words after you. Ask: **What do we do at Mass?** (listen to stories from the Bible about God's love for us; pray; sing; receive Holy Communion) Say: **Mass is the most important celebration of our faith. Mass is the most important way we thank God for the blessings we have received from him.** Explain that liturgy is prayer with other people. Say: **Liturgy celebrates the wonderful things God has done for us in Jesus Christ.**
- ▶ Say: **When we go to Mass and hear stories about God, we learn more about the ways God shares his love. When we pray to God at Mass, we join with others in showing love for God.**
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Pause briefly before asking: **Where can we see and enjoy God's goodness?** (everywhere; in everything God creates)
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 15. Say: **Mass is an example of a liturgy.** Point out the boldface word *praise* and have your child say the word with you. Say: **When we praise God, we tell him how happy we feel because he is so good to us.**
- ▶ Briefly review the parts of Mass, such as the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Communion Rite, and the Concluding Rites.

- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Talk about your favorite part of the Mass. Then invite your child to draw a picture of his or her favorite part of the Mass in the space provided. Help your child complete the sentence below the drawing.

### Art Print: Page 16

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of children playing together on a playground. Ask: **What do you see in this picture?** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of the children toward one another. Say: **When someone is kind to us or when we see someone being kind, it can inspire us to be kind too.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Say: **God loves and cares for everyone. He wants us to love and care for everyone too.** Ask: **How does everyone around us feel when we are kind?** (happy, cared for) Say: **Being loving and caring is how we show God's love to one another.**
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and complete the page together. Discuss times when you and your child showed love at home.
- ▶ With your child, use watercolor paints to make a scene of a peaceful playground with children caring for one another. After the paint dries, help your child add a caption to the painting to describe what is happening.

### Reflect: Page 17

- ▶ Together look at page 17. Ask: **What is the boy in the picture doing?** (*thinking, praying*) Remind your child that he or she can pray anytime or anyplace he or she likes.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph. Invite your child to pray the special words of thanks with you. Pause briefly to give your child time to thank God. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

### Reflect: Page 18

- ▶ Ask your child to describe the foods he or she sees in the photograph at the top of the page and in the activity picture. Ask: **Who gives us all these wonderful foods?** (God) **Because God creates everything, what special name do we give him?** (Creator)
- ▶ Read aloud the title, first paragraph, and Scripture verse. Ask: **What kinds of good things does God give us?** (food, friends, water) Say: **God takes good care of us by giving us everything we need.**
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Let your child name the good things in the picture and then color it. At your next meal together, discuss the good things God has given your family.

**Respond: Pages 19–20**

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary on page 19. Then review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show care for family, friends, and neighbors.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child complete the two sentences.
- ▶ Have your child prepare for prayer. Then pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 20. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph. Discuss Faith on the Go. Then complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.

## God Is Our Father

### Engage: Page 21

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Matthew 6:9–13. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Ask: **How do we send messages to connect with other family members and friends?** (text, email, social media) Say: **Jesus wants us to connect with God our Father through prayer.** Read aloud the paragraphs on page 21. Ask: **What prayer did Jesus give us?** (the Lord’s Prayer)
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Then pray aloud the prayer. Say: **Think about how much God loves you.** Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

### Explore: Page 22

- ▶ On a sheet of paper, write a special message to each other, such as *God loves us* or *I love you so much.* Leave out a few letters and fill them in together as you read the messages.
- ▶ Show your child the Bible. Say: **God sends us messages too. We find these messages in the Bible.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraph. Point out the three boldface terms and have your child repeat them after you. Ask: **Who is the Son of God?** (Jesus) **What does the Bible reveal?** (the story of God the Father; stories about Jesus) **What is the Bible called?** (the Word of God)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child connect the dots to finish the picture. Invite your child to take time to look through your Bible and ask questions about it.

### Explore: Page 23

- ▶ Say: **The Bible teaches us about God our Father and Jesus his Son.** Read aloud and discuss a passage from the Bible, such as the story of creation in Genesis 1:24–28.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Say: **The Bible contains the story of God’s promise to care for us.**
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Point out the word *Scriptures* and have your child repeat it after you. Point to the Bible and say: **We read Scriptures from the Bible. Scriptures are the Word of God.**

- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph. Show your child where the Old Testament and New Testament are in the Bible. Ask: **Who does the Old Testament tell about?** (God the Father) **Who does the New Testament tell about?** (both Jesus and the Father)
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Ask: **At Mass what kinds of stories do you hear from the Bible?** (stories about God and Jesus)

### Art Print: Page 24

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of Jesus being welcomed by a large group of children.
- ▶ Ask: **Who do you see in this picture?** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the emotions on the faces of the people.
- ▶ Say: **Jesus is with us wherever we are. He is friendly and he loves us. Jesus makes us feel happy with his presence.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title, paragraph, and Scripture verse. Say: **Jesus teaches that God is our Father. That's why we often call God Father in our prayers.** Ask: **When we pray the Sign of the Cross, what do we say at the beginning?** (In the name of the Father . . .)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child draw the picture. Afterward, discuss how much God loves all of us.
- ▶ With your child, use construction paper, markers, crayons, and scissors to make a *Hosanna* banner to decorate his or her room. Use bright colors and help your child write the word *Hosanna*. Remind your child that "Hosanna" is a word of praise.

### Reflect: Page 25

- ▶ Together look at the picture. Ask: **Where is the girl?** (in a field or garden) Say: **Jesus is always with you wherever you are and loves spending time with you in prayer.**
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph in a prayerful manner. Pause between sentences, giving your child time to reflect.
- ▶ Pray aloud the two paragraphs of the prayer. Then say: **Now take a few moments to tell Jesus anything you like.** Close the prayer by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.

### Reflect: Page 26

- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Discuss the two questions. Ask: **Does everyone live in a home like ours?** Discuss different kinds of homes and explain that all people should have a place to live.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she would like best about Jesus visiting your home.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: **When you love Jesus, you also love God the Father.**

**Respond: Pages 27–28**

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 27. Review the Words I Learned. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can share God’s message of love.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child complete the sentences.
- ▶ Have your child prepare for prayer. Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then close by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 28. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph. Discuss Faith on the Go. Then complete the Family Bible activity together. Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.

## God Gives Us Peace

### Engage: Page 29

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud John 14:26–27. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Demonstrate two puzzle pieces that do not fit together. Say: **To complete a puzzle, the pieces need to fit together. Sometimes our lives are like a puzzle, but the pieces don't seem to fit.** Reconcile the puzzle pieces so they fit together. Say: **Jesus teaches us that, when we connect with God, everything fits. When everything fits, we experience peace.**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 29. Say: **Jesus wanted his friends to be at peace with one another. He often said, "Peace be with you." At Mass the priest or deacon says, "Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace." You then turn and share that peace with people around you.** Share a sign of peace with your child.
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Then pray aloud the prayer. Discuss how each of can share God's peace today. Conclude the prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross and *Amen.*

### Explore: Page 30

- ▶ Ask your child what gifts he or she has received recently. Say: **Not all gifts can be held in your hand or wrapped in a box. We give the gift of love when we give someone a hug, a kind word, or a smile.**
- ▶ Discuss the picture on page 30. Ask: **Whom do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening?** (Jesus is talking with some men.) Say: **This is Jesus with his friends. Jesus is our friend too. The Bible tells us about a wonderful gift that Jesus gave to his friends.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Point out the boldface term *Holy Spirit*. Have your child repeat the term after you.
- ▶ Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask: **What was Jesus' gift to his friends and to us?** (the Holy Spirit) Say: **The Holy Spirit is the Third Person in God's holy family. Where is the Holy Spirit?** (with us always) Have your child breathe in and out so he or she can feel each breath. Say: **That's how close the Holy Spirit is to you—as close as your own breath. We are moving with the Holy Spirit when we care for and forgive others.**

**Explore: Page 31**

- ▶ Ask: **What do you call a bicycle with three wheels?** (a tricycle) Write the word *tricycle* on a sheet of paper. Say: **This word begins with the letters t-r-i. Tri- means “three.”**
- ▶ Read aloud the title on page 31 and point to the term *Trinity* in the first paragraph. Have your child repeat the word after you. Then write *Trinity* on the sheet of paper below *tricycle*. Say: **When we see tri-, we think of three.** Read aloud the two paragraphs. Say: **God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are the Three Persons of the Trinity.**
- ▶ Have your child look at the picture. Point to the symbol for each Person of the Holy Trinity as you read aloud each caption. Say: **The bright light shows the presence of God. Jesus is shown as a young man. A dove is often used to show the Holy Spirit.**
- ▶ Have your child look at page 31 to answer these questions: **Which Person of the Trinity made us?** (the Father) **Which Person of the Trinity brings us God’s love?** (the Son) **Which Person of the Trinity brings us God’s peace?** (the Holy Spirit)

**Art Print: Page 32**

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture of a dove. Ask: **What do you see in this picture?** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail. Say: **A dove is often a symbol for the Holy Spirit. It can also be a sign for peace. People all over the world want peace and pray to God to help them find it.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraph on page 32. Ask: **When might we pray for peace?** (when we are arguing, when we see a sad story on the news)
- ▶ Say: **Everyone can pass peace along simply by smiling.** Take turns smiling into a mirror. Then ask: **How else can you pass along peace?** (treat others with kindness, say I’m sorry when making a mistake, forgive others)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: **If we listen to God’s messages and believe them, we will have peace.**
- ▶ Together with your child cut out dove silhouettes from sheets of white paper. Then complete the following sentence on each dove cutout: I can bring peace by \_\_\_\_\_. Decorate the other side of the doves with white feathers and glitter. Suspend the doves from string to decorate your home.

**Reflect: Page 33**

- ▶ Invite your child to get ready for prayer time. Read aloud the title. Then have your child close his or her eyes and pray silently as you pray aloud. Read aloud the paragraph and then say: **Tell the Holy Trinity how you will share God’s love and peace with others.** Pause briefly to allow your child time to pray.

- ▶ Say: **Now we're going to learn the Glory Be to the Father, a prayer of praise to the Holy Trinity.** Have your child follow along in the book as you pray aloud the prayer. Then invite your child to pray aloud with you.
- ▶ Close prayer time by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Say: **Now you know two prayers you can pray to the Holy Trinity: the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be to the Father.** Discuss how the two prayers are alike in that we say "the Father," "the Son," and "the Holy Spirit" in both prayers.

### Reflect: Page 34

- ▶ Read aloud the title and paragraph. Ask: **What Three Persons are in one God?** (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title, question, and directions. Invite your child to color the picture. Read the word *Trinity* together. Ask: **How many persons are there in the Trinity?** (three)
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature, emphasizing the words "Peace and all things good." Say the words to your child and ask your child to greet you with the same words. Ask: **What are other ways we can be peacemakers?** (by being good listeners, by making friends with people who are different from us)

### Respond: Pages 35–36

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 35. Review the Words I Learned. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest other ways he or she can bring God's love to others.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Pray aloud the prayer with your child and conclude the prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 36. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Read aloud Faith on the Go. Complete the activity with your child.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.

## Celebrating Ordinary Time

### Engage: Page 37

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Psalm 104:13–18. Then say: **The Word of the Lord.** Invite your child to respond *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to draw one or more emojis that show different emotions. Say: **Each emoji shows a different mood or feeling. Similarly, when we pray, we can express our feelings to God.**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 37. Explain to your child that psalms are prayers in the Bible that help us express our feelings to God.
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Say: **Let's talk to God, who is always listening.** Pray aloud the prayer. Then conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen.*

### Explore: Page 38

- ▶ Together with your child, look at a monthly calendar. Ask: **Why do people use calendars?** (to record important events, to know when to complete tasks, to understand how much time has passed) Read or list some of your family's events on the calendar. Then say: **Our Church has a calendar, a liturgical calendar, that marks a year.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the two paragraphs. Point out the boldface terms and have your child repeat them after you.
- ▶ Ask your child to turn to page 211 and locate the two seasons of Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. Say: **Ordinary Time is a season in which we are grateful for living things. We celebrate Ordinary Time by giving thanks to God for the gifts he gives us.**
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions on page 38. Ask your child to discuss the family activities for which he or she is grateful. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word verse from 1 Chronicles. Then invite your child to read aloud the verse with you. Tell your child something you thank God for when you pray. Then ask your child what he or she thanks God for during prayer.

### Reflect on the Mass: Page 39

- ▶ Brainstorm a list of God's creations with your child and write them on a sheet of paper. Discuss various things found in church that are created by God (people, flowers, plants) and items made by people using things God gives us (altar, pictures, statues, stone walls, floors).
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Explain to your child that God's creation includes everything: people, animals, the earth, the sun, pictures, statues, and so on.

- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Say: ***Bread and hosts are made from wheat, and wine is made from grapes. When the priest offers the gifts of bread and wine at Mass, these gifts become Jesus. During Ordinary Time, we remember that Jesus is always with us and helps us grow in faith.***
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child complete the activity and discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask your child to name green things he or she has seen in church. Then say: ***Green is used during Ordinary Time as a symbol of growth, life, and hope.***

### Art Print: Page 40

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a newspaper, a book, or online a picture of a seedling growing from the ground or a flower pot. Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the sprout, the soil, and the sun if it's visible. Say: ***Ordinary Time is a time to be thankful for everyday miracles, like this sprout growing from a seed into a plant.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Ask: ***What are some things that grow?*** (trees, grass, flowers, pets, people) Say: ***During Ordinary Time, God asks us to see his miracles in nature. All of God's creatures work together.***
- ▶ Ask: ***How does rain help plants?*** (waters them) ***How do worms help soil?*** (turns it over) ***How do plants help people?*** (feed them, provide oxygen) Say: ***Each of God's creatures does a job so that we can live together happily and healthfully.***
- ▶ Discuss joyful events that happened to you both recently. Then read aloud the activity title and directions and help your child complete the page.
- ▶ Together with your child, try yoga poses patterned after God's creation. Ahead of time, use the internet to find and learn easy animal yoga poses, such as cat pose, cobra pose, and butterfly pose. Demonstrate each pose for your child and then perform each pose together. Invite your child to make up poses that conjure the spirit of an animal or natural object.

### Respond: Pages 41–42

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 41. Review the Words I Learned. Then read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child what he or she would say to praise God for the gift of his creation.

- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Point to the letter *P* in the first line and explain that a word beginning with *P* is needed. Then help your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Invite your child to prepare for prayer. Say: ***Let's prayer a prayer of thanks.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays silently. Then say: ***Be with God in the quiet of your heart.*** Pause briefly, then close by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 42. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.