God, Our Creator and Father

Begin

▶ 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 life. 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 Father and Creator. God created everything that is. His creation shows his love for us.

Introduce the Saint

▶ Focus your child’s attention on the picture of Saint Isidore the Farmer on page 2. Ask: What do you think was Saint Isidore’s job? (farming) Turn to page 3. Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Ask: Where did Saint Isidore live? (Spain) What did Saint Isidore do while he was farming? (pray) Say: A saint is a person who lived a life of special faith and goodness. The Church has honored many saints. Saint Isidore loved God and showed care for the earth and its creatures. He and his wife, Maria, were kind to others, especially those who were poor and hungry.

▶ Say: God wants us to take care of the earth. Saint Isidore can teach us about loving the earth. Read aloud the last paragraph. Say: A patron saint watches over special groups of people, places, or animals. Ask: Which groups does Saint Isidore watch over? (farmers and laborers)

▶ Read aloud the Be Inspired feature. Say: Jesus says that there are many people who need to hear the Good News, but only a few people to spread his message of love and kindness. Ask: How can you spread the Good News? (Be kind to others; tell others about Jesus; read about Jesus and try to live as he did.)

▶ With your child, add Isidore’s feast day, May 15, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the work of Saint Isidore.
Unit Opener: Page 4

▶ With your child, think of someone in your family or neighborhood who could use a “Thinking of You” card. Encourage your child to make a card for that person by using construction paper, markers, or crayons. Have your child write this sentence inside the card: **God is good and wonderful, and so are you.** Encourage your child to give the card to its recipient. Point out that God creates things out of love for us, just as your child made the card.

▶ Discuss with your child the different ways he or she might pray: silently, spoken aloud, in song, or in quiet reflection. Say: **Saint Isidore cared for the earth and everything in it with love. He prayed while he worked.** Invite your child to read aloud Labor of Love on page 4. Discuss with your child why it is important to treat all living things with care and respect. Say: **Saint Isidore understood that the earth and living things are a gift to us from God. He cared for creation to show his love for God.**

▶ Read aloud the directions and invite your child to do the activity. When he or she is finished, discuss the picture he or she drew. Say: **You are being kind like Saint Isidore.**

▶ Point out the picture at the bottom of page 4. Say: **The boy is showing kindness to his pet rabbit. In this session, we will learn what God makes and why he makes those things.**

▶ Direct your child's attention to the Reading God's Word feature. Say: **The Book of Psalms in the Bible contains prayers. We can pray any time to express our thanks and love to God.** Read aloud the psalm. Then pray the psalm together to express praise to God for his creation.

(Continued on the next page)
God Creates Us

Engage: Page 5

- Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- Read aloud Genesis 1:26–27. Then say: The Word of the Lord. Invite your child to respond Thanks be to God.
- Say: God has given us all of creation as a gift and asks us to care for it. Read aloud the paragraph on page 5. Ask: What would happen to our world if we didn’t take care of it? (It would become polluted and unable to support life.) Say: Let’s thank God for his creation, including our wonderful selves! Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together Amen.

Explore: Pages 6–7

- Cut out paper hearts. Ask your child to write the names of people he or she loves on the hearts. Then ask your child to write a way to show his or her love. Display the hearts in your home.
- Show an image of a shamrock. Ask: How many leaves does a shamrock have? (three) Say: A shamrock is one plant, but it has three parts. Read aloud the first paragraph of Our Loving God on page 6. Guide your child to look up the word creation in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: Who is our Creator? (God) What does he create? (heaven, earth, people, animals, plants)
- Read aloud the second paragraph. Ask: Who are the Three Persons of the Trinity? (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) Ask: How is the shamrock like the Trinity? (It has three parts, and they’re connected to form one object.) Say: This is just as the Holy Trinity is Three Persons in one. God is with you always, no matter where you are. God is there to help and guide you.
- Ask your child to read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Discuss examples of the good things God creates, such as a beach or a baby brother.
- Read aloud God’s Blessings on page 7. Guide your child to look up the word holy in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Ask: What is one way to be holy? (to love all God’s creation)
- Read aloud God’s Blessings Help Us and have your child complete the activity. Discuss his or her response.
- Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Guide your child to look up the terms Eucharist and Penance and Reconciliation in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: Sacraments give us the grace we need to live holy lives.
Art Exploration: Page 8

- Find in a book or online a picture of God’s creation. Ask: **What do you see in this picture?** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the shining sun, trees and flowers blooming, and animals in nature. Say: **God shows his love for us by creating the world where we live.**
- Have your child turn to page 8. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions. Read aloud God Made Heaven and Earth. Ask: **How did God feel when he finished creating everything?** (He felt pleased.) **What did God ask Adam and Eve to do?** (take good care of the earth) Say: **When we receive a gift, we take good care of it. We take good care of the earth because it is a gift from God.**
- Ask your child to read aloud Taking Care of God’s Earth. Discuss the question. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- Ask your child to study the picture of God’s creation. Say: **Imagine that God has invited you into this scene.** Ask your child to use his or her senses while walking through the scene, appreciating what he or she sees, hears, touches, tastes, and smells. Say: **Take a moment to speak heart-to-heart with God and share with him the things you like most about all that he creates.**

Reflect: Pages 9–10

- Together read aloud the title on page 9. Say: **To give glory to someone means to give him or her the highest praise.** Ask: **What do you see in the picture that is God’s creation?** (people, mountains, a lake, trees, sky) **Why do we give glory to God for creation?** (because he creates it for us and it’s wonderful)
- Read aloud the two paragraphs. Then pray aloud the prayer and have your child repeat it. Give your child time to reflect. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- Read aloud Glorify God for Creation on page 10. Invite your child to use markers or crayons to complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she loves in God’s creation and explain his or her drawing. Say: **Seeing the beautiful world helps us see how much we are loved by God.**

Respond: Pages 11–12

- Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 11. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show love for God’s world. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- Say: **Let’s give thanks for the gifts of creation.** Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- Read aloud With My Family on page 12. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: **Wherever we go, let’s remember to show love and care for the people, earth, and living things God gave us.**
Grade 2 • Unit 1, Session 2 • At-Home Edition

God Gives Us Jesus

Engage: Page 13

▶ Ask: *How does it feel to receive a gift?* Discuss examples of “gifts of themselves,” such as reading a book aloud to a little sister, helping with chores, or playing a game with a grandmother. Invite your child to write the names of family members or neighbors on squares of construction paper. On the other side, have your child draw a picture of a gift of himself or herself to give to each person.

▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.

▶ Read aloud Luke 1:26–33. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

▶ Read aloud the session title. Say: *God the Father sent his only Son, Jesus, so that he could be present with us always.* Then read aloud the paragraphs on page 13. Say: *Jesus is sometimes called Emmanuel, which means “God-with-us.”*

▶ Ask: *What gifts does God give us?* (our family and friends, animals, beaches, forests) Say: *Let’s thank God the Father for his most precious and special gift, his Son, Jesus.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 14–15

▶ Have your child draw a picture of his or her favorite possession and place the picture in a sealed envelope addressed to a loved one. Say: *Now imagine that sending the picture of your favorite possession was equal to giving it away.* Ask: *How would it feel to give away this precious gift?*

▶ Read aloud page 14. Ask: *To whom did God the Father give his Son?* (everyone in the world) *Who is God the Father’s Son who became man?* (Jesus) Say: *Imagine what it will be like to live with God in heaven.*

▶ Read aloud page 15. Guide your child to find the words *Blessed Sacrament, consecration, tabernacle,* and *genuflect* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: *When something is consecrated, it is made to be special to God through prayer.* Ask: *What does it mean to honor someone?* (to show respect) Discuss the picture of the tabernacle on page 15. Say: *The Blessed Sacrament is kept in the tabernacle after Mass.*

▶ Read aloud We Genuflect. Demonstrate how to genuflect and have your child practice genuflecting. Then have your child write his or her response to the question.

▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: *Preparing to receive these sacraments is a joyful, challenging, and exciting journey.*
Art Exploration: Page 16

- Find in a book or online a picture of the Holy Family. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the expressions on the faces of Jesus and his parents. Say: *God’s greatest gift to us is his Son, born into a special family here on earth.*
- Have your child turn to page 16. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- Have your child read aloud *The Story of Joseph.* Ask: *Why did Joseph name the child Jesus?* (An angel told him in a dream.) Guide your child to find the word *Savior* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: *The name Jesus was chosen because Jesus is our Savior.*
- Read aloud Families Are Special. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her ideas with family members.
- Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: *These words from the Bible tell us that Jesus promises to be with us always.*
- Ask your child to use watercolor paints or markers to make his or her own version of the Holy Family. Remind your child to sign his or her artwork. Discuss the ideas that your child has about the painting as well as how he or she thinks Joseph and Mary cared for Jesus.

Reflect: Pages 17–18

- Together look at page 17. Ask: *What do you think the girl in the picture is thinking about?* Say: *Jesus is always with you and loves to spend time with you.*
- Slowly read aloud the paragraph. Then pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate. Provide a moment of silence for your child to talk to God in his or her heart. Pray *Amen* and join your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- Talk about the meaning of your child’s name. Then read aloud page 18. Ask: *What does the name Emmanuel mean?* ("God with us") *What does the word Savior mean?* ("one who saves")
- Read aloud the directions for Names for Jesus. Help your child complete the activity.
- Discuss names and nicknames of family members. Remind your child that there are many names for Jesus.

(Continued on the next page)
Respond: Pages 19–20

- Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 19. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can do a kind deed and show love today. Then invite your child to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.

- Read aloud With My Family on page 20. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Finally, pray the family prayer. Say: God the Father gave us his Son, Jesus, to save us. This is God our Father’s greatest gift. At Mass, we can receive his Son, Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament. We are joyful because we know that we are becoming more like Jesus and that someday we will live forever with him in heaven.
God Is Our Father

Engage: Page 21

- Invite your child to help you plan a meal. Make each person a special place mat, using construction paper and markers. Together set the table for your meal and remind your child that God provides for his creation just as you are providing a meal for your family.
- Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- Say: Jesus taught us that we can trust God our Father to help us. Read aloud the paragraph on page 21. Ask: How many things do we ask God to help us within the Lord’s Prayer? (seven)
- Say: Let’s ask Jesus to help us know God our Father better and to love him as Jesus does. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together Amen.

Explore: Pages 22–23

- Together make a list of the things you would do to care for a real or an imaginary pet. Discuss why it is important to be a loving caregiver.
- Ask your child to read aloud page 22. Ask: Who feeds and cares for birds and flowers in nature? (God) Say: Jesus wants us to know we are very important to God our Father. We can trust God to care for us the way he cares for the birds and flowers.
- Read aloud the directions for God’s Love and Care. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: We pray this prayer during Mass to be one with God and one another.
- Read aloud page 23. Guide your child to look up the words petition and praise in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Ask: What are some reasons we might pray a prayer of petition? (to ask for help with our cares or worries, to ask God to bless our families) For what can you praise God? (my family, home, pet) Say: The Lord's Prayer is a prayer of praise because we honor God. It is also a prayer for petition because we ask for God’s help. Jesus reminds us to listen to God our Father. He teaches us to trust in God.
- Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Say: Baptism celebrates the beginning of our life as Catholics. As you prepare for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and of Reconciliation, your heart shares the excitement your godparents and I had on the day you were baptized.
Art Exploration: Page 24

- Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Earth. Say: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the land and the water. Say: *God takes care of all of his creation, including us.*
- Have your child turn to page 24. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Together read aloud Trust in God. Ask: *What are some things God has created for us that show his love and care?* (people to care for us, nature, food)
- Read aloud Resting in God’s Hands and discuss the question. Have your child write how it might feel to be held lovingly in God’s hands. Compare his or her answer to your own.
- Have your child read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Ask: *What does Peter tell us to do in his letter?* (give God all our worries) Say: *God loves us and provides for us. We can always trust in God’s care and place our worries in his hands.*
- Invite your child to use art supplies to make an earth like the one in the picture. Ask him or her to draw or cut out pictures, such as animals and plants, to represent God’s creation. Have your child include this caption: *God gives us the gift of his creation.* Display the art in your home.

Reflect: Pages 25–26

- Together look at page 25. Ask: *How does the boy show he is praying?* (hands together, eyes closed) Remind your child that he or she is in the holy presence of God while praying.
- Read aloud Jesus Teaches Us to Pray. Say: *The Lord’s Prayer is an important prayer because Jesus taught it to us. It is important to take it to heart. I will help you.* Invite your child to pray the Lord’s Prayer with you slowly and reverently. Allow time for silent prayer. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- Have your child read aloud the paragraph on page 26. Say: *Find the place in the Lord’s Prayer where we praise God.* (“hallowed be thy name”) Say: *Find the place in the Lord’s Prayer where we bring God our needs.* (“Give us this day our daily bread.”)
- Read aloud the directions for Picture of Praise. Ask: *How do you feel when you are praising God?* Have your child complete the activity.

(Continued on the next page)
Respond: Pages 27–28

► Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 27. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can listen to a parent. Then invite your child to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.

► Read aloud With My Family on page 28. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: Remember to put your trust in God our Father, who loves you and knows what’s in your heart. We praise God and tell him our needs when we pray the Lord’s Prayer.
God’s Life for Us

Engage: Page 21

- Together cut out pictures from magazines or newspapers of people doing good things. Arrange the pictures into a collage and glue them onto a sheet of construction paper. Discuss how these people are filled with the Holy Spirit. Invite your child to think about ways your family celebrates the gift of life.
- Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- Say: Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit so that we do not have to face life’s challenges alone. Read aloud the paragraphs on page 29. Ask: What do we call the day when the Holy Spirit first came upon the disciples? (Pentecost) Say: The Holy Spirit shows us how to do good things for ourselves and others. Let’s thank God our Father for sending the Holy Spirit. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together Amen.

Explore: Pages 30–31

- Display your Bible. Say: The Bible is full of wonderful stories, many of them about Jesus. The story we are going to read is about Mary and Joseph bringing baby Jesus into the Temple.
- Read aloud page 30 and discuss the picture. Guide your child to look up the words Messiah and Temple in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: Messiah means both “Savior” and “anointed with oil.” Ask: When Simeon looked at Jesus, what did he see? (the Messiah, the one who had come to save his people) Say: Because Simeon listened to the Holy Spirit, he was able to see who Jesus really was—our Savior.
- Read aloud page 31. Guide your child to look up the terms Holy Spirit and faith in the Glossary. Discuss the definitions. Say: Faith is a gift from God that helps us believe in him and live as he wants us to live.
- Have your child read aloud Care for Others and complete the activity. Say: God wants us to show love for others and to care for creation. The Holy Spirit helps us live this way. Encourage your child to follow through with the idea he or she wrote for the activity.
- Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Guide your child to look up the word grace in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: God wants to fill our hearts with strength, joy, and the desire to love him. Discuss why it is important to thank and praise God for this fantastic gift.
Art Exploration: Page 32

- Find in a book or online a picture of Jesus as the Light of the World. Ask: What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, noting the contrast between the light and the darkness.
- Say: Imagine the light of Jesus shining on you. When we shine with the light of Christ, the Holy Spirit is working in us.
- Have your child turn to page 32. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Read aloud The Work of the Holy Spirit. Say: When we choose to help others, we shine with the light of Christ. Ask: Where would you like to shine the light of Christ?
- Ask your child to read aloud Shine a Light on Good Deeds and complete the activity.
- Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: This Bible passage says that we can all be a light to the world. When we shine our light, we help other people learn about Jesus. Encourage your child to take the Scripture to heart and pray it this week.
- Together sit in a dark room and shine a flashlight. Pass the flashlight back and forth as you complete this sentence: The Holy Spirit shines through me with ________.
  (Possible responses: love, peace, joy, kindness, patience)

Reflect: Pages 33–34

- Together look at page 33. Remind your child that he or she can ask the Holy Spirit for help anytime. Read aloud the paragraph. Then invite your child to slowly and reverently pray aloud the Prayer to the Holy Spirit with you. Allow your child time to pray silently. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- Read aloud the heading and the paragraph on page 34. Together brainstorm ways in which the Holy Spirit has guided you this week. Then have your child read aloud the directions and complete the activity. Praise your child for allowing the Holy Spirit to fill his or her heart and mind.

Respond: Pages 35–36

- Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 35. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can look for God at home and in the world. Then invite your child to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- Read aloud With My Family on page 36. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: Remember, the Holy Spirit is with you always. You can ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with strength and joy and to guide your actions.
Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 37

- Together with your child, look at a calendar. Ask: Why do people use calendars? (to record important events, to know when to complete tasks, to understand how much time has passed in a year) Together point out dates that are important to your family. Ask your child to look at your calendar and mark the dates on which you will celebrate Ordinary Time.
- Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Matthew 26:26–30. Then say: The Gospel of the Lord. Invite your child to respond Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
- Say: Bread is the most common food that feeds people all over the world. Jesus referred to himself as the “Bread of Life.” Read aloud the paragraph on page 37. Ask: At Mass, what do the bread and wine become? (the Body and Blood of Jesus)
- Say: Let’s thank Jesus for the gift of the Eucharist and ask him to be with us during Ordinary Time. Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together Amen.

Explore: Page 38

- With your child, make a breakfast menu that shows your family’s favorite breakfast foods. Ask: Why do we need to eat food? (because we need food to help our bodies and minds work) Say: All living things need food to survive and thrive.
- Have your child read aloud Jesus Feeds Us. Guide your child to look up the terms liturgical year and Bread of Life in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Say: Jesus is our spiritual food, and we thrive because we are fed by Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Invite your child to look at the liturgical calendar on page 211. Point out the different seasons of the Church year and when Ordinary Time is celebrated. Say: When we receive Holy Communion, Jesus comes to us. He is our spiritual food. We thrive when we are fed by Jesus in the Eucharist. We are filled with God’s grace.
- Read aloud How Can I Grow? and guide your child to complete the activity.
- Have your child read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Say: Like the food we eat, Jesus also nourishes us. He puts love in our hearts and peace in our minds. He is our spiritual food.

(Continued on the next page)
Reflect: Page 39

▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Guide your child to look up the word *vestments* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Have your child turn to The Seven Sacraments on pages 256–259. Discuss each sacrament. Say: *God enters our lives through each sacrament. We grow in God’s love and grace as we participate in each one.*

Art Exploration: Page 40

▶ Find in a book or online a picture that shows the breaking of the bread at Mass. Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail.
▶ Say: *Ordinary Time is a time to remember that Jesus invites us to the table to break bread and be fed by him.* Have your child turn to page 40. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs of We Celebrate Ordinary Time. Ask: *How do we grow during Ordinary Time?* (by learning more about Jesus and showing our love for Jesus and others) Say: *Ordinary Time is for everyday living as followers of Jesus. It is a time to grow.*
▶ Read aloud the third paragraph. Guide your child to look up the word *chasuble* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Remind your child that the chasuble is worn by the priest celebrating Mass. Then read aloud Mass in Ordinary Time and have your child complete the activity.
▶ Give your child a small cardboard box, such as a tissue box, to decorate. Then give him or her four strips of colorful paper. Tell your child to write a short prayer on each strip as a reminder to follow, celebrate, thank, and imitate Jesus in our actions and ways we treat others. Encourage him or her to keep the prayers in the box and choose to say one each day. Close with your child by silently praying a prayer from the box.

(Continued on the next page)
Respond: Pages 41–42

▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 41. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can perform a kindness for someone. Then invite your child to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.

▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 42. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *Next time we meet, be ready to tell me ways you’ve found to act more like Jesus. I know you will have a lot to share!*