

UNIT

1

God Made Me Live

Prayer Celebration

In this prayer celebration, the children come together to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessing of the five senses.

WE CELEBRATE



Pray aloud the following litany, inviting children to pray the All part with you. Guide the children to practice the phrase a few times before you begin. Raise your arm or point to the group when it is their turn.

Leader: We can hear.
(Point to your ears.)

All: Thank you, God.

Leader: We can see.
(Point to your eyes.)

All: Thank you, God.

Leader: We can smell.
(Point to your nose.)

All: Thank you, God.

Leader: We can touch.
(Wiggle your fingers.)

All: Thank you, God.

Leader: We can taste.
(Point to your mouth.)

All: Thank you, God.

Pause for a moment. Then close by praying the Sign of the Cross.

COACHING CHILDREN TO PRAY

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Face the children as you demonstrate the gestures for the Sign of the Cross. Then explain it's easier for them to follow along if your back is to them. Use exaggerated movements, making sure children can see where you're placing your hands (especially on your left and right shoulders), as you pray the words slowly and reverently.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The *Catechism* says: a prayer of thanksgiving is for "a good received." Through prayer, the Christian experiences a communion with God through Christ in the Church. (2559–2565)

UNIT

2

God Made Me Good

Prayer Celebration

In this prayer celebration, the children come together to pray a prayer of petition for help responding to God the Father's call to help others and care for creation.

WE CELEBRATE



Pray aloud the following litany, inviting children to pray the All part with you. Guide the children to practice the phrase a few times before you begin. Signal to the children when it is their turn.

Leader: We can help others.

All: God our Father show us how.

Leader: We can care for the earth.

All: God our Father show us how.

Leader: We can clean.

All: God our Father show us how.

Leader: We can share.

All: God our Father show us how.

Leader: We can smile.

All: God our Father show us how.

Pause for a moment. Then close by praying the Sign of the Cross.

COACHING CHILDREN TO PRAY

PRAY ANYTIME

Before praying, explain to children that all they need for prayer is God and themselves. Explain that we pray aloud or silently in our hearts and that God is there to hear our prayers.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A PRAYER OF PETITION

The *Catechism* says that "by prayer of petition, we express awareness of our relationship with God. We are creatures who are not our own beginning, not the masters of adversity, not our own last end." (2629)

UNIT

3

God Made Me Happy

Prayer Celebration

In this prayer celebration, the children come together to pray a prayer of praise for God's many gifts.

WE CELEBRATE



Pray aloud the following litany, inviting children to pray the All part with you. Guide the children to practice the phrase a few times before you begin. Signal to the children when it is their turn.

Leader: God gives us the gift of speech. (Point to mouth.)

All: God is great!

Leader: God gives us the gift of prayer. (Put hands together.)

All: God is great!

Leader: God gives us the gift of song. (Sing these words.)

All: God is great!

Leader: God gives us the gift of laughter. (Put hands as if in a belly laugh.)

All: God is great!

Leader: God gives us the gift of celebration. (Put hands up as in a *hurray*.)

All: God is great!

Pause for a moment. Then close by praying the Sign of the Cross.

COACHING CHILDREN TO PRAY

PRAY ANYTIME

Remind children to focus their attention and energy on God when they pray alone or as part of a group.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A PRAYER OF PRAISE

The *Catechism* says, "Praise is the form of prayer which recognizes most immediately that God is God. It lauds God for his own sake and gives him glory, quite beyond what he does, but simply because HE IS." (2639)

UNIT

4

God Made Me Active

Prayer Celebration

In this prayer celebration, the children come together to praise God for all the things they can do.

WE CELEBRATE



Pray aloud the following litany, inviting children to pray the All part with you. Guide the children to practice the phrase a few times before you begin. Signal to the children when it is their turn.

Leader: We can move.

All: Praise be to God.

Leader: We can play.

All: Praise be to God.

Leader: We can work.

All: Praise be to God.

Leader: We can make things.

All: Praise be to God.

Leader: We can grow.

All: Praise be to God.

Pause for a moment. Then close by praying the Sign of the Cross.

COACHING CHILDREN TO PRAY

PRAISE GOD IN ALL YOUR ACTIONS

Explain to children that when they use gestures, such as praying the Sign of the Cross, bowing before the tabernacle, and standing or kneeling during Mass, they are praising God with these movements.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A PRAYER OF PRAISE

The *Catechism* says about prayer of praise: "It shares in the blessed happiness of the pure of heart who love God in faith before seeing him in glory." (2639)

UNIT

5

God Made Me Special

Prayer Celebration

In this prayer celebration, the children come together to pray prayers of thanksgiving for the uniquely human gifts God has given them and for their ability to use those gifts for the greater glory of God.

WE CELEBRATE



Pray aloud the following litany, inviting children to pray the All part with you. Guide the children to practice the phrase a few times before you begin. Signal to the children when it is their turn.

Leader: We can feel our emotions.

All: Thank you, God!

Leader: We can wish.

All: Thank you, God!

Leader: We can learn.

All: Thank you, God!

Leader: We can pretend.

All: Thank you, God!

Leader: We love God and one another.

All: Thank you, God!

Pause for a moment. Then close by praying the Sign of the Cross.

COACHING CHILDREN TO PRAY

IMAGINATION AND PRAYER

We can come to know God better by using the imagination he gives us. As children praise, thank, or make a request when they pray, invite them to imagine God the Father and God's Son, Jesus. Using imagination in prayer helps us take prayers to heart and experience God.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THOUGHT, IMAGINATION, EMOTION, AND DESIRE

The *Catechism* says, "Meditation is a prayerful quest engaging thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. Its goal is to make our own in faith the subject considered, by confronting it with the reality of our own life." (2723)