

Table of Contents

Welcome to Allelu!	4
Allelu! Program Overview	6
What's Included in Allelu! ?	8
How to Use Allelu!	10
Scope and Sequence.....	12
Creating a Faith Environment.....	15
Preparing the Learning Environment.....	16
About Preschool Children	24
The Preschool Learning Environment.....	26
A Catechist's Prayer.....	30



Unit 1: God Is My Friend

Lesson 1 God Created the World	31
Lesson 2 God Made Me Special	41
Lesson 3 We Talk to God	51
Lesson 4 We Thank You, God.....	61

Unit 2: Jesus Is Our Shepherd

Lesson 5 God Keeps His Promises	71
Lesson 6 Jesus Is God's Son	81
Lesson 7 Jesus Cares for Our Needs.....	91
Lesson 8 Jesus Is the Good Shepherd.....	101
Lesson 9 Jesus Helps Us.....	111
Lesson 10 Jesus Is Our King	121



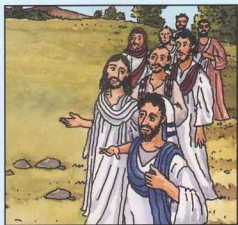


Unit 3: God's Family, the Church

Lesson 11	We Live as Jesus Taught.....	131
Lesson 12	My Family Cares for Me	141
Lesson 13	We Celebrate Together	151
Lesson 14	We Help the Church.....	161
Lesson 15	The Church Prays All Year.....	171

Unit 4: Choosing God's Way

Lesson 16	Jesus Cares for His Friends	183
Lesson 17	We Follow the Rules.....	193
Lesson 18	We Love God and Each Other.....	203
Lesson 19	Jesus Teaches Us About Love	213
Lesson 20	God Forgives and Helps Us	223
Lesson 21	We Learn to Forgive	223



Unit 5: Beginnings and Endings

Lesson 22	We Wait for Jesus with Joy	243
Lesson 23	Jesus Is Born.....	253
Lesson 24	Jesus Came for All People.....	263
Lesson 25	Our Lenten Walk with Jesus.....	273
Lesson 26	Jesus Is Risen.....	283
Lesson 27	Jesus Returns to Heaven	293
Lesson 28	The Holy Spirit Helps the Church.....	303



Ages 4-5

God Created the World

Lesson Goal

The children will understand that God created nature and everything in it, including the cycle of the seasons.

Key Points

- God made everything in nature.
- God made the seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter.

Reflection

When we look at the cycle of the seasons in God's creation, we find a metaphor of times in our lives. Spring is a time of growth, of new beginnings, comparable to our growth throughout the years of childhood and youth, and the way we grow and change as adults, including new beginnings such as new homes, relationships, jobs, and starting a family.

Summer is a time of warmth and energy. It may be synonymous with a new idea, initiative, or project in our lives—especially one about which we feel some “fire.” Fall is a time of change and cooler weather, reflective of the pragmatic times of our lives—the times we sometimes have to scale down what we have planned or temper our future dreams with our current responsibilities. Winter is a time of endings and good-byes. We experience winters in our lives when people we love die, when jobs end, or when other good things change in permanent ways. Still, with winter, there is the promise of another spring. A new time of growth and rebirth is just around the corner.

Perhaps God created the seasons to remind us of how things grow and change in our own lives, and to call us to be adaptable and to depend on him for what we need. As Jesus says, the lilies of the field do not worry about what they will wear, but in the proper season they are clothed by God with splendor (Matthew 6:28-30).

Reflection Question

How do the seasons parallel different phases in my own life?

Praying with the Church

Then God said: “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.”

Genesis 1:14-15

Lesson 1 Materials

SUPPLY LIST

Welcoming

- ☐ name tags, one for each child
- ☐ various textured objects from nature, such as tree bark, feathers, small flattish rocks, small branches, and shells
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ white paper
- ☐ masking tape

Gathering

- ☐ materials for the Sacred Space as described on page 17

Discovering

- ☐ construction paper
 - ☐ green or pink (for spring)
 - ☐ green or yellow (for summer)
 - ☐ red or orange (for autumn)
 - ☐ white or grey (for winter)
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ tape

Exploring

Select one or more of the following activities:

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet

- ☐ crayons

2. Sing a Song of Creation

- ☐ basket
- ☐ CD player
- ☐ pictures of the following:
 - ☐ flower, bird, eyes, lips

3. Images for the Season (Easel Painting)

- ☐ easel(s) or painting table
- ☐ washable tempera paints
- ☐ paint apron/smock
- ☐ clean brushes
- ☐ easel or painting paper

Refer to page 38 and Allelu.com for additional activity choices.

Sending

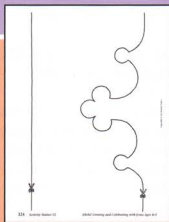
- ☐ CD player



PROGRAM-RELATED MATERIALS

- ☐ "The Gathering Song"
(Allelu! music CD, track 2)

- ☐ Activity Master 12
- ☐ Visit Allelu.com for an alternate way to present the Discovering story.



BEFORE-THE-LESSON PREPARATION

- ☐ Prepare a name tag for each child.
- ☐ Remove paper wrapping from the crayons and make some rubbings as examples for the children on a piece of white paper.
- ☐ Place the activity items on an activity table.

- ☐ Make each child a crown or band using construction paper, scissors, and tape.
- ☐ Make crowns/bands in colors reflecting the seasons for each group. For example, if you will have five children in the "spring group," make five crowns in green or pink.
- ☐ Place the crowns in the Discovering area.

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet

- ☐ Setting the Family Table activity for Lesson 1



2. Sing a Song of Creation

- ☐ "All Things Bright and Beautiful"
(Allelu! music CD, track 5)

- ☐ "The Sending Song"
(Allelu! music CD, track 3)

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet

- ☐ Place crayons and copies of the Activity Sheet on an activity table.

2. Sing a Song of Creation

- ☐ Gather available pictures that will work with the song and place them in the basket.

3. Images for the Season (Easel Painting)

- ☐ Set up the easel(s) or painting table and needed supplies.

Lesson 1



Welcoming

- Greet each individual child as he/she enters. If this is the first session, use this opportunity to give each child a name tag, and briefly acquaint yourself with them.
- As the children arrive, invite them to choose nature objects and make their own rubbings from the supplies provided. This will set the scene for the coming story "God Created the Seasons."
- Show them how to place a piece of white paper on top of the object and rub the paper gently with a crayon until the shape of the object appears on the paper (it may help to tape the paper down so that the child can use both hands).
- Prepare the children to transition to the next segment by informing them when there are just 5 minutes remaining.



Gathering

In this room, we will share our food and toys and art supplies. We will listen to one another when we read or play. And we will pray together in this Sacred Space.



SING OR PLAY "THE GATHERING SONG"
(**ALLELU! MUSIC CD, TRACK 2**)

- Lead the children into the Sacred Space and sit with them around the prayer table.

Now that we are in the Sacred Space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so that we can talk with God.

- Invite the children to quiet themselves. Then sit with them for several seconds of shared silence.
- Choose two children to set the prayer table. Encourage silence as the table is being prepared.

Thank you for preparing our prayer table so beautifully.

- Stand up and go around the prayer table, blessing each child by signing a cross on his or her forehead and welcoming the child by name.

Welcome, *(child's name)*, to this Sacred Space. May you come to know how much God loves you.

- Light the candle.

We light this candle because Jesus is the Light of the World.

God our Creator made everything! We are so blessed by God's wonderful gifts to us! God gave us trees and birds. What else can you think of that God has given us? (*Encourage the children to name some aspects of nature.*)

Our Creator also made the four seasons of the year. Let's name them together: spring, summer, autumn (or fall), and winter. Now let's thank God for the seasons and things that we see or hear or smell in these seasons. All together, let's say the first part of the prayer:

PRAYER

Let us pray.
Blessed are you, God of all Creation.
For spring, and the tulips and lambs and bunnies!

- Encourage children to add spring ideas. Repeat this with each season.

Blessed are you, God of all Creation.
For summer, and colorful butterflies and sparkly fireflies and sandy beaches.

Blessed are you, God of all Creation.
For autumn and brightly colored leaves, jolly pumpkins, and crisp apples.

Blessed are you, God of all Creation.
For winter and quiet snowflakes, starry
nights, and warm cocoa.

Note: The following prayer will be prayed
each session, incorporating hand signs
illustrated on Activity Master 1.

Let's finish our prayer now. We will use our
signs for the words "learn," "live," and
"love."

Thank you, God our Father, for loving us so
much! Please be with us as we learn and live
and love today. Amen.

- Extinguish the candle.
- Lead the children from the Sacred Space
and invite them to sit with you in the
Discovering area.



Discovering

God gave us four seasons. Each one is
beautiful and colorful. When God blankets
the earth with springtime, we see many
colors, such as light green and pink.

- Hold up one light green or pink crown.

When God our Creator blankets the earth
with summer, two of the many colors we see
are dark green and yellow.

- Hold up one dark green or yellow crown.

Then, when God our Creator blankets the
earth with autumn (or fall), we see many
colors and some are red and orange.

- Hold up a red or orange crown.

Then, it is time for the earth to rest, and God
blankets the earth with winter. Some people
see white snow and grey skies.

- Hold up a white or grey crown.

I have a little crown for each of you. By its
color, you will know which group you are in:
spring, summer, autumn, or winter. When I
tell the part in the story about your season,
you should stand up and help tell the story
by doing actions you hear.

- Go around the table, giving out crowns. If
possible, have five children for each season.
However, having more than five or as few
as two per season will work also.
- Sit down with the children.

GOD CREATED THE SEASONS

God blanketed the earth with spring.

- Invite the "spring children" to stand
together.

Rachel and David's nana invited them to
each bring a friend and to bless and plant
her garden. David brought Maria and Rachel
brought Charlie.

"Our Holy Scripture tells us that there is a
time for everything under the Heavens," said
Nana. "Now it is time to plant." She gave the
children seeds and plants. They planted peas,
carrots, tomatoes, pumpkins, sunflowers,
peppers, corn, marigolds, and pansies.

- Help children pantomime planting if
necessary, then have them fold hands in
prayer.

After they planted, they prayed together,
saying, "Blessed are you, God of all Creation,
for giving us the spring!"

- Have the "spring children" sit down,
and have the "summer children" stand
together.

A few months later, God blanketed the earth
with summer.

The four children stood with Nana again, looking at the garden. It had changed! The tomato plants were up to Rachel's waist! The tiny green tomatoes were the size of marbles. The carrots were showing their feathery tops. The pumpkin vines were spreading all over, and the sunflowers were growing up, looking for the sunshine! The sun was hot on their heads.

"Time to water and weed!" Nana said. So they filled watering cans and sprinkled the flowers and pulled weeds around the vegetables.

- Help the children pantomime if necessary.

After the work was finished, they prayed together, saying, "Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the summer!"

- Have the "summer children" sit down, and have the "autumn children" stand together.

A few months later, God blanketed the earth with autumn.

Rachel, Charlie, Maria, and David once again stood with Nana. The garden looked different again! The tomato plants were taller than they were! The tomatoes were red and orange and huge and juicy! The sunflowers were so tall, they couldn't see the tops! The children peeked under the giant pumpkin leaves and found round, orange pumpkins hiding! The sun was gently warm on their heads.

"Now it is time to harvest what we have grown!" said Nana. Together they picked tomatoes and pulled up carrots and put them into baskets. They cut flowers for bouquets. Then they each chose a pumpkin to take home.

Tired but happy, they prayed together, saying, "Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the autumn!"

- Have the "autumn children" sit down, and have the "winter children" stand together.

A few months later, God blanketed the earth with winter. Nana had pulled up all the plants because they were all done making food. The ground was resting. All was quiet. The wind stung their cheeks.

"Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us winter!" they prayer together. And then, together, they ate the foods God had given them through their garden.

- Conclude the story by saying the following with the children.

Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the seasons! Amen.



Exploring

INTRODUCING THE ACTIVITIES

- While the children are still seated, go around the room and introduce today's activity choices.

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet: I Am Thankful All Year



- Direct the children to look at the drawings in the main activity of the Activity Sheet. Invite them to describe what they see.

- Explain the activity to the children and have them complete it.

2. Sing a Song of Creation

- Reinforce the learning point that God made everything in nature by listening to “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (*Allelu!* music CD, track 5).
- As you listen to the verses, hold up the appropriate item or photograph from the nature basket. For example, during the verse, “Each little flower that opens,” hold up a flower or a picture of a flower.



Special Needs

3. Images for the Season (Easel Painting)

- Help the children recall the changing colors of the seasons. Invite them to paint using colors that remind them of the different seasons.
- Be sure the children wear a smock to keep their clothes clean. If there are a few children painting at once, encourage them to practice good manners and to share the work space.



Special Needs

Refer to page 38 and Allelu.com for additional activity choices.

- Prepare the children to transition to the next segment by informing them when there are just 5 minutes remaining.



Sending



SING OR PLAY “THE SENDING SONG”
(*ALLELU!* MUSIC CD, TRACK 3)

- Lead the children into the Sacred Space and sit with them around the prayer table.
- Light the candle.

DISCUSSION

What a wonderful time we had today. We talked about God’s gift of the seasons. Can you tell me the names of all four? (*Pause for responses.*)

Let’s thank God one more time for the seasons.

PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of all Creation, for giving us the spring, summer, autumn, and winter! Amen!

- Bless each child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead.
- Extinguish the candle.

Child/Family Activity Sheet

- If you have not done so already, distribute the Child/Family Activity Sheet for this lesson.
- If there is time, you may wish to review the “Ask Me!” questions with the children.
- Remind the children to share the Activity Sheet with their families.



Lesson 1 Extension Materials

(USE FOR MULTIDAY PROGRAMS OR AS ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES)



Lesson Extension 1

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS Saint Columba of Iona

Choose one or more of the following:

1. Read-Aloud Story and Discussion



2. My Saints Book Project

- ☐ project material list as found on page 22

3. Communion of Saints Mural Project

- ☐ project material list as found on page 22



Lesson Extension 2

Seasonal Fun (Dramatic Play)

- ☐ No Sew costumes
- ☐ seasonal clothing



Before the lesson, place the props in the dramatic play area.



Lesson Extension 3

PRAYER TIME

- ☐ "Prayer Time Song"
(*Allelu!* music CD, track 4)
- ☐ CD player
- ☐ winter items such as a paper snowflake or winter scarf
- ☐ spring items such as a kite or flower
- ☐ summer items such as a picture of a sun or sand bucket and shovel
- ☐ fall items such as colored leaves or an apple

MUSIC/RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS



"All Things Bright and Beautiful"
(*Allelu!* music CD, track 5)



"We Praise You, God"
God Loves Me CD and DVD
Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum



My Catholic ABC Book
(words: *Creation, earth, Heaven, night, water*)
Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum
(You can also connect to *My Catholic ABC Book* at www.calltofaiththeconnect.com)



"Psalm 147"
Catholic Prayer Book for Children (page 50)
Our Sunday Visitor

Lesson 1 Extensions

(USE FOR MULTIDAY PROGRAMS OR AS ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES)



Lesson Extension 1

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS Saint Columba of Iona

1. Read-Aloud Story and Discussion

Finding God in All Creation

Long ago, there lived a man named Columba. He was tall and handsome, with grey eyes and a beautiful voice. He was also a very holy man who loved Jesus. Columba built a tiny house on an island called Iona, off the coast of Ireland. There he felt God's presence in a special way. He felt God in the crashing of the waves of the sea. He felt God's presence in the flowers and little animals that lived in the woods. When a great storm pounded the sea and the island, Columba felt God's power. Everywhere he looked, he saw God's Creation. And in everything God created, Columba came to better understand God, whom he couldn't see.

Columba was a smart man who wrote wonderful poems. These helped others come to see the beauty of God's Creation. Also a teacher, he traveled to many places to teach others about Jesus. But he always returned to Iona where he felt especially close to God.



Discussion Question

- How can you feel God's presence? (*Guide the children to see ways we can feel God's presence in nature through wind, rain, sun, and so forth.*)

2. My Saints Book Project

(See page 22.)

3. Communion of Saints Mural Project

(See page 22.)



Lesson Extension 2

Seasonal Fun (Dramatic Play)

- Invite the children to act out various seasonal scenes using the props provided (examples include going to the beach, making a snowman, raking leaves).



Special Needs



Lesson Extension 3

PRAYER TIME

(Lead Prayer Time in church, if possible.)

When we visit Jesus' house, the church, we are in a holy place to pray and sing.

The church is a special place where Jesus invites us to be with him. We do not see him, but we know that he is present. So let us prepare our hearts, hands, and voices to thank and praise him.

 **SING OR PLAY THE "PRAYER TIME SONG"**
(*ALLELUIA!* MUSIC CD, TRACK 4)

God created the universe and all its wonders. This is the story of how it happened.

THE STORY OF CREATION

(Based on Genesis 1:1-22)

When God created the world, the earth was shapeless and dark, with a mighty wind sweeping over the land. God said, "Let there

be light." He saw how good the light was. Then he separated the light from the darkness and created day and night. God created the sky. Then he collected all the water and created seas and oceans, and separated it from the dry land. On the dry land he created trees, grasses, and plants of every kind.

God said, "Let there be different lights in the sky—for day and for night." He made the two great lights, the sun for day and the moon for night. He set them in the sky.

God then said, "I will fill the earth with countless creatures." He created all the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and the animals on dry land. God saw how good all his Creation was and blessed it.

DISCUSSION

God gives us time for many fun activities. He shows us something new every time the seasons change.

- Refer to the winter items.

God sends us the cold weather, and in some parts of the country, we bundle up to go outside. Some may even see snowflakes.

- Refer to the spring items.

After winter comes another season where God sends rain to water the flowers and the wind to blow kites. It is spring.

- Refer to the summer items.

Summer follows spring where God sends us warm weather. We play in the sunshine and find cool bugs.

- Refer to the fall items.

We breathe the crisp cool fall air. God sends fall leaves, pumpkins and yummy apples. The seasons remind us that God is with us. He loves us so much that he sends little surprises each time the seasons change.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Dear Jesus, we praise you for your gift of seasons. Thank you for snowflakes, sunshine, ladybugs, and rain.

Amen.

- End by teaching the Sign of the Cross (it will be formally presented in Lesson 6).



Ages 4-5

God Made Me Special

Lesson Goal

The children will learn that God made each of them unique and special and that he is very happy with what he has made.

Key Points

- God made each of us and loves us.
- God is really happy with how he made us. We are very special to him.

Reflection

Who am I? Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? These are some of the most universal questions of our human existence—questions each of us faces at one time or another. Perhaps the best way to begin answering these questions is to say that we are, in our very essence, an expression of God's love. Out of love he created us, and out of love he reveals himself to us. It makes sense then, that we should search for and desire to know God. We are by nature religious beings, and we cannot truly know ourselves until we come to know God, who created us. "Without the Creator, the creature vanishes" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 36). In his *Confessions*, Saint Augustine states, "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

We live in a culture obsessed with self-interest and self-esteem. Unfortunately, the type of self-esteem we find in secular culture is often based on feeling good about one's self "just because"—a continuation of the "I'm OK, you're OK" relativism so popular in the 1970s. However, this type of self-esteem is shallow and easily shattered.

As Christians, we have deep and lasting reasons for feeling good about ourselves. Our faith tells us that God made us good. Just after God creates human beings, the Genesis account states, "God saw everything he had made, and behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). We are created to do good things—to show love for God and for others. And, freed from Original Sin through Baptism, we have the grace to be everything God made us to be if we are open to his call.

Reflection Question

In what ways am I already living the life God made me to live?

Praying with the Church

Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order.

Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation by which in the fullness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our passover, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Roman Missal

Lesson 2 Materials

SUPPLY LIST

Welcoming

- ☐ variety of puzzles depicting children and animals
- ☐ variety of books about the Creation Story

Gathering

- ☐ materials for the Sacred Space as described on page 17
- ☐ Bible

Discovering

- ☐ one craft stick per child
- ☐ tape or hot-glue gun
- ☐ marker that can be used on fabric
- ☐ set of seven ribbons for each child and another set for display (ribbons should be 15" or longer)
- ☐ CD player

Each set of ribbons should be made up of seven different colors; the colors need to be light enough to write on with a marker.

Exploring

Select one or more of the following activities:

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet

- ☐ crayons

Optional

- ☐ butter with butter knife
- ☐ cinnamon sugar

2. Wonderfully-Made-Me Toast

- ☐ one piece of bread per child
- ☐ gingerbread cookie cutters
- ☐ new watercolor paintbrushes
- ☐ paper cups containing mixture of one tablespoon of water and milk and one drop of food coloring per child
- ☐ small paper plates
- ☐ sandwich-size bags
- ☐ toaster

3. Wonderfully-Made Celebration (Dramatic Play)

- ☐ green floral foam
- ☐ birthday party decorations
- ☐ birthday hats
- ☐ play dishes
- ☐ birthday candles (not to be lit)

Refer to page 48 for additional activity choices.

Sending

- ☐ CD player



PROGRAM-RELATED MATERIALS

- ☐ Visit Allelu.com for book suggestions.

- ☐ "The Gathering Song"
(Allelu! music CD, track 2)

- ☐ "Wonderfully Made Parade"
(Allelu! music CD, track 6)

BEFORE-THE-LESSON PREPARATION

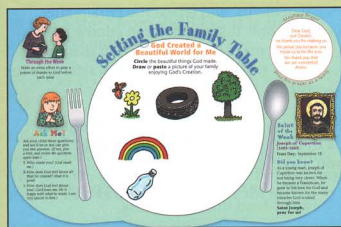
- ☐ Place puzzles and books on an activity table.

- ☐ Bookmark the Bible at Psalm 139.

- ☐ Write one word on each ribbon (*wonderful, fantastic, marvelous, amazing, astonishing, terrific, splendid*). Each color ribbon should use the same word (example: blue = *amazing*).
- ☐ Assemble a set of ribbons for each child and one for yourself. Knot one end. Slip a craft stick through the knot. Secure the ribbons in place with tape or a drop of hot glue. The sticks can be labeled with children's names.

1. Child/Family Activity Sheet

- ☐ Setting the Family Table activity for Lesson 2



1. Child/Family Activity Sheet

- ☐ Place crayons and copies of the Activity Sheet on an activity table.

2. Wonderfully-Made-Me Toast

- ☐ Place bread and other items on an activity table.
- ☐ Prepare each paper cup with the food-coloring mixture.

3. Wonderfully-Made Celebration (Dramatic Play)

- ☐ Cut green floral foam into small pieces to make several "cakes." Poke enough holes in them to accommodate the birthday candles.

- ☐ "The Sending Song"
(Allelu! music CD, track 3)

Lesson 2



Welcoming

- Invite the children to the table of books and puzzles, which will provide hints of the lesson theme.
- Prepare the children to transition to the next segment by informing them when there are just 5 minutes remaining.



Gathering



SING OR PLAY "THE GATHERING SONG"
(*ALLELUI! MUSIC CD, TRACK 2*)

- Lead the children into the Sacred Space and sit with them around the prayer table.

Now that we are in the Sacred Space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so that we can talk with God.

- Invite the children to quiet themselves. Then sit with them for several seconds of shared silence.
- Choose two children to set the prayer table. Encourage silence as the table is being prepared.

Thank you for preparing our prayer table so beautifully.

- Stand up and go around the prayer table, blessing each child by signing a cross on his or her forehead and welcoming the child by name.

Welcome, *(child's name)*, to this Sacred Space. May you come to know how much God loves you.

- Light the candle.

We light this candle because Jesus is the Light of the World.

PRAYER

Today we will read part of a psalm from the Bible. A psalm is like a poem or song to God.

- Open the Bible to Psalm 139 or read the following.

"I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew."

- Close the Bible.

With this psalm, we are telling God that we know he made us. We say that we are wonderful because of him. As part of our prayer today, let's go around the circle and each say one thing especially good about ourselves. I'll start, and everyone who wants a turn can have one. After each of us speaks, we will pray the psalm together by saying, "I praise you, God! You have made me to be wonderful!"

- State your "wonderful trait," and then lead the children in the refrain. Encourage the children to take turns with their statements, and repeat the refrain after each one. If some children choose not to speak, make sure you mention them by name and repeat the refrain in reference to them.

Now let us tell God thank you for making us to be wonderful. We will use our "Thank you, God" signs.

- Have the children refer to the poster of signs. Lead them in signing.

Does anyone else have a prayer they would like to say? (*Allow the children to respond*)

- Sign with the children as you pray the following:

Let's finish our prayer now. We will use our signs for the words "learn," "live," and "love."

Thank you, God, for our gifts. May we use them to do your work. Please be with us as we learn and live and love today. Amen.

- Extinguish the candle.
- Lead the children from the Sacred Space and invite them to sit with you in the Discovering area.



Discovering

- Present the ribbon bouquets that were prepared before the lesson.

Note: In this story, the children will hear some descriptive words they know and some others they may not know. The words all have the same basic meaning: wonderful. They will quickly understand the new words because of the way they are used together, along with the enthusiasm in your voice.

Here is a story from the Bible. It is about when God made people.

GOD CREATED ALL PEOPLE

(Based on Genesis 1:26–31)

God made our whole world, all the trees and water and animals. Then God made people. The people, God decided, should be like him. And so that is the way he made them.

And because the people were like God, they were wonderful and good.

And God blessed the people he made. Then he told them, “I have made all of this for you—the fish of the seas, the birds of the air, and all the other animals. I made the trees and plants to be your food. Take good care of them.”

That is our story from the Bible. It tells us that you were made by God too. That means you are like God! This means you are wonderful! The word on this ribbon is “wonderful.”

- Hold up the ribbon that says “wonderful!”
Continue holding up the ribbons with the corresponding words as you say:

And you are fantastic!

And marvelous!

And amazing!

You are astonishing!

And terrific!

And you are splendid!

You are all those good things because that is what God wants you to be! Here is a ribbon bouquet so you can remember that you are fantastic and amazing and astonishing!

- Give each child a ribbon bouquet.

The *(color)* ribbon says you are wonderful.

The *(color)* one says fantastic. The *(color)* says amazing, the *(color)* one marvelous, the *(color)* one astonishing, the *(color)* one terrific, and the *(color)* one says you are splendid!

Now let's all stand with the ribbon bouquets and have a parade to celebrate that we are wonderful, fantastic, marvelous, amazing, astonishing, terrific, and splendid!



SING OR PLAY “WONDERFULLY MADE PARADE” (ALLELU! MUSIC CD, TRACK 6)

- Lead the children in a “Wonderfully Made” parade. Model the actions and sing as you parade around the room.



Exploring

INTRODUCING THE ACTIVITIES

- While the children are still seated, go around the room and introduce today's activity choices.

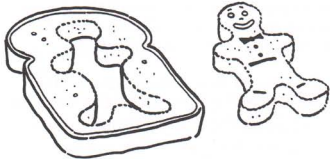
1. Child/Family Activity Sheet: God Created a Beautiful World for Me

- Direct the children to look at the drawings in the main activity of the Activity Sheet. Invite them to describe what they see.
- Explain the activity to the children and have them complete it.



2. Wonderfully-Made-Me Toast

- Have the children cut out a gingerbread person shape out of the bread and place it on a plate.



- Invite them to paint their features on the bread using the food-coloring mixture.
- Take the bread and toast it.
- Give the children an option of buttering the toast or sprinkling it with cinnamon sugar.
- If some children want to take their toast home, place it in a small bag.

3. Wonderfully-Made Celebration (Dramatic Play)

- Using the party props, invite the children to pretend it's their birthday and remind them that they are wonderfully made!



Refer to page 48 for additional activity choices.

- Prepare the children to transition to the next segment by informing them when there are just 5 minutes remaining.



Sending

SING OR PLAY "THE SENDING SONG" (ALLELU! MUSIC CD, TRACK 3)

- Lead the children into the Sacred Space and sit with them around the prayer table.
- Light the candle.

DISCUSSION

What a wonderful time we had today. God made so many good things for us. I wonder if you can look around and see God's creation?

- Allow the children to respond.

I also see something that is wonderful!
fantastic! amazing!

- Allow the children to respond. Build some enthusiasm by not responding when they say *people*. With more excitement say, *This something is so wonderful that it is marvelous and astonishing!*
- Allow the children to respond. Build some enthusiasm by not responding when they say *people*.

This something so wonderful is terrific and splendid!

- Allow the children to respond. Build some enthusiasm by not responding when they say *people*.

I wonder if you know what is so amazing?

- Allow the children to respond.

You are right—*people*!

• With a soft and slow voice say,
When God made you, he said that you are very good. He made you to be like him. You are made in God's image and in his likeness. That is why you are wonderful.

• In a whisper voice continue:
You are all those good things because that is what God wants you to be. Great job. I can see that you plan on sharing God's Good News this week.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Dear God, we praise you because you made us to be like you. Help us to be kind and loving. Bless and keep us safe until we meet again.

- Bless each child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead.
- Extinguish the candle.

Child/Family Activity Sheet

- If you have not done so already, distribute the Child/Family Activity Sheet for this lesson.
- If there is time, you may wish to review the "Ask Me!" questions with the children.
- Remind the children to share the Activity Sheet with their families.



Lesson 2 Extension Materials

(USE FOR MULTIDAY PROGRAMS OR AS ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES)



Lesson Extension 1

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS Saint Joseph of Cupertino

Choose one or more of the following:

1. Read-Aloud Story and Discussion



2. My Saints Book Project

- ☐ project material list as found on page 22

3. Communion of Saints Mural Project

- ☐ project material list as found on page 22



Lesson Extension 2

Wonderfully-Made-Me Paint Project

- ☐ aluminum foil
- ☐ food coloring
- ☐ clear corn syrup
- ☐ paper cups, one per child
- ☐ craft stick or spoon for mixing
- ☐ large paintbrushes, one per child
- ☐ aprons or smocks to protect clothing



Special Needs

Before the lesson, mix corn syrup and food coloring in paper cups. Cover a table with foil, shiny side up.



Lesson Extension 3

PRAYER TIME

- ☐ "Prayer Time Song"
(*Allelu!* music CD, track 4)
- ☐ CD player
- ☐ decorated shoebox and lid
- ☐ small mirror



Before the lesson, decorate the shoebox and attach the mirror to the inside.

MUSIC/RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS



"Wonderfully Made Parade"
(*Allelu!* music CD, track 6)



"I'm So Special"
Move! Pray! Celebrate! CD and DVD
Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum



My Catholic ABC Book
(words: Bible, church, creation)
Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum
Connect to My Catholic ABC Book at
www.calltofaithconnect.com



"Amen and Alleluia"
Catholic Prayer Book for Children (page 50)
Our Sunday Visitor

Lesson 2 Extensions

(USE FOR MULTIDAY PROGRAMS OR AS ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES)



Lesson Extension 1

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS Saint Joseph of Cupertino

1. Read-Aloud Story and Discussion

Wonderful Joseph

Long ago there lived a boy named Joseph.

He was clumsy. He dropped dishes. Often he got angry. Joseph could not learn easily. He forgot his chores. He walked around, his mouth open, staring at nothing.

Nobody seemed to like Joseph.

His mother shouted, "Joseph, stop wandering and do your chores!"

The shoemaker who hired Joseph shouted, "I have tried hard to teach you to make shoes! You cut the leather wrong, or you sew wrong—or you forget and do nothing!"

The people in town laughed at him and said, "Look at that silly boy!"

Nobody seemed to understand that Joseph was wonderful because God had made him. But Joseph prayed often. He knew that God loved him.

He asked if he could be a priest. The other priests knew about all the mistakes Joseph made. "We'll see," they said. "For now, just take care of this donkey." So Joseph took care of the donkey and talked with God. He prayed more and more. Pretty soon, the priests saw what God knew: that Joseph was wonderful!



Joseph spent hours each day talking to God. Then God would give Joseph a miracle. Joseph was lifted off the ground while he prayed, as if he could fly!

Many, many people saw Joseph pray like this. Finally, everyone understood that Joseph was wonderful, because that is how God made him!

Discussion Questions

- Do you ever do things that make you feel clumsy? (*Suggest breaking things accidentally, forgetting something, etc.*)
- Everybody makes mistakes. When you do, can you remember that you are like God, so you are wonderful?

2. My Saints Book Project

(See page 22.)

3. Communion of Saints Mural Project

(See page 22.)



Lesson Extension 2

Wonderfully-Made-Me Paint Project

- Have the children spoon the paint mixture on the foil and use a brush to spread the paint.

Special Needs



Helpful Hint

This is a soothing and fun activity for the children. They will also be able to see their wonderfully made reflection in the painting. If the foil gets too cloudy with the layers of paint mixture, simply add another layer of foil on top of the table.



Lesson Extension 3

PRAYER TIME

(Lead Prayer Time in church, if possible.)

When we visit Jesus' house, the church, we are in a holy place to pray and sing.

The church is a special place where Jesus invites us to be with him. We do not see him, but we know that he is present. So let us prepare our hearts, hands, and voices to thank and praise him.

 **SING OR PLAY THE "PRAYER TIME SONG"**
(ALLELU! MUSIC CD, TRACK 4)

DISCUSSION

God made something wonderful!
It is fantastic and amazing!
And I have it in here.

- Show the decorated box.

I wonder if you know what it could be?

- Listen respectfully if the children provide answers.

It must be special because it is in such a beautiful box!

- Open the box and look at yourself in the mirror, but do not let the children see what is inside.

Would you like to see what is so marvelous?

- Build more enthusiasm.

It is astonishing!

And each one of us will have a chance to see this special gift. So when I pass it around, take a peak inside. But do not tell your friends what it is. Do not let them see it. Let it be a surprise!

- Pass the box around until each person gets to peak inside.

Now tell me, what did you see? *(Allow the children to answer.)*

That is right. God made you. You are astonishing and wonderfully made.

God loves you so much that he made you. He knows all about you. He even knew your name before you were born! God knows how many hairs you have on your head!

This is how much he loves you.
So let us thank and praise God for making you.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Dear God, we praise you for making such wonderful things.

Thank you for making me.

Thank you for loving me.

All: Amen.

- End by teaching the Sign of the Cross (it will be formally presented in Lesson 6).