

God Is Our Father



This Week's Scripture Story

helps us understand how much God the Father loves us.

God Loves Us

In the Bible, we learn that God the Father loves us very much. These are some ways the Bible, or Sacred Scripture, helps us understand this:

Jesus said, Look at the birds of the air; they do not plant or gather food into barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them.

Based on Matthew 6:26

As an eagle builds its nest, and protects its children; as it spreads its wings, takes them up and carries them, the Lord alone guides them;

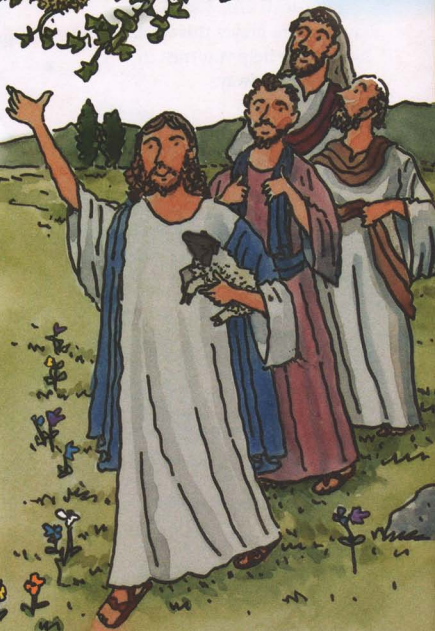
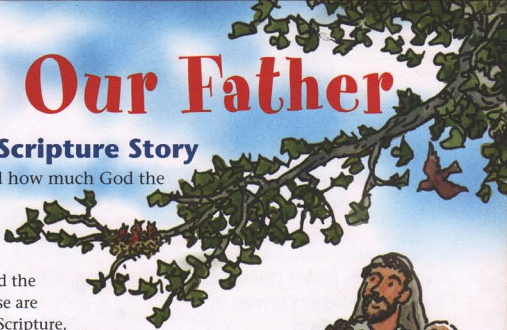
Based on Deuteronomy 32:11

God will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms.

Based on Isaiah 40:11

I will not forget you. See, I wrote your names on the palms of my hands; you are always on my mind.

Based on Isaiah 49:15-16



Sharing Faith at Home Share the story with your child of how God the Father loves us by talking about the story or reading it aloud at bedtime.
Discussion Starter: Name some ways God shows us how much he loves us.

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 1, Kindergarten



Through the Week

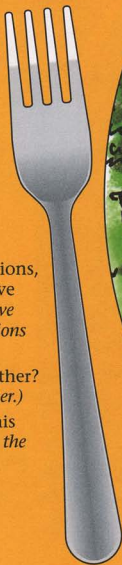
Pray an extra prayer this week.
Ask God to help you trust in
him always.



Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions,
and see if he or she can give
you the answers. (If not, give
a hint, and review the questions
again later.)

1. Who is our heavenly Father?
(God is our heavenly Father.)
2. What does God do for his
children? (He gives them the
things they need.)



Setting the

God the Provide

On the left, **circle** the
provided for us. On the
someone special that G



Family Table

Thank Father for Us

Some things that God has
done for us, **draw** a picture of
something God has provided for you.



Mealtime Prayer

God, our Father,
Thank you for loving us!

Thank you for creating the
whole world for us!

Thank you for the gift of
Jesus, your Son!

All: Thank you, God,
our Father!

Pray this prayer as a family.



Saint of the Week

Elizabeth Ann Seton
(1774–1821)

Feast Day: January 4

Did you know?

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton was
the first person born in the
United States to be named a
saint.

Saint Elizabeth,
pray for us!





Parent Notes

In this week's lesson your child learned

- God is our heavenly Father.
- God never stops loving us.



It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- Jesus tells us to call God our Father (Matthew 6:9). It is very significant that God wishes to reveal himself to us as Father. When we think of the unconditional love parents have for their children, the dreams they have for their children's lives, their desire to protect their children, and their happiness in providing for them, we can begin to understand how God feels about us.

The *Catechism* teaches us that

- God the Father is the First Person of the Holy Trinity (CCC, 198).
- the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life (CCC, 261).

Keep It Simple

- Be sure your children see you praying—both leading them in prayer and praying alone. Walking in on you while you are spending time talking with your heavenly Father will be a powerful sign for your child that God exists and listens to each of us.

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The idea of a “Father in Heaven” is an abstract one, yet most children can easily understand the idea of an invisible God who sees and hears them. This happens for two reasons: First, we are created by God with the capacity to know and understand him from an early age. Second, children understand an invisible God through seeing and hearing how the adults they know and trust acknowledge him.

Jesus Is Our Friend



This Week's Scripture Story

reminds us that Jesus loves children and wants to be near them, and he blesses them.

Jesus and the Children

One day, some people brought babies and children to Jesus. The people wanted Jesus to bless the little ones by touching them and praying for them.

Jesus' friends said no. They would not let the babies and children be near Jesus.

But Jesus called to the children. Then he said to the grown-ups, "Let the children come to me."

Jesus hugged the children. He placed his hands on their heads or shoulders and blessed them.

*Based on Matthew 19:13–15;
Mark 10:13–16; Luke 18:15–17*



Sharing Faith at Home Share the story with your child of how much Jesus loves us by talking about the story or reading it aloud at bedtime.

Discussion Starter: How can we tell or show Jesus "thank you" for loving us?

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 2, Kindergarten



Through the Week

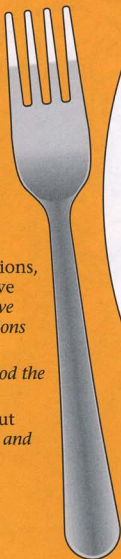
Read a children's book about the life of Christ.



Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Who is Jesus? (*Jesus is God the Son.*)
2. How does Jesus feel about children? (*He loves them and wants to be their friend.*)



Setting the

Let Children C

Connect the d
then draw you



Family Table

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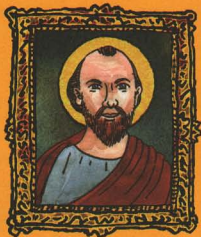
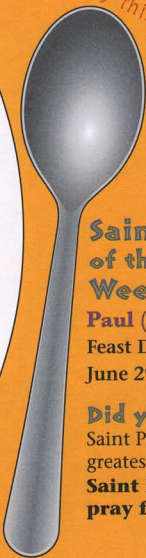
ts from 1 to 10
urself with Jesus.



Mealtime Prayer

Dear Jesus, you love us so much! You are with us when we are sad, happy, sick, hungry, excited, or silly. Thank you for understanding us. Thank you for being our friend. Amen.

Pray this prayer as a family.



Saint of the Week

Paul (died 65)

Feast Days: January 25,
June 29

Did you know?

Saint Paul is considered the greatest Christian missionary.

**Saint Paul,
pray for us!**



Parent Notes

In this week's lesson your child learned

- Jesus is God the Son.
- Jesus wants to know us and be our friend.



Keep It Simple

- Parents can help children get to know Jesus by making sure children are exposed to visual images of him and stories about his life. Make sure there are child-friendly icons in your home that depict Jesus at various ages and in various scenes. Talk about how Jesus was also a child like your child, and worked hard to obey his parents and do what God would want him to do.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- Jesus welcomed the children who were brought to him (Mark 10:13–16).
- Jesus came to earth to show us God's love (John 3:16; CCC, 458).
- Jesus is the most complete revelation of God—the Word made flesh (John 1:14).

The *Catechism* teaches us that

- Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. God shows solidarity with humanity through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Because Christ is both fully God and fully man, he understands our feelings, our struggles, our joys, and our pains (CCC, 458-460).

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Children come to know Jesus through icons such as statues and pictures that depict him in various scenes (e.g., the Good Shepherd, the Last Supper, the Nativity, the Crucifixion) and also in the stories they hear about Jesus in religious formation and at home. Most five-year-olds in Catholic families who practice their faith can identify Jesus in an icon and tell a few stories about Jesus' life.

The Holy Spirit Helps Us



This Week's Scripture Story

focuses on how the Holy Spirit is always with us.

The Holy Spirit

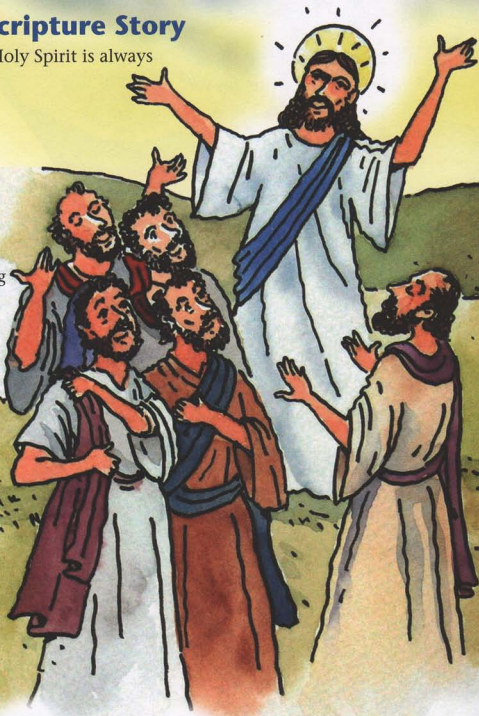
There are stories in the Scriptures and stories about the saints where someone feels filled with the Holy Spirit. God has come to that person and filled him or her with an understanding of God's love and work and the courage and strength to do this work.

The Holy Spirit can come to everybody. And it is good, and wonderful when the Holy Spirit comes!

Jesus said to his Apostles, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you a Helper to be with you forever."

Jesus said, "But the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you."

Based on John 14:16, 26



Sharing Faith at Home Share the story with your child of how the Holy Spirit is always with us.

Discussion Starter: How can the Holy Spirit help you?

Allelu!
Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 3, Kindergarten



Through the Week

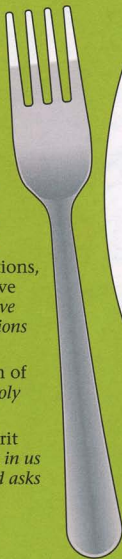
Before meals or bedtime prayer,
practice praying the
Sign of the Cross.



Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions,
and see if he or she can give
you the answers. (If not, give
a hint, and review the questions
again later.)

1. Who is the Third Person of
the Holy Trinity? (*the Holy
Spirit*)
2. What does the Holy Spirit
do? (*The Holy Spirit lives in us
and helps us do what God asks
of us.*)



Setting the

The Spirit Is

Use the key to **color** and

○ = Orange △ = Yellow



Family Table

Holy with Us

find the hidden picture.

□ = Red ☆ = Blue

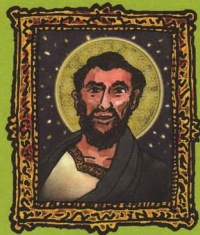


Mealtime Prayer

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit.

God, in your name, we pray
that we come to know and
love you as you know and
love us!
Amen.

Pray this prayer as a family.



Saint
of the
Week

Matthew

(first century)

Feast Day: September 21

Did you know?

Saint Matthew was one of Jesus' Apostles, who may have written part of the New Testament.

**Saint Matthew,
pray for us!**



Parent Notes

In this week's lesson your child learned

- The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.
- God the Spirit lives in us and helps us do what God asks.



It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- God has sent his Spirit into the hearts of all his children. It is through this Spirit that we call God, “Father” (Galatians 4:6; CCC, 683).

The *Catechism* teaches us that

- just as he did for the crowd at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit makes God’s Word and will known to us—in the Scriptures, in Sacred Tradition, in the Magisterium of the Church, and in the voice of the Spirit that speaks to our hearts (CCC, 688).

Keep It Simple

- Perhaps the most important way in which parents can make awareness of the Holy Spirit “come to life” at home is by encouraging their children to talk with—and listen to—God. The latter is sometimes a challenge for all of us, but even when kids are very young, they can be asked questions such as, “What do you think God is telling you today?” and “What does God want you to do today?”

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

It’s difficult for us as adults to understand the Holy Spirit, and it’s likewise very difficult for young children to comprehend the Third Person of the Trinity. Children can have some limited understanding of the Holy Spirit through their knowledge of Bible stories in which he acts (e.g., the Baptism of the Lord, the story of Pentecost). They can also understand the Spirit as the Person of God who lives in them and with them and helps them do what God asks of them.

God Talks to Us



This Week's Scripture Story

focuses on the Holy Scriptures and how Jesus read them.

Jesus Reads from the Bible

Jesus was given the great honor of reading from the Holy Scriptures. Jesus stood up and was handed the scroll. He unrolled it and read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

Based on Luke 4:18-20



Sharing Faith at Home Share the story with your child of how Jesus read the Holy Scriptures, by talking about the story or reading it aloud at bedtime.
Discussion Starter: How can we hear God's Word?

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 4, Kindergarten



Through the Week

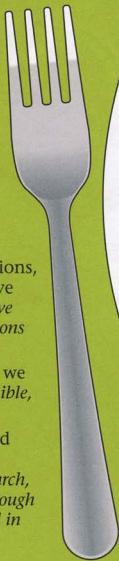
Talk about some of the ways God can speak to us. What might God be trying to tell your family right now?



Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What is the book where we find God's Word? (*The Bible, Holy Scripture*)
2. What are some ways God speaks to us? (*in Holy Scripture, through the Church, in the things he made, through those who care for us, and in our hearts*)



Setting the

God Sp Us in Holy

Connect the dots
Draw your favorite
the right side



Family Table

Prayers to Scripture

Prayers from 1 to 22.
The Scripture story on
of the Bible.

The LORD said...

Mealtime Prayer

Thank you, God, for
speaking to us in so many
ways! May your message
come to rest
in our minds, in our own
words, and in our hearts.
Amen.

Pray this prayer as a family.



Saint
of the
Week

Jerome
(331–420)

Feast Day: September 30

Did You Know?

Saint Jerome, translator of
the Scriptures from Greek and
Hebrew into Latin, wrote, "To
know the Scriptures is to know
Christ."

Saint Jerome,
pray for us!



Parent Notes



In this week's lesson your child learned

- God speaks to us in Holy Scripture.
- The Gospels are at the heart of Scripture because Jesus is their center.
- God speaks to us in other ways also: through the Church, in the things he made, through those who care for us, and in our hearts.

It Helps to Know

Scripture and the *Catechism* teach us that

- throughout history, God has revealed himself to his people in a variety of ways, through Creation itself, through words and signs given to his people, the Israelites, and through his Son, Jesus Christ, who is the most complete revelation of the Father. The Gospel of Jesus has been handed down to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, which “form one sacred deposit of the word of God” (*Dei Verbum*, 10; 2 Thessalonians 2:15).

Keep It Simple

- Share your favorite Scripture story with your child. Talk about what we can learn from that story. You may wish to look at your local Catholic bookstore for developmentally appropriate stories about the Scripture that you and your child can share together.

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

It's difficult for children to have an accurate understanding of the nature of Holy Scripture. As Catholics, we believe that Scripture is inspired by God by coming to us through human beings. Children may think of Scripture more as a “letter that came directly from God.” This is appropriate for now, as we want them to have reverence for Scripture and know that it contains the Word of God. Deeper understanding will come as they grow.