

God Creates Us

Engage: Page 5

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Genesis 1:24–31. Then say: ***The Word of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Thanks be to God.*
- ▶ Show your child a mirror and explain that the only way we can see our own face is to see a reflection of it. Say: ***We cannot see the presence of God, but we see a reflection of it in his creation.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs. Have him or her brainstorm aspects of creation that reflect each of the following characteristics of God: beauty, power, majesty, creativity, and care.
- ▶ Say: ***God speaks to us through creation. Let's ask him to help us remember this.*** Pray aloud the prayer and conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Ask your child to close his or her eyes and imagine the world without his or her favorite things. Ask: ***What if the world were only a mass of darkness, wind, and water?*** Discuss your child's answer.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 6. Say: ***The word Genesis means "beginning" in Greek, and the word abyss means "a vast, bottomless ocean."*** Then read aloud the rest of the page. Ask: ***What are some examples of other things that God has created?*** (light, sky, land, life)
- ▶ Remind your child that Genesis is the first book of the Bible, then read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***Through faith, we can look at the order and beauty in the world around us and understand that God created everything.***
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first section on page 7. Ask: ***What is the mission of each Person in the Trinity?*** (The Father created the world, the Son became man to save us, and the Holy Spirit gives us grace to believe.)
- ▶ Read aloud the last section. Point out the vocabulary words. Find the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be to the Father on pages 246 and 247 and pray them aloud. Say: ***The Sign of the Cross reminds us of our Baptism, when our foreheads were marked by the cross to show that we belong to Christ.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Review with your child what the function of the *Gloria* is.

Art Exploration: Page 8

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a person arranging or taking care of flowers.
- ▶ Say: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the person's actions and the beauty of the flowers.
- ▶ Say: ***Being among God's creatures is a great way to be near God. We can see and feel God's love in flowers, trees, animals, butterflies, and streams.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 8. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the sections God Creates the World and God Continues to Care for the World. Ask: ***What would happen if we didn't protect God's creations?*** (Possible responses: Pollution would increase. The beauty of nature would be harder to see.) Say: ***God created us because he loves us, just as he loves all his creations. It is our responsibility toward God's creation to care for it.***
- ▶ Read aloud Taking the Pledge. Have your child complete the activity and share his or her response with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Say: ***The Eucharistic Prayer is the liturgical expression of praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done in creation.***
- ▶ Provide art supplies for your child. Ask him or her to consider which of God's gifts in nature helps him or her feel God's presence. Invite your child to draw or paint a picture of it. Display the artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 9–10

- ▶ Together look at page 9. Ask: ***How would you describe the attitude of the person in this picture?*** (contemplative, reflective, thankful for the world he sees) Say: ***Through reflective prayer, we are invited to hear God speak to us and to develop a friendship with him.***
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 9. Ask your child to close his or her eyes. Encourage your child to answer the questions silently as you read them aloud. Conclude the prayer time by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 10. Read aloud the activity instructions and allow your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers, then read aloud the Did You Know? feature.

Respond: Pages 11–12

- ▶ Invite 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 other ways he or she can show love and respect for things in creation.

- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 12, then discuss how your family can complete the activity together. Pray aloud the prayer. Say: ***We can praise and thank God with our actions, not only with our words. Let all our actions show respect and care for others and for all creation.***