



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. **Ask:** *Why do you think the artist shows a light around Saint Ignatius's head? (because he is holy) Say: Artists use a halo to show that someone is holy.*

Invite your child to read aloud the paragraph on page 1 about Saint Ignatius of Loyola. **Ask:** *Why do you think Ignatius recognized God in every living creature? (All living things are part of God's creation.)*

Turn to page 2. Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Ignatius's family was wealthy. Ask your child to read aloud the second paragraph. Say: A monastery is a place where some men live apart from the everyday world to give their lives to God. Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask: What did Ignatius say we should do if we want to know God? (We can start by taking care of the world around us.)*

Ask: *What are exercises? (doing something, practicing) Tell your child that Saint Ignatius wrote *Spiritual Exercises* to help people practice their faith—talking to God, listening to God, loving God, and finding God in all things.*

With your child add Ignatius's feast day, July 31, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the teachings of Saint Ignatius.

Created to Be Happy

Engage: Page 3

- ▶ Invite your child to join you for a walk around your neighborhood. Take turns pointing out the beauty and goodness of God's creation.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What can this child do to care for God's creation? (water the vegetables) How can we care for God's creation? (pick up litter, water plants, take care of animals) In this session we will learn about the wonders of God's creation and how we are called to take care of it.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about what you saw on your walk and the goodness of God's creation. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ On a sheet of paper, take turns with your child writing statements about things you believe, such as *I believe family is important* and *I believe in my child*.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud page 4. **Ask:** *What is an apostle? (a special follower of Jesus') What is a creed? (a statement that tells what people believe) What is the Apostles' Creed? (a statement of what the apostles and Catholics believe)* Read aloud the first three lines of the Apostles' Creed. Then say the three lines of the Apostles' Creed without looking at the page, alternating lines with your child.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *We find God in his creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 5. **Say:** *A psalm is a prayer in the form of a poem or song that uses colorful language to praise God.* Invite your child to read aloud the adapted psalm with you.
- ▶ Discuss beautiful things you saw this week. Read aloud Your Own Song of Praise and invite your child to write his or her own song of praise. Write your own song and share it with your child.

Art Exploration: Page 227

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a garden with flowers, leaves, and birds.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors, flowers, plants, animals, and sky.

- ▶ **Say:** *Each of these things was created by God and can tell us about him. For example, the different beautiful flowers tell us that God gives us life and gives us a variety of beautiful living things to enjoy and care for.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 227. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud God's Wonders. **Ask:** *How can we give glory to God for his creation? (through prayer, by taking care of his creation)*
- ▶ Read aloud Small Wonders. **Ask:** *What does the word wonders mean? (something different, special)* Discuss other small wonders you and your child have noticed.
Say: *All the wonderful things in nature, even the tiniest of wonders, reflect the beauty of God's creation. God must love us very much to have given us all these beautiful things.*
- ▶ Take a walk with your child or look out the window, and have your child complete the activity I Spy a Small Natural Wonder.
- ▶ Consider playing I Spy with your child, such as "I spy something that is green and has three round leaves." Use clues to guide your child to see the small natural wonders of creation.
- ▶ With your child use watercolor paints, crayons, markers, or colored pencils to make garden scenes of your own. Include in your pictures both big and small wonders from God, as well as your family enjoying God's gifts.

Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Ask:** *What do you think the child in the picture is feeling?*
Say: *Prayer is a special time to be aware of God's presence.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph. Invite your child to read the prayer with you. Read aloud the last paragraph. Invite your child to spend a few moments in silence, using his or her own words, thoughts, and feelings to talk to God. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading on page 7. **Ask:** *How do we get to know one another? (through our words and actions)*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraph. **Ask:** *Why did God create all things? (because of his love)*
How can we know God? (by reading the Bible)
- ▶ Read Loving God's Creation and have your child complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she loves in God's creation and explain each drawing.

Respond: Page 8

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. 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 be kind to people, animals, and all of God's creation.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.