



# 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

Turn to page 1. Invite your child to read aloud the page. **Say:** *Saint Teresa of Ávila spent a lot of time praying and thinking about prayer. She also wanted to help other people learn how to pray. Ask: Who helps you learn how to pray? (Possible answers: family members, priests, catechists)*

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Teresa of Ávila.

**Ask:** *What can we tell about Saint Teresa of Ávila based on this picture? (She was a holy person.)*

Turn to page 2. Have your child read aloud the page. **Ask:** *What did Teresa discover she liked about living in a convent? (the simple life) What title did Teresa receive for what she wrote? (Doctor of the Church) Explain that the Church believes that her writings about prayer are very important to Church teachings. Say: We remember Saint Teresa of Ávila because she dedicated her life to prayer. We are going to learn how we can grow closer to God through prayer.*

With your child add Teresa's feast day, October 15, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the teachings of Saint Teresa of Ávila.



## God Creates the World

### Engage: Page 3

- ▶ Together with your child, look out a window and find beautiful aspects of God's creation. **Ask:** *What makes these things beautiful? Why do you think God created them?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What is happening in this picture?* (Children are picking up trash.) **Say:** *There are many ways we can take care of creation. In this session we will learn about the wonders of God's creation and how we are called to help care for what God has given us.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about what you both saw out your window and how we are called to help care for what God has given us. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ **Say:** *Think of a time you saw a rainbow.* **Ask:** *How did you feel when you saw the colors of the rainbow?* **Say:** *God has created those amazing colors.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 4. Point out the vocabulary terms. **Say:** *Having a soul makes us human and makes us beings who are made in the image and likeness of God.* **Ask:** *What is free will?* (our ability to choose good because God has made us like him) *What kinds of choices do you think God wants us to make regarding the earth?* (God wants us to use our free will to choose to care for everything he has given us.)
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Everything God makes is good, and he takes care of everyone and everything.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Caring for the Earth on page 5. **Ask:** *Why is it important not to waste the resources we have received from God?* (It shows our gratitude for the gift of creation.) Then invite your child to write his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the directions to Gifts from God. Have your child complete the activity and discuss his or her responses with you.

### Art Exploration: Page 229

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a tree with flowers and butterflies.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors and the flowers.
- ▶ **Say:** *Creation is a gift from God. There are many ways we can thank him for this gift.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 229. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud God the Creator. Point out the vocabulary word in dark type. *Say: The psalms were first written as poems. They are like song lyrics and can be sung as hymns.* **Ask:** *What aspects of God's creation are included in this psalm? (the earth, water, fields, grain, plants, pastures, valleys)* **Say:** *Creation is full of life. The living things that surround us remind us to thank God for the gift of creation.*
- ▶ Read aloud Write a Psalm and invite your child to write and share his or her own psalm.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *There are different types of psalms. We can use some of them to pray prayers of thanks, prayers of praise, and prayers of sorrows.*
- ▶ Ask your child to draw on a sheet of paper an outline of a tree. Taking turns, decorate the tree with aspects of God's creation that you and your child believe to be especially beautiful. Conclude by praying together a prayer thanking God for the gift of creation.

### Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Ask:** *What is the girl in the picture focusing on?* **Say:** *Before you pray, focus your attention on a specific image or idea to help you concentrate and reflect.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 6. Pause after the last two paragraphs to give your child time to reflect. Provide time for your child to talk silently with God. Together pray *Amen* and the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *Why is it important to thank people for the gifts they give us? (to show how much we appreciate their thoughtfulness) What are some things we can do to show God how thankful we are for the gift of creation? (pray a prayer of thanks, recycle, use only what we need)* Read aloud Thanking God for Creation on page 7 and have your child complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the drawing and the prayer.

### 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 other ways he or she can thank God for the gift of 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.