



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 of Saint Isidore the Farmer.

Ask: *What was Saint Isidore's job? (farming)*

Have your child read aloud page 1. **Say:** *A saint is a person who has lived a life of special faith and goodness. The Church has honored many saints. Saint Isidore was a man who loved God and showed special care to the earth and its creatures.*

Turn to page 2. Read aloud the first paragraph. **Ask:** *Where did Saint Isidore live? (Spain) What did Saint Isidore do while he was farming the land? (pray)*

Say: *God wants us to take care of the earth. Saint Isidore can teach us about loving the earth.*

Read aloud the last two paragraphs. **Say:** *A patron saint watches over special groups of people, places, or animals.* **Ask:** *Which groups does Saint Isidore watch over? (farmers, farm animals, farming communities, and picnickers)*

With your child add Isidore's feast day, May 15, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the work of Saint Isidore.



God Creates Us

Engage: Page 3

- ▶ With your child think of someone in your family or neighborhood who could use a “Thinking of You” card. Encourage your child to make a card for that person by using construction paper, markers, or crayons. Have your child write this sentence inside the card: *God is good and wonderful, and so are you.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child’s responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What’s happening in this picture?* (The girl feels happy because she is loved.) **Say:** *In this session we will learn what God makes and why he makes those things.*
- ▶ Encourage your child to give the card to its recipient. Point out that God creates things out of love for us, just as your child made the card. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ Cut out paper hearts. Ask your child to write the names of people he or she loves on the hearts. Then ask your child to write a way to show his or her love. Display the hearts in your home.
- ▶ Read aloud page 4. **Ask:** *Who is our Creator? (God) What does he create? (Heaven, earth, people, animals, plants) Who are the three Persons of the Trinity? (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) Point out the picture of the three rings. Ask:* *How is this design like the Trinity? (It has three parts, and they’re connected to form one object.) Say:* *This is just as the Holy Trinity is three Persons in one.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Discuss examples of the good things God creates.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph on page 5. Point out the vocabulary words in dark type. **Ask:** *What is one way to be holy? (to love all God’s creation)*
- ▶ Read aloud Caring for God’s Creation. Have your child complete the sentence. Discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Sacraments give us the grace we need to live holy lives.*

Art Exploration: Page 235

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of God’s creatures of the air, land, and sea.



- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage children to describe the picture in detail, including the shining sun, trees and flowers blooming, and animals in nature.
- ▶ **Say:** *God shows his love for us by creating the world where we live.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 235. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the adapted Scripture story. **Say:** *We take good care of the earth because it is a gift from God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Taking Care of God's Earth. Discuss the question. Ask your child to write how he or she takes care of the earth and what your child sees others do.
- ▶ Ask your child to study the picture. **Say:** *Imagine that God has invited you into this scene. Ask your child to use his or her senses while walking through the scene, appreciating what he or she sees, hears, touches, tastes, and smells. Say: Take a moment to speak heart-to-heart with God and share with him the things you like most about all that he created.*

Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Ask:** *What is the boy in the picture doing? What do you see in the background?* **Say:** *We can talk with God about everything in our lives.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Pray aloud the prayer and have your child repeat it. Slowly read aloud the last paragraph. Give your child time to reflect and then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph on page 7. **Say:** *To give glory to someone means to give him or her the highest praise.*
- ▶ Read aloud God's Creation Shows His Love. Invite your child to use markers or crayons to complete the activity. Ask your child to tell what he or she loves in God's creation and explain his or her 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 show love for God's world.
- ▶ 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.