



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

Have your child turn to page 1. Read aloud the saint's name and the sentence below it.

Turn to page 2. Discuss the picture of Saint Francis of Assisi. **Ask:** *What else do you see in the picture? (animals) What kind of clothing is Saint Francis wearing? (a brown robe) Is his clothing fancy? (No.) Do you think Saint Francis was a rich man? (No.)*

Read aloud the page. **Ask:** *How would you feel if you saw a person talking to a wild animal such as a wolf? (Possible answers: scared, nervous, curious) How did the wolf react to Saint Francis? (It was calm and gentle.) Say: Saint Francis loved everything God created. He loved the animals as if they were his brothers and sisters. He treated them kindly. We are going to learn how God makes everything and how prayer helps us show our love for all creation.*

With your child add Francis's feast day, October 4, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the love that Saint Francis had for animals.



God Makes Everything

Engage: Page 3

- ▶ Invite your child to take a nature walk with you around your neighborhood. Collect small treasures from God's creation—leaves, rocks, dandelions. **Say:** *God made all things to show us how much he loves us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's answer. **Ask:** *What's happening in this picture?* (The happy girl is holding a flower that God made.) **Say:** *In this session we're going to learn that God is good to all of us!*
- ▶ Display your nature-walk treasures and talk about all the beautiful things God has made. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ Look out a window of your home with your child. Together draw pictures of things that you see that God has created.
- ▶ Read aloud page 4. Point out the vocabulary words, *God* and *Creator*. **Ask:** *Who is God?* (God is the Creator because he makes everything.) *What do you see in each picture?* (a tree, a happy child, flowers) Discuss how we want to remember to thank God in our hearts whenever we see something he made for us.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph on page 5. Point out the photo. **Ask:** *Why are these children recycling?* (They want to take care of God's world.) Read aloud the last two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What does Amen mean?* (We pray Amen to show we really mean the words we pray.) **Say:** *A saint is a person who shows love for God in a special way. Saint Francis showed his love for God by caring for God's creatures.*
- ▶ Discuss ways to take care of God's creations. Make a recycling plan for your home.

Art Exploration: Page 213

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Vincent de Paul helping people who are sick.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the actions of Saint Vincent de Paul.
- ▶ **Say:** *Saint Vincent de Paul helped people who were poor and in need. This is how he showed God his love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 213. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. Talk about different organizations that help people in need, such as Habitat for Humanity. Explain that some parishes



have a St. Vincent de Paul Society of volunteers who help those in need. **Ask:** *Why do you think the organization is called the St. Vincent de Paul Society?* (It helps people in need, as Saint Vincent de Paul did.)

- ▶ Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. Together find clothes in your closet that you could donate to a St. Vincent de Paul center or a similar organization in your area.
- ▶ With your child use watercolor paints, crayons, markers, or colored pencils to make get-well cards for future use. Help your child write *Get Well Soon!* on the cards and sign his or her artwork. When a family member or neighbor becomes ill, have your child choose a card to show he or she cares.

Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Say:** *We will learn a prayer that reminds us that we belong to God. It's called the Sign of the Cross.*
- ▶ Face your child as you demonstrate the gestures for the Sign of the Cross. Then turn your back and use exaggerated movements, making sure your child can see where you're placing your hands. Read aloud the first paragraph on page 6. Pray the Sign of the Cross together. Read aloud the second paragraph. Pause to allow your child to talk to God silently.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and verse on page 7. **Ask:** *Why do you think God said, "It is very good?"* (All that comes from God is good.) *What are some of your favorite things that God has made?*
- ▶ Read aloud the next paragraph and have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud Reading God's Word. **Ask:** *How can we let God know we're grateful for all he has made?* (by thanking him in our prayers, by taking care of the earth)

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 another way to show that he or she loves 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.