



# 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. We grow closer to him by loving and serving others.*

## Introduce the Saint

Turn to page 1. Have your child read aloud the paragraph. **Say:** *Saint Augustine was a teacher whose writings brought many people closer to God.*

**Ask:** *Who helps you learn more about God? (Possible answers: parents, catechists, priests)*

Turn to page 2. Point out the heart in the picture. **Say:** *Saint Augustine is sometimes pictured with a heart because he often wrote about love. We remember Saint Augustine because he wrote about the Trinity, helped Catholics understand God's love, and encouraged people to have courage and hope in God.*

Take turns reading aloud the page. **Ask:** *What was Augustine like when he was young? (He often got in trouble.) Point out that like most people, Augustine did not always make the right choices, but the Church did come to recognize him as a saint.*

With your child add Augustine's feast day, August 28, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the teachings of Saint Augustine.

## God Creates Us

### Engage: Page 3

- ▶ Together with your child, close your eyes and visualize favorite places or things in nature that you have seen or visited. Use descriptive words to tell about each one and tell what you liked about each thing from God's creation.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's list.  
**Say:** *In this session we will learn how God created everything in the world, including all our favorite things. Everything can remind us of God if we are aware of its presence.*
- ▶ Think of places you would both like to visit or see and write them on your list.  
**Say:** *Let us ask God for help in appreciating all that he has given us. Pray aloud the prayer together.*

### Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ 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? How would you feel?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph and verse on page 4. Remind your child that Genesis is the first book in the Bible. **Say:** *The word Genesis means "beginning" in Greek, and the word abyss means "a vast, bottomless ocean."* **Ask:** *What are some things that God created on the other days? (light, sky, land, life) Then read aloud the last four paragraphs.*
- ▶ 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 Creation Is the Work of the Trinity on page 5. **Ask:** *What is the mission of each Person in the Trinity? (the Father created the world, the Son saved us, and the Holy Spirit gives us grace to believe.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Prayers Honoring the Trinity. Point out the vocabulary words in dark type. Pray together the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be to the Father. **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 the *Gloria* with your child.

### Art Exploration: Page 225

- ▶ 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 225. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the title and first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *Why did God make the world?* (He was inspired to do so.) Have your child read aloud God Continues to Care for the World. **Say:** *We show that we care for God by caring for all of God's creation.* **Ask:** *What would happen if we didn't protect God's creations?* (animals die, water is contaminated, pollution, acid rain) **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 responses.
- ▶ 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 inspire him or her to feel God's presence and then draw a picture of it. Display the artwork in your home.

### Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Ask:** *How would you describe the setting of the picture?* (quiet, peaceful, someone's favorite place) **Say:** *Through reflective prayer we are invited to hear God speak to us and to develop a friendship with him.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph on page 6 and pray the Sign of the Cross. Ask your child to close his or her eyes. Read aloud each paragraph. Remind your child to answer the questions silently. Conclude the prayer time by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions on page 7 and do the activities. Encourage your child to use his or her imagination to complete A. Discuss your child's response for section B. While your child writes a prayer for C, write your own prayer. Share it with your child.

### 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 show love and respect for things in 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.