



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 and how the Bible is a source to find out more about him. Read aloud the unit title.* **Say:** *Let's begin this book together by talking about God as our Father and Creator and learning how the Bible reveals him to us.*

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture. **Ask:** *What is Saint Jerome doing? (writing, thinking)*

Invite your child to read aloud the text on page 1 about Saint Jerome.

Ask: *Why might Saint Jerome be the patron saint of librarians? (He worked with the Bible, a kind of library.)*

Turn to page 2. Read aloud the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What is Hebrew? (the language spoken by Jewish people) Explain that few Christians in Jerome's day could read and those who did read Latin, their everyday language.* **Say:** *Jerome's work made it possible for people to read the Bible in their own language.*

Have your child read aloud the last two paragraphs. Read aloud Jerome's quotation. **Ask:** *How did Jerome translate Scripture into deeds? (When war broke out, he stopped his work to help refugees.) What does his statement mean to you? (God wants us to help others.)*

With your child add Jerome's feast day, September 30, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the work of Saint Jerome.



The Bible, God's Story

Engage: Page 3

- ▶ Look through your Bible together. **Ask:** *What makes a Bible story interesting to you?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's choice. Share your own favorite Bible stories. Discuss the importance of reading and discussing the Bible with family members. **Say:** *In this session we will learn how God's words of everlasting life are in our most important book, the Bible.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 4–5

- ▶ Discuss pieces of art that you and your child are familiar with. Together find a piece or two online to observe. **Ask:** *What might have inspired the artist to make such a piece?* Invite your child to look up *inspired* in the Glossary and read aloud the definition.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 4. **Ask:** *What is the main story of the Old Testament? (the story of the Hebrew people and their faith in God) What is the main story of the New Testament? (the story of Jesus, the early Christians, and their new faith and Salvation through Jesus)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Discuss some of the books of the Bible you are both familiar with and tell what you know about them.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 5. Discuss the vocabulary words *Magisterium* and *interpretation* in dark type. **Say:** *We believe the Bible is the Word of God. The Spirit of God works through the Magisterium, and we rely on its members to help us understand what Scripture means for our lives.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does this Bible verse mean to you?*

Art Exploration: Page 229

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of an illuminated, or decorated, Bible page.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including any ornate letters, pictures, and scenes.
- ▶ **Say:** *The colorful letters, flowers, animals, and scenes remind us of the beauty of God's creation.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 229. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Copying the Bible. Point out the two vocabulary words. **Ask:** *Why is "everyday language" important for a Bible translation? (makes it easier to read) Why were scriptoriums so important? (They produced copies of the Bible so that more people could use the Bible for prayer and worship.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Illuminated Bible and complete the activity.
- ▶ Ask your child to study the illuminated Bible page and imagine what it would take to copy not only the Scripture, but also to illuminate the page. Have your child reflect on how long it would take to copy the page. Ask your child to focus on the concentration the illuminators must have had to complete each page. Close with a silent prayer thanking God for revealing himself through the Bible.

Reflect: Pages 6–7

- ▶ Together look at page 6. **Ask:** *What do the butterflies and dove on this page mean to you?* **Say:** *A prayer is a conversation. Think about the words you are praying and listen with your heart.*
- ▶ Together with your child, take turns reading aloud the paragraphs and prayer on page 6. Conclude by praying *Amen* and joining your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph and Bible passage of Making Choices on page 7. **Say:** *Moses is trying to convince the Hebrews that if they follow God's commandments, their lives will be blessed.* Then read aloud the next paragraph. **Ask:** *How can we use free will to follow God?* Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Seeking Advice and think of a situation to write about. Discuss the situation and response after he or she is finished writing.

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. Invite your child to choose a psalm listed and read it aloud together.
- ▶ 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.