

GRADE 2: CHAPTER 1 OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Supplies:

- Student Text
- Picture of God the Father
- A balloon
- A bible (We Recommend the Catholic Children's Bible from St. Mary Press for Grade 2 and above)
- Our Father Prayer Card

Main Theme: God created us so that we could be one with Him in Heaven, He gave us a human soul so that we could love as He loves.

Lesson:

Set up a place where you always work on your Faith Formation Lessons together. Decorate the space with a bible and other sacramentals you may want to use throughout the year. We will be giving you items to help fill this space as the year goes on. Consider having a candle in this space so that we know that something special is happening when we work on our lessons.

Begin praying the Our Father together.

Read Chapter 1, pages 6-10 together.

- Read the first two paragraphs on page 7. Ask your child who made them. Use the pictures of God in the packet and have your child tell you what aspects of God these pictures show. Ask your child how they resemble their dad? Ask them what they love to do with their dad and then imagine doing those things with God, their heavenly Father.
- Read the third paragraph on page 7. Talk about how God has given us a soul that loves, chooses right from wrong and will live forever in Heaven. Blow a balloon up as large as possible. The content of the inside of the balloon is air. The only way we know there is air in the balloon is that it has expanded and increased in size though we can't see the air. We compare this balloon experiment with the knowledge of our souls. We know everyone has one, we have not seen it. The balloon could not get bigger without us blowing it up and making it bigger. The same is said about our souls and bodies. Without our souls given to us by God we could not live. Our bodies would be dead to the spirit of God. Our soul is the part of us that thinks, loves, and chooses to do good or evil. When a person dies, their soul lives on forever. If we are good people on earth, when we die, our souls go to Heaven to be with God forever. This is one of many beautiful gifts God has given us.
- Read the remainder of page 7 and 8. God is in Heaven and everywhere. Talk about places that are special to your family. Ask your child if God is in those places. Have your child draw a picture of their favorite place and then draw God in that place.

Read page 9. Take out your children's bible. Talk about the stories of the bible and ask your child what their favorite stories are. Skim the pages looking at the pictures, stories, etc. Point out the following to them:

- New and Old Testament
- The Old Testament (Acts of the Apostles during the Easter Season)- First Reading
- Psalms- The Book of Psalms
- Second Reading- The New Testament
- Gospel- (New Testament) The section with Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

View "God's Story" an overview of the bible: <https://vimeo.com/85213037>

Saint Story:

Saint Therese and the Little Way

Saint Therese of Lisieux is a good example of someone who was very aware of the difficult journey to Heaven. Her spiritual path, called the "Little Way" has become popular in modern times. Therese wanted to be a saint, but she felt that she could not become a great one, so she comforted herself by making small daily sacrifices. This is what she called her "little way to Heaven", short and direct. By remaining child-like she asked Jesus to carry her in His arms to the Father. She felt she was too little to attain heaven like the saints before her, so she found her own pathway.



As a very young girl, Saint Therese understood the beauty of Heaven and the joy of being with God forever. She loved her parents and God so much that she wanted her Mom and Dad to be happy with Him forever. She knew that they could only be happy with God if they died. Because of this she was not afraid for her parents to die.

Also known as The Little Flower, Saint Therese was born in France in 1873. She became a Carmelite nun at the age of 15 with special permission from the Pope. She died of Tuberculosis in 1897 and was canonized in 1925. She is the patron saint of missions. We celebrate her feast day on October 1st.

Concluding prayer: Lead your child in thanking God for the many gifts He gives them and for making them His children.

Action Plan:

Prayer Plan: This week, make it a habit to say the Our Father with your child once a day so that they get accustomed to the words and saying it with you.

Act of Kindness Plan: Do something nice for your father or for someone who is like a father to you.

Faith Journal plan: Create an opening introduction page for your scrapbook. Include a photo of yourself and things that are special to you. On the next page, include a drawing or photo of your prayer place, your drawing of God with you at a place that is special to you and any other photos or drawing that mean a lot to you from this lesson.