

Grade 1 Chapter 1- God is Our Father

Supplies:

- Student Text
- A bible
- Piece of paper and either crayons, colored pencils or markers

Main Theme: God is our Father. He created everything. He created us out of love. In turn we love God and one another.

Lesson: Create a space in your home where Faith Formation will take place. You can set it up each week when you work on the lesson with your child, perhaps keeping your materials in a drawer, box or bin until needed. Materials you may want to consider for your space: a child's bible, a candle of some type, a crucifix, a religious card featuring Jesus, Mary or one of the Saints, a pair of Rosary beads, something found in Nature to remind you of God's creation like a sea shell, rock, flower, leaf or feather.

Opening Prayer: It's a good idea to begin and end each session with prayer. To begin this lesson, teach your child the **Sign of the Cross**, which is a prayer in itself. (Touch your forehead with your right hand) we say, "In the name of the Father"

(Move your hand to the center of your chest) we say, "And of the Son"

(Move your hand to your left shoulder) we say, "and of the Holy"

(Move your hand to your right shoulder) we say, "Spirit". (Bring both hands together) we say, "Amen".

Beginning the Lesson: Read the first two paragraphs on page 7 with your child. Ask your child to name a few things that God created and to think of some things not mentioned in the reading that God made. If you are near a window, have your child look outside and point out some things he/she sees that God created. Perhaps you can even take a walk around your neighborhood in the next few days and point out all that God created. God is awesome-He created so many wonderful things!

Read the next two paragraphs (pg. 7 & 8). God the Father loves you! God created you out of love and He continues to love and care for you by giving you what you need. Think of the things God gives you and draw a picture of something you thank God for creating just for you. God is so good! We want to remember to thank God for loving us and we can do this by talking to God. We call this special speaking with God "prayer" and we can do this anytime and anywhere. We can pray out loud and we can pray silently in our hearts and minds. The more we talk to God the better He gets to know us!

Closing of the Lesson: As you finish this lesson, have your child think of some things that he/she is thankful for. Add these into a prayer such as: “God gave me my parents, thank you God, the Father!” “God gave me..._____, thank you, God the Father!” Continue praying this special Litany of Gratitude and having your child add things to be thankful for.

Concluding Prayer: God is our Father in Heaven and on earth and he wants us to call him Father. He gave us a special prayer to help remember him. The prayer is called the “Our Father” and praying it is one way we can grow closer to God. Here are the words to this very special prayer:

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The week ahead: Continue to pray the “Our Father” prayer this week at a time that works best for you and your child. Make a plan with your child to do something nice for God the Father, by showing kindness to any special man in your child’s life. This could be the child’s father, step-father, grandfather, uncle, or any father figure in your child’s life. Have your child think of something he/she can do to show his/her love and appreciation for the person chosen. Your child could do something as simple such as: make a phone call or video call, send a homemade card, help you bake a special treat or say a prayer for the person. Remind your child that God loves him/her very much and by loving others, we show our love back to God.