

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT TWO LESSON ONE

Essential Question

How does praying help me know and love Jesus Christ?

Learning Targets

The new archdiocesan curriculum is designed in such a way that the learning information follows a spiral pattern in that similar topics are discussed at a progressively deeper cognitive level each year following the appropriate age of the learner, beginning with early childhood and concluding with adulthood. Below is a chart that shows this progression for our 2nd topic / essential question "What does Jesus Christ teach you about God?" Please review this to see what your child(ren) are covering at their own cognitive level.

Additionally, you will notice that each grade level is covering the same or similar topic each week. This chart can also be used as a tool for conversation starters about what was learned in formation, other family discussions, and as a means to unite the family under one theme. Our hope is that this information will help you be more aware of what your child(ren) are covering and that it can be integrated or reinforced at home in some fashion and may even inspire your own faith life as well.

Early Childhood
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A3.2.6.1 – People tell God good morning and good night each day. (CCC#2697-98; 2720; 2757)• A4.4.1.2 (& A3.4.1.3) – Special times for prayer are in the morning, before and after one eats, and at bedtime. (CCC#2698; 2720)• K.4.4.2 (& A3.4.2.2 & A3.4.4.1) – People pray with a church family, at home with a family, and alone. (CCC#2590; 2685-86; 2689-91; 2699; 2720; 2757)• A4.4.1.3 – Catholics begin prayers with the Sign of the Cross. (CCC#2166)
Elementary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (U₃) 1.4.3.1 – Daily prayer helps people stay close to God. (CCC#2166; 2676; 2688; 2759)• (U₁) 2.4.1.1 – Prayer is communicating with God by speaking and listening. (CCC#2559; 2590)• (U₂) 4.4.3.2 – One goal for an individual engaged in personal prayer is to come to know God's will in his or her own life and to come to accept that will. (CCC#2826)• (U₄) 5.4.1.3 – Jesus taught that God always listens to prayers, so they are to be said with humble trust and confidence. (CCC#2609; 2610; 2800)
Junior High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.4.3.4 - Daily prayer nourishes a relationship with God. (CCC #2698; 2720)• 6.4.3.1 - Creating a special place or location for prayer can help one to develop a regular prayer life. (CCC #2691)• 7.4.3.3 - When prayer seems not to be heard, especially the prayer of petition, Christians are called to persevere through filial trust, that in His providential goodness, God provides what is good for them. (CCC #2756)• 8.4.1.5 - Sacred Tradition, as the living transmission of God's truth to the Church, serves to help people, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to know how to listen and respond to God in prayer. (CCC #2650-51; 2661)
High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.2.2.2 - One of the ways that Christ teaches and forms his disciples is through their participation in the sacramental life of the Church.• 9.4.2.3 - Jesus Christ is the one intercessor for all people before the Father, and the Holy Spirit continues to intercede on behalf of all. In imitation and as disciples, Christians are called to intercede on behalf of the entire world.• 9.4.2.4 - The Church is called to recognize the importance of praying with one's whole being through the use of the senses, to give expression to what is experienced interiorly. This includes the use of the arts in music, song, dance, and painting.• 10.4.3.1 - Prayer as an invitation to intimacy and communion with God, is an essential aspect of being a disciple.
Adult

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT TWO LESSON ONE

- MA 4.1.1 – In response to God's initiative, **prayer** is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God. (CCC# 2559, 2590)
- MA 4.1.3 – **Prayer** is a reciprocal call between God and people in which God's initiative of love always comes first, to which people respond in a manner that engages the entire person, including the heart. (CCC# 2567, 2591)
- MA 4.1.5 – Jesus' **prayer life** is, for the Christian, the model to live a life of prayer. (CCC# 520, 2607, 2620)
- MA 4.1.19 – Through the living Tradition of the Church, the Holy Spirit continues to teach people to **pray** to discover God's will for their daily lives. (CCC# 2763, 2776)

Learning Target Videos

A quick and easy way to wrap up integration of the Parent Connection (PC) at home, as well as relay the learning target of this session's Essential Question (EQ) to your child(ren), is through the use of the videos that have been chosen by the Archdiocese to convey an overarching theme of the EQ at hand. All videos are family friendly and are chosen with the intent to clarify EQ content in an engaging way.

Video One: Grades k-4, *Standing in the Need of Prayer* <https://youtu.be/b6t2yzDUivs>

Video Two: Grades 1-4, *Brother Francis: Prayer Is* <https://youtu.be/4N4gDLEm1Zg>

Video Three: Grades 4-12, *Matt Maher: Litany* <https://youtu.be/iREM-5qcCjo>

Parent Formation Opportunities

The additional resources that are listed below are intended for your own personal growth, because they offer theological insight that circle back to the essential question through a more mature and personal approach. They offer spiritual guidance for prayer, day to day living, and apologetics. Although these resources are optional, they are strongly encouraged to be considered. Looking over these resources should take no longer than a few minutes and can all be found online.

Scripture: [1 Samuel 3:1-10](#), [Matthew 6:1-18](#), [Acts 9:1-19](#)

CCC: [2558](#), [2559](#), [2566-67](#)

YouTube:

- *Bishop Barron on Prayer*
Channel: Bishop Robert Barron
Publication: February 16, 2017
<https://youtu.be/aR6J1pPiRQo>
- *Tips for Praying*
Channel: Ascension Presents
Publication: March 9, 2016
<https://youtu.be/yk8In-6KUGc>

Podcast:

- Episode 049: *Prayer is A Dialogue*
Podcast: Life Is Worth Living: A Fulton J. Sheen Catholic Podcast
Publication: September 30, 2018
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/049-prayer-is-a-dialogue/id1376509938?i=1000420821937>

Book:

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT TWO LESSON ONE

- *Reaching Out*
Author: Henri Nouwen
Sections: All
Publisher: Image; Reissue edition (August 5, 1986)
- *New Seeds of Contemplation*
Author: Thomas Merton
Sections: All
Publisher: New Directions; Reprint edition (November 27, 2007)
- *Introduction to the Devout Life*
Author: St. Francis De Sales
Sections: All
Publisher: Ignatius Press; Sewn edition (August 1, 2015)

Family Activities

Conversation Starters

Sharing the faith as a family is a great way for it to stick/grow. Here are some conversation ideas based on what your son/daughter was recently learning in formation. Consider using these immediately after picking up your child(ren) from Catechesis or at the dinner table.

- What are three new things you learned during catechesis class today?
- What is something you learned that you already knew?
- Do you think you might have learned something that I don't know or you think is important for me to know? If so, what?
- What do you understand prayer to be?
- When you pray how do you talk to God?
- *Share your own experiences of prayer and how you approach it — knowing God as a friend, a Father, a teacher, etc.*
- Do you have a favorite prayer?
- Why do you think it is important to pray alone?
- Why do you think it is important to pray with other people/as a family?
- Do you have any questions about prayer?

Prayer Activity

With your family, visit a nearby parish that offers the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration), and spend some time in prayer. Explain to your children that, as Catholics, we believe this exposition to be the *real* presence of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, He is made present. Although we are capable of — and called to — pray anywhere and at any time, because Adoration contains and provides special graces, it allows for a special closeness to the Lord. According to Pope Pius XII, Adoration is not “merely a passing devotional practice. It is founded on divinely revealed truths.”

Note:

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT TWO LESSON ONE

- *Adoration is every Tuesday from 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church*
- *Adoration accompanied by praise and worship is every quarterly Wednesday. For the 2019-2020 school year, it will be held on the following dates:*
 - *October 23, Dec 4, Jan 22, March 18*

Tips on how to approach Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can be found here:

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/a-beginners-guide-to-adoration/>

Physical Activity

Materials needed: Headphones, phone or music media player compatible with headphones

With your family, take turns playing “The Whisper Challenge.” During each round, one member is to wear headphones plugged into a phone or music player, while listening to music at a volume that prevents the player from being able to hear what another player (not wearing headphones) is saying. The player listening to music and another player that *is not* are to face one another while the player not listening to music speaks random phrases to the person listening to music. This person is to read the lips of the other player and attempt to guess what he or she is saying. Set a timer for 60 seconds for each round of guessing. Depending on the size of the family, go around and take turns.

The point of this activity is to emphasize the need for prayer. Although God can see us and knows what is going on in our lives, in order for prayer to be effective, we need to actually talk to Him. Similarly, if we don’t create a space or time to converse with Him and enter into dialogue, we’ll be too distracted by the noise and chaos around us to hear or properly discern the various ways He is trying to communicate with us and work in our lives.

Closing Prayer:

**Always begin and end each prayer with the Sign of the Cross*

Lord, show us how to pray. You spent your entire life doing Your Father’s will and sharing His love with others. Help us to be as devout and consistent as You were. Come, Holy Spirit, help us understand what it truly means to have an active relationship with the Lord, so that we may live full and holy lives, capable of sharing His goodness with others. Amen.