

PROJECT NAZARETH

FAITH BEGINS AT HOME

CREATION



*“The child grew and became strong, filled
with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.”*

Luke 2:40

CREATION | WEEK 1

GOD EXISTS

Throughout the next four weeks we will reflect on our own origin story which goes all the way back to the foundations of our world. This week will focus on the God who created us. The one true God who out of His abundant goodness made everything that is, is the same God who made you and me. We begin our reflection with the existence of God and some of our core beliefs about what He is like. In the coming weeks, we will turn our attention to God's creation, who we are within that creation, and what we are created for.

PRIMARY TEACHING OBJECTIVES

There is one God in three persons.

Scripture Resources: [Exodus 3:13-15](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 200-231](#), 253-256, 261-267

God knows everything, can do anything, and is always with you.

Scripture Resources: [Psalm 139: 1-14](#)

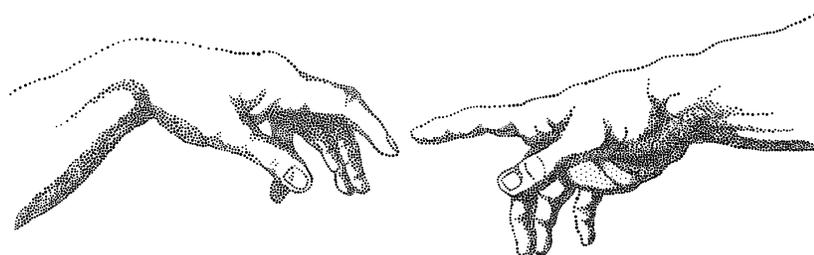
Catechism Resources: [CCC 268-271](#)

God loves you and you are special to him.

We can trust God like a father.

Scripture Resources: [Matthew 10: 29-31](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 277](#)





PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Look for opportunities throughout the week to communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions below each objective to explore the topic throughout the week. Remember that our faith is a mystery and you don't always need all the answers. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren).

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

Learning Objectives

01 There is one God in three persons.

We call these three persons "Father," "Son," and "Holy Spirit."

The emphasis on "Father" here is intentional. In Biblical times, the father was head of household and this carried commonly understood rights and responsibilities. The father was protector, provider, and primary decision maker for the family. This particular analogy may not be applicable to your family situation. If this is the case, explain that God is a perfect father and He can be trusted the same way that your child trusts you.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What do you picture when you think of God?
- How do you think God is like a Father?

02 God knows everything, can do anything, and is always with you.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What does it feel like when you know that a loved one cares for you? *(God wants what's best for you. He can help you do your best.)*
- What do you think it means that God knows everything? Offer some examples of specific things to help them think it through. *(For example, do you think He knows how to play soccer? Fly a plane? Build a rocket?, etc.)*
- What do you think it means that God is everywhere? Offer some examples of specific things to help them think it through. *(For example, do you think He is with you at Church? At home? At school?, etc.)*

03 God loves you and you are special to him. We can trust God like a father.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Think of someone you love. How do you hope that the person feels about you? What does it feel like to love someone? What does it mean to love someone? Think of someone who loves you very much. (*God loves you even more than that!*)
- How do you think God wants you to feel about Him? (*He wants us to love him.*)
- How can we show God that we love Him? (*Pray, go to Church, help others, etc.*)
- What does it mean to trust someone? Do you trust God? How can you show God that you trust Him?

In the beginning,
GOD CREATED.

Genesis 1:1

FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

Learning Objectives

01 There is one God in three persons.

We believe in one God. We call this monotheism. We believe God exists in three persons. We call these the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each person is fully and completely God, but they are still one God. This is hard to understand, because it is a mystery. We believe that one day, when we die and go to heaven, this mystery will be fully revealed to us.

The emphasis on “Father” here is intentional. In Biblical times, the father was head of household and this carried commonly understood rights and responsibilities. The father was protector, provider, and primary decision maker for the family. This particular analogy may not be applicable to your family situation. If this is the case, explain that God is a perfect father and He can be trusted the same way that your child trusts you.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What do you picture when you think of God?
- Why do you think we call God Father? What does that tell us about Him?
- What do you think God is like?

02 God knows everything, can do anything, and is always with you.

God is all-knowing, which means that He knows everything there is to know perfectly because He is the creator of everything. God is all-powerful, which means that He is able to do anything that is possible. God is always present, which means He is always with us, because He is immaterial and knows us all perfectly.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What are some things that you would like to ask God that only He knows the answer to?
- Do you think that God knows you better than you even know yourself? What could that mean?
- What are some things that are possible only for God to do?
- How do you think God listens to our prayers?
- How does it feel when you are on a team with really smart or really strong people? What do you think it means to be on God's "team"?

03 God loves you and you are special to him. We can trust God like a father.

We can always trust in God but we need to remember that God has His own plan, which is sometimes different than ours. That means that sometimes when we pray, we don't always get exactly what we want. God knows what we need and what is good for us. Because God loves us so much, He makes sure that we will be OK. Even when bad things happen, God is with us. He will never leave us.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

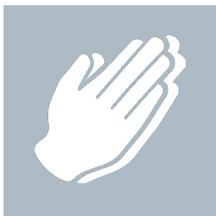
- How does God show His love for us? How can you show your love to Him?
- Think about some of the people in your life — some that you like and some that you don't like as much. Do you think God loves them? How do you think God wants us to feel about them?
- Have you ever been disappointed with the outcome of your prayer? Why?
(Explain that God does not always give us everything that we want, but He is taking care of us and watching over us always. Knowing everything, He sees the big picture in a way we can't. Ultimately, His plan is a mystery to us.)



LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

Choose one or more of the passages listed below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask your child what they think God may be trying to show them through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[Exodus 3: 13-15](#) - The one true God reveals His name to Moses



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: Teach or practice the **sign of the cross**. Consider using a dry-erase marker to put the numbers one through four at the appropriate location on a mirror so that your child can practice.

MAKING THE SIGN OF THE CROSS:

1
Touch your forehead and say: **In the name of the Father**

2
Then touch the center of your chest and say: **and of the Son**

3
Then touch the left then the right shoulder and say: **and of the Holy Spirit**

4
Then fold your hands as you say: **Amen**

FOR OLDER CHILDREN: Teach or practice the "**Our Father**" and the beginning of the "**Apostles' Creed**." Consider praying it together in the morning or before bed or meals. You can also print the words and tape them to the bathroom mirror so that your child can read it during morning and evening routines or while washing hands.

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 APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
 Amen.

ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME

Together, with your child, [WATCH](#) the scene "God Speaks to Moses" from the movie *The Prince of Egypt* which can be found on YouTube. Then ask them some questions to help them think about this week's theme such as:

- What do you think it was like for Moses to talk to God in that way? What do you think it would be like for you to talk to God like he did that day?
- What were some of the feelings that you saw Moses have during their conversation? How would you describe his feelings when he told his wife about it? How do you think you might feel if it were you?

CHALLENGE your child to get to know you better by trying to count the hairs on your head (see Matthew 10:30). See how high they can count before they lose track. If you have multiple children, consider making a contest out of it to see who can count the most. Use this time to emphasize how well God knows them.



IMAGINE God's power. Have your child draw or search for three to five of the most powerful things they can think of. Compare all of the things they come up with and decide which thing is the most powerful overall. Ask them in what ways God might be even more powerful than that thing.

To dive deeper into this week's topics, see the [Going Deeper](#) resources.



Are not two sparrows
sold for a small coin? Yet
not one of them falls to
the ground without your
Father's knowledge.
Even all the hairs of your
head are counted.

Matthew 10:29-31