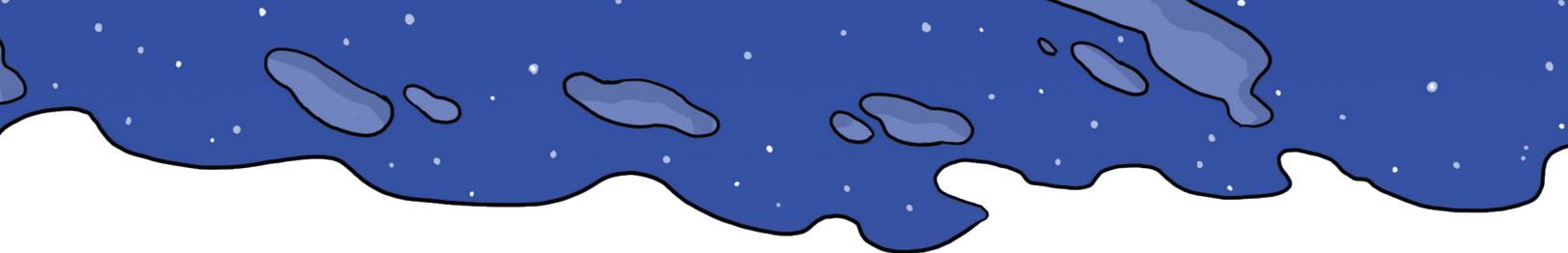


# We Pray as Jesus Taught Us



## Prayer

Jesus, you teach us so many things through your words and actions. Help us learn to pray as you taught your disciples. Help us to pray through the words of the Our Father. Amen.



Write the missing words in the Our Father prayer.

Our \_\_\_\_\_, who art in \_\_\_\_\_,

hallowed be thy \_\_\_\_\_;

thy \_\_\_\_\_ come,

thy \_\_\_\_\_ be done

on \_\_\_\_\_ as it is in \_\_\_\_\_.

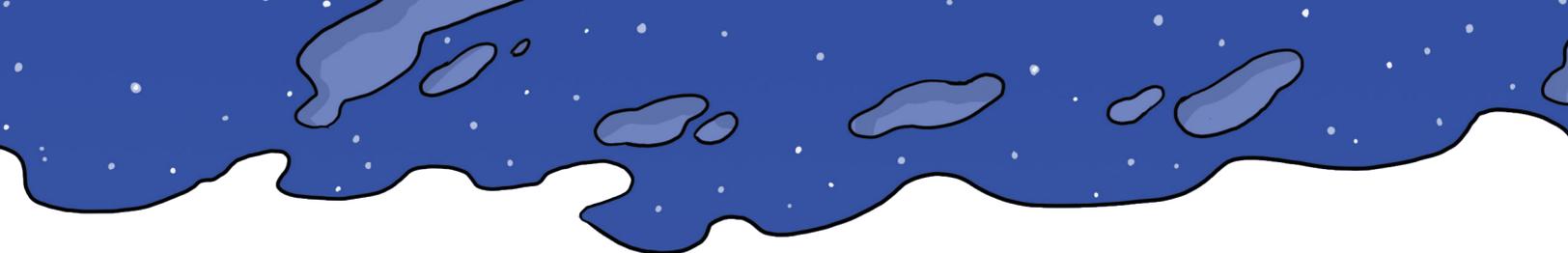
Give us this day our daily \_\_\_\_\_,

and \_\_\_\_\_ us our trespasses,

as we \_\_\_\_\_ those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into \_\_\_\_\_,

but deliver us from \_\_\_\_\_. Amen.



Number the parts of the Our Father in the correct order. The first one has been done for you.

\_\_\_\_\_ thy Kingdom come,

  1   Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

\_\_\_\_\_ thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

\_\_\_\_\_ and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

\_\_\_\_\_ Give us this day our daily bread,

\_\_\_\_\_ and lead us not into temptation,

\_\_\_\_\_ but deliver us from evil.

# Family Page



## Background Focus

Prayer is an essential part of a life of faith, and the Catholic Church has a rich tradition of prayer and a variety of forms and expressions that can guide us in this area. As people learn differently, it is also true that they are likely attracted to and utilize some forms of prayer more than others.

Children seem to be natural pray-ers and are generally open to the variety of prayers that we might introduce them to. Using this time of curiosity and openness to expose them to different ways of praying can prepare them for a rich journey of prayer throughout their lives.

This chapter focuses on the prayer Jesus taught to his disciples, the Our Father. Learning the words and meaning of the Our Father can help children participate more fully in the Mass and have yet another prayer option for their personal prayer lives.



## Family Strategies

It is important to build in family prayer time to demonstrate the importance and beauty of prayer in our lives. Incorporating traditional and spontaneous prayer before meals, car trips, sports games, etc., can help children see that prayer is not something we do only on Sunday. If you are unsure of how to do this, reach out to others to learn how to build a prayer life with your family in fun and creative ways.



## Family Activities

- Learn or create hand motions that you and your child can do together as you say the Our Father.
- Watch the following YouTube video together: "Lord's Prayer Drama" (8:51). Talk about how it is important to listen to the words we pray.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1460 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 6:9–13). Invite your child to tell you what he or she remembers about the meaning of this Scripture passage.

### Pray It!

*Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.*

Dear Jesus, you taught us how to pray with the words of the Our Father. Help us to pray this prayer at Mass, at home, and wherever or whenever we want to pray. Amen.



# Jesus Is Present with Us Now

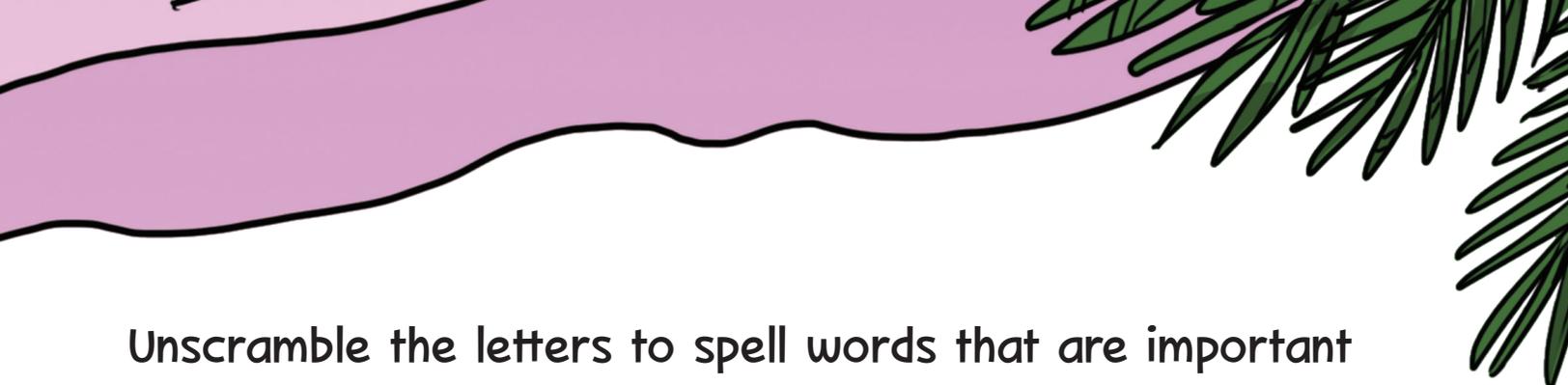


## Prayer

Jesus, we are excited for the day when we can receive you in the Eucharist. Be with us as we learn and as we prepare for this great day. Amen.



Pretend you are one of the disciples walking with Jesus. Draw a picture of you and Jesus. Write one thing Jesus might say to you.



Unscramble the letters to spell words that are important in receiving Holy Communion. The first letter of each word is done for you.

A N M E:      A \_\_\_\_\_

S O H T:      H \_\_\_\_\_

P Y E R A R:      P \_\_\_\_\_

P C A E E:      P \_\_\_\_\_

H Y L O:      H \_\_\_\_\_

B Y D O:      B \_\_\_\_\_

B D O L O:      B \_\_\_\_\_

# Family Page



## Background Focus

Relationships are nourished and strengthened by good communication, shared and expressed love, and quality presence. Our relationship with Jesus is like other relationships in our lives. Although we don't encounter Jesus in the same way as we do other people, he offers us a chance to have a relationship with him through communication, love, and presence.

The special presence of Jesus in Word and sacrament is an incredible gift to us and to all of the Church. It is the way we continue and strengthen our relationship with him.

In this lesson, the children read about the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. The hearts of the disciples burned as they discovered that the risen Jesus was present with them. May our hearts and the hearts of all those preparing for the Sacrament of the Eucharist burn with joy as we celebrate the gift of our own encounter and relationship with Jesus.



## Family Strategies

In the Communion Rite at Mass, we offer one another the Sign of Peace. This act of sharing Jesus' peace with others is a great preparation for receiving the Eucharist. But signs of peace don't have to be limited to Mass. Think of the ways that your family might more intentionally become a family of peace through your words and actions. Explore together how you might become even more kind, respectful, and forgiving to one another.



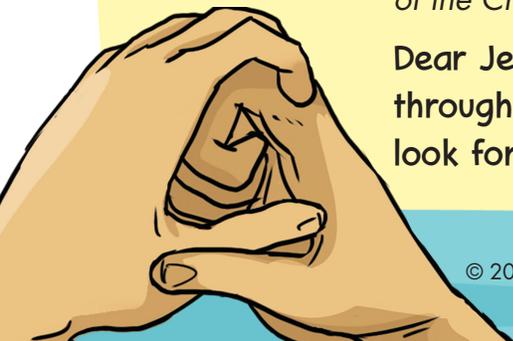
## Family Activities

- Talk with your child about why you are excited that she or he is preparing to receive Communion. Share what receiving the Eucharist means to you.
- Search for "Sacraments 101: Eucharist (how we receive)" (4:45) on YouTube, and watch it together. Talk with your child about what it is like to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, and practice with your child at home.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1644 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Luke 24:28–32). Invite your child to tell you what he or she remembers about the meaning of this Scripture passage.

## Pray It!

*Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.*

Dear Jesus, you rose from the dead and are present with us through the gift of the Eucharist. We thank you for this gift and look forward to receiving you at Mass. Amen.



# We Are Sent Forth to Share Love



## Prayer

Jesus, you are an example of the love and kindness God calls us to show others. Help us to keep spreading that love and kindness in our words and actions. Amen.



Think of three actions of service you are willing to do for family members. Write one action in each of the boxes.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing an action of service.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing an action of service.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing an action of service.



Write down some words and actions you can use to share God's love with others.

Words

Actions

# Family Page



## Background Focus

Jesus gives us a powerful example by washing the disciples' feet at the Last Supper. This action leaves no question about our role and responsibility to others. Service, outreach, kindness, and charity are all marks of Jesus' followers.

The Concluding Rites in the Mass call us to go forward and be messengers of God's love to the world. Having been nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, we are strengthened to live as we are called to, reaching out and serving others through word and action.

In this lesson, the children will examine ways that they can continue Jesus' mission of Good News through acts of love and kindness. As we help them explore how they can live a life of Christian service, we, ourselves, are living out this important call by serving the children and sharing God's awesome love with them.



## Family Strategies

Children can easily become overwhelmed and feel helpless as they hear about negative local, national, or global events. Make sure to give them space to talk about their feelings and help them see that they can do something about these things, even if it is something local or very small. Discuss possible responses together and make sure to pray together as a family for all people affected by such events.



## Family Activities

- Discuss with your child some ways that your family can serve others, such as donating food or clothes, working in a food pantry, sending cards to those who are sick, etc. Make a plan to do one of these actions.
- Search for "Star Fish Story – Making a Difference Every Day" (2:16), posted by Jostens on YouTube, and watch it together. Talk with your child about what she or he thinks is the message of this video, and discuss the small ways we can make a difference every day.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1686 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 13:3–5, 14–15). Invite your child to tell you what he or she remembers about the meaning of this Scripture passage.

## Pray It!

*Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.*

Dear Jesus, help our family remember that you called us to serve one another through our words and actions. Help us to always show love and kindness to each other. Amen.

