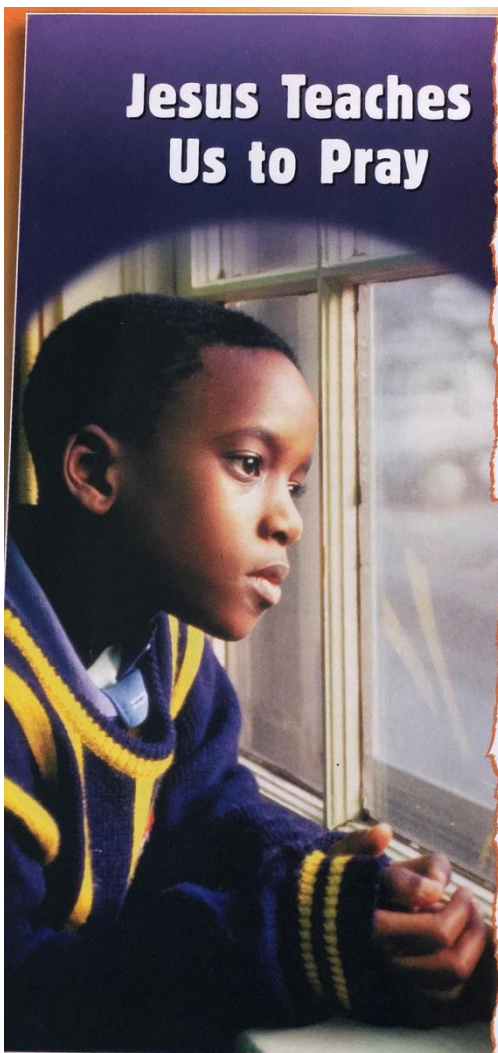


Week 2

- The importance of prayer
 - See below the images of our Catechist teaching guide.
 - Read along these pages with your child and ask the questions along the way. Discuss the different types of ways you can pray. For example; encourage prayer as a family, reading the bible, praying the rosary, journaling prayers, listening to worship music, etc.
 - For a fun activity decorate a journal with your child and encourage them to use it to write prayers in, decorate and designate a specific place in your home to go and pray together.



Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

23

We Pray
Hear my words,
O LORD.
To you I pray.
Psalm 5:2, 3

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Amen.

Why is it important to spend time talking with those we care about?

God wants us to spend time talking with him.

When are some of the times you spend time with God?

201

-
-
-
-



Faith-Filled People

Teresa of the Andes

Saint Teresa of the Andes was a religious sister who lived in Chile. She lived in a monastery and devoted her life to prayer. Pope John Paul II named her a patron saint for young people. The Church celebrates the feast day of Saint Teresa of the Andes on July 13.

Jesus Teaches Us the Our Father

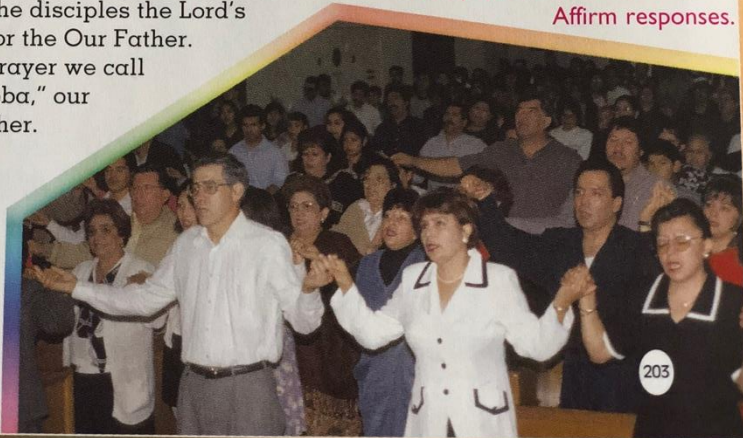
When Jesus prayed to his Father, he sometimes used the word *Abba*. *Abba* is a word meaning "daddy" in the language Jesus spoke. It is a word that showed how much children trusted a parent. It showed they knew that the parent loved them.

One day Jesus' disciples were with him when he was praying. When he was finished, they asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Jesus said, "When you pray, say, 'Our Father'" (based on Matthew 6:9).

The Church prays the Our Father every day. Name the times when you pray the Our Father.

Affirm responses.

We call the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer, or the Our Father. In this prayer we call God "Abba," our own Father.



Trusting God

th Focus

What are some ways that Jesus teaches us to pray?

th Words

Personal prayer
Personal prayer is spending time alone with God.

Public prayer
Public prayer is praying with other people.

The Prayer of Jesus

When Jesus was on earth, he often spent time with God his Father in prayer. He prayed when he began his work on earth. He prayed when he chose his disciples. On the night before he died, Jesus prayed with his disciples at the Last Supper.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, he prayed,

"Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing." Just before he died, Jesus said, "Father, I give myself to you."

Based on Luke 23:34, 46

All Jesus' prayers show how much he trusts his Father. Trust is believing that a person loves us and will always be good and kind to us.

Jesus showed he trusted God the Father. Name some of the ways that you show your trust in God.



Responses will vary.

Affirm appropriate responses.





Praying Alone and with Others

Jesus often left his disciples and went off to be alone with his Father. We, like Jesus, pray this way too. We enjoy being alone with God in prayer. We call this **personal prayer**.

Jesus also prayed with other people. Jesus prayed with people in Nazareth. He prayed with people in the Temple in Jerusalem. Praying with others is called **public prayer**. We pray this way too. We pray with our family at home. We pray with our Church community at Mass and at other times.

Draw a picture or write about yourself praying.

Affirm appropriate responses.



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Our Church Makes a Difference

A People of Prayer

The Catholic Church uses many objects that help us pray. The crucifix reminds us that Jesus died for us and loves us. Lighted candles remind us that Jesus was raised from the dead. Statues of Joseph, of Mary, and of the other saints remind us that we belong to a community of people on earth and in heaven.

All these things are sacramentals. They help us raise our minds and hearts to God in prayer.

Name and describe the things that help you pray.

Affirm appropriate responses.

Our Catholic Faith

Churches

Churches are sometimes called "houses of prayer." They are also called "houses of God." We gather in our church to pray together and to pray alone. Our parish church reminds us that the followers of Jesus are a people of prayer.

23 With My Family

This Week . . .

In chapter 23, "Jesus Teaches Us to Pray," your child learned about the prayer of Jesus and that Jesus taught us to pray. With trust, Jesus shared his thoughts and feelings with his Father. Jesus prayed for himself and for others. When his disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he taught them to pray, "Our Father . . ." When we pray to God our Father, we pray with childlike trust and address God as Abba. We pray as children reaching out to parents who they know love them with a love that knows no limits.

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on prayer, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraph numbers 2558-2567, 2598-2619, 2700-2719.

Sharing God's Word

Read together the Bible story in Matthew 6:9-13 about Jesus teaching the disciples the Our Father. Emphasize that Jesus' prayers show how much he trusts his Father.

Praying

In this chapter your child prayed the Our Father. Read and pray together the Our Father on page 207.

Making a Difference

Choose one of the following activities to do as a family or design a similar activity of your own.

- When Jesus prayed, he placed his trust in God the Father. Invite family members to talk about how they show their trust in God.
- When you take part in Mass this week, spend time in the church after Mass. Look at the statues and all the other sacramentals that help you pray. Talk about how these things help you remember that God is always with you.
- Talk about the ways the members of your family pray alone and the ways you pray together. As a family, take time to pray each day this week.

For more ideas on ways your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at www.FaithFirst.com. Click on "Family Prayer" to find a special prayer to pray together this week.

