

**PARENTS:** Read the whole plan. Focus on the yellow to prepare. Then, cover the blue, green, pink and gray highlighted sections a piece at a time.

# The Creator's Work

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 61,**  
the Family + Faith page.

**Read the Consider This feature.** What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recall that God created human beings in his image and likeness
- Reflect on creation as a gift from God that shows his goodness
- Understand that creation is the work of the Holy Trinity
- Recognize our responsibility to care for all of creation, especially each other

**Parents, Consider This:** Part of the mystery of creation is just how perfectly the universe is put together. God's well-ordered plan situates planets and plants, buds and bugs, stars and squirrels so that each functions according to its purpose. All creation gives honor and glory to God, yet only humans are created in his Divine image. The Bible tells us that each human being is wonderfully made. Beginning your day by looking in the mirror with your child and repeating, "I am wonderfully made," may help both you and your child grow more deeply aware that you are God's magnificent work of art.

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



**Let's Sing:** These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- And It Was Good
- The Trinity

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 53,**  
The Creator's Work

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



**Let Us Pray** Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

**Explain** that God made the world and everything in it. He created human beings to be able to know him and live as his friends.

**Say:** Let's listen to the words of Psalm 139 and hear what God has to say to you about how you were created.



**Guide** your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

**Invite** your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

**Say:** You are God's special creation. There is no one in the entire world like you. Your life is a gift and has a purpose. All of creation is a gift and has a purpose. Let's explore God's plan.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about being God's special creation.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 54,**  
The Creation of the World



**Proclaim** the Scripture reading. Tell your child to close his/her eyes and imagine what is being described in the story as you read.

**Emphasize** that God created the world and everything in it. Like a good detective, we can search for clues about God by looking at what he created. What can looking at a sunset, understanding how a bat flies, or learning about dolphins tell you about God? *(That he has an unlimited imagination, that he wants all things to live in harmony, etc.)*

**Turn to Page 55,**  
Learning about God

**You** may want to complete this chapter sitting on your deck, patio, or porch.

**Ask** your child to read the paragraphs.

**Give** your child one index card. Have them write the Catholic Faith Word **creation** on one side of the card and its definition on the other side. Keep the cards for use in a vocabulary memory game or for the unit review.

## Activity

**Discuss** the pictures of creation in the circles on the pages. Ask your child to draw or write his/her favorite thing in creation in the blank circle. Tell your child about a time when you were overwhelmed by God's creation. *(a camping trip with boy scouts, a vacation to the Grand Canyon, a favorite tree outside the house where you grew up)*

**Turn to Page 56,**  
The Beauty of Creation

**Ask:** What is the purpose of God's creation? (to live together in harmony and peace)



Read the directions for the gold-star activity. Complete the activity. Discuss the illustration with your child. Ask him/her to describe what he/she sees in the illustration. Ask what they think the family in the drawing could be talking about.

**Read** aloud the definition for **Holy Trinity** and locate the word in the text. On an index card, have your child write the vocabulary word on one side of the card and the definition on the other side. Keep the cards for use in a vocabulary memory game or for the unit review.

**Turn to Page 57,**  
The Image of God

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs. Have your child place his/her finger on the Catholic Faith Word **image of God** and read the definition for them.

**Ask:** your child to stand up across from you. Tell them you are going to ask them to do exactly what you do. Stand on one foot with arms outstretched. Stand with legs crossed, with arms crossed behind you, etc. Try to make him/her lose their balance.

**Share** how hard it is to keep things in balance—playing and school work; eating a balanced diet, spending money on family and others in need, etc. Sin makes God's creation out of balance. Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Fold it in half. On one half, direct her/him to draw something beautiful in God's creation. On the other half, ask them to draw what it looks like when mankind sins, or knocks things out of balance. (A beautiful seashore—seashore with dead fish because of pollution in water; a rainforest—a rainforest cut down with animals who have no place to live.)

**Parents, Consider This:** While God made each of us unique and wonderful individuals, God also created each of us with the need for relationship and for community. The most basic need of every human being is to be loved and to love. Being a part of the community of faith, our family, our parish, helps us keep our life in balance. Left to our limited, individualistic way of thinking we can easily become out of balance, we can live a life that is out of order—God's order. When you help your child learn to respect and live in right relationship with you and all of the members of your family, you are creating balance in their lives, a balance that begins to reveal God's order in their lives and in the world.

**Read** aloud the paragraph "Responsible to One Another."

**Ask:** What is your most important responsibility in caring for creation? (to show love and respect for all people) How might your responsibilities change as you grow older?

**Say:** Humans are special and deserve respect because they are created in God's image.

**Help** your child see that beauty and diversity are important aspects of creation.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 58,**  
Our Catholic Life

**Read** the question followed by the paragraph.

**Point** out that the Earth must be cared for in just the same way as people care for the gifts they receive from friends and family members.

**Ask:** Why is it important to respect the Earth? *(It gives us food and materials we need to live. It is God's creation and we are thankful.)*



Ask your child to read the directions for the gold-star activity. Allow time for your child to read, think, and mark the boxes that apply to them. Discuss their answers. Help him/her determine a specific and practical plan for caring for creation this week. You do the same. Writing the plan on a piece of paper and putting it on the refrigerator might help you both keep focus during the week.

**Turn to Page 59,**  
People of Faith

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Rabanus Maurus.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can pay better attention to how God shows his plan in nature.

## Activity

**Complete** the Live Your Faith activity. You may already have a family garden. Discuss ways your family can learn about God through your garden or perhaps a community garden.

**Turn to Page 61,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321) during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).