

St. John Neumann Youth Faith Formation - 2021-2022
Grades 1, 3, 4, and 5 Lessons
A Family of Faith: The Profession of Faith

October – Lessons for Home Study

(Also use this packet if you are registered for onsite, hybrid lessons and miss the onsite session for the month.)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Lesson</u>
Before beginning lessons with your child(ren)	Parent video	View parent video for October at: https://vimeo.com/channels/1730471
Before beginning lessons with your child(ren)	Parent reading	Read the background to the chapter on pages 240-243 of the <i>Parents' Guide</i> .
Throughout month	Complete chapter at home	Lessons 1 and 2 in October Chapter in the purple <i>A Family of Faith</i> books
Sun, 10/24/2021, 5pm	Family Mass and Potluck	Join us for our family Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month at 5pm, followed by potluck dinner and family faith activities. RSVP at: www.sjnstcharles.org/events-registrations/ .
By Thur, 10/31/2021	Monthly Reflection Due	Visit this link with your child to complete the reflection: https://forms.gle/2tKsGAS7PAiN35Eo6 .

Prayers to Memorize throughout the Year: Sign of the Cross, the Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Prayer to One’s Guardian Angel, Blessing Before a Meal, Act of Contrition, Apostles’ Creed.

Key Ideas for the Month

Key Ideas of our October Lessons:

- Lesson 1:
 - Faith is to believe in God and is a gift from God.
 - The Church has summarized the great mysteries of our Faith in the Apostles’ Creed, which contains the most important truths about our Catholic faith.
- Lesson 2:
 - God is mystery, a truth that is above our ability to understand.
 - God has shown us truths about Himself through Divine Revelation, which are truths about Him that we could never know on our own.
 - The Trinity is the mystery that there are Three Persons in one God.
 - God’s great plan included He as the Creator and His creation.
- To work on all month:

- Scripture verse of the month, saint of the month, Apostles' Creed memorization, Words to Know for the month, and Car Conversations (see pages 8 through 13 and 39 through 41 of the *Parent's Guide* for more info).
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Lesson 1 Activities

Parents, choose two to three activities in Lesson 1 to present to your children at home. Communicate the key ideas of Lesson 1, listed above.

Activity 1: What Does It Mean to Believe?

Ages: All ages

Focus: To believe means to have faith. Faith is not a blind leap.

“Parent’s Guide” pages: pages 17-18

“Children’s Activity Book” pages: page 8

Activity: Family members take turns going on a trust walk and then discuss the idea of trust in relation to our faith. End by praying the Act of Faith.

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- We can trust human beings, but we do fail each other from time to time because we are human.
 - God alone is completely trustworthy. God can never fail.
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Activity 2: What is Faith?

Ages: All ages

Focus: Faith is a gift from God and our response to believe in Him.

“Parent’s Guide” pages: pages 19-20

“Children’s Activity Book” pages: page 9-11

Activity: Read an article on faith and discuss as a family.

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- Faith is a gift from God that we receive at our baptism.
- We need faith to be saved.

- Faith is certain because God can never fail.

Supplement for Older Children:

- Watch the Catholic Kids Media video, titled “What is Faith?” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Slxlzo7DbEI>).
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Activity 3: Faith is Necessary for Salvation

Ages: Ages 8 and up.

Focus: We must believe in God to go to Heaven.

“Parent’s Guide” pages: pages 21-22

“Children’s Activity Book” pages: page 12

Activity: Do a Scripture search with your children. Read the Scripture verses to see what the Bible says about faith and salvation.

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- Eternal life in Heaven is possible for those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Supplement:

- You can search for Bible verses using the online Bible at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ web site at: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible>.
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Activity 4: Faith Requires Obedience

Ages: All ages.

Focus: Believing in God means keeping his commandments.

“Parent’s Guide” pages: page 23

“Children’s Activity Book” pages: not applicable

Activity: Talk to your children about obedience to God. *The Parents’ Guide* provides some guiding questions.

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- Obedience to God is good and true.
- Obedience to God is how we respond to our believing that God is who He says He is.
- When we trust, we have faith, and when we have faith, we act according to faith.

- Sometimes loving others means we have rules for them to follow to keep them safe and happy. As parents, we do that for our children. God does that for all of us too because he loves us.
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Activity 5: A Summary of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Ages: All ages.

Focus: The Apostles' Creed includes 12 doctrines of our faith.

"Parent's Guide" pages: pages 24 and 25

"Children's Activity Book" pages: page 13

Activity: Discuss the Apostles' Creed prayer and what it contains: 12 doctrines of our faith. Begin to pray it regularly with the goal of memorizing it. This month, children can work on memorizing the first doctrine: "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth ..."

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- The truths of our faith are summarized for us in prayers called "creeds." The Apostles' Creed is one of those prayers. Another one is the Nicene Creed, which is prayed most often during Mass.
 - The Apostles' Creed contains 12 important truths of our Catholic faith that God wants us to believe. These are called doctrines. (These doctrines are listed on page 24 of *The Parents' Guide*.)
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Lesson 2 Activities

*Parents, choose two to three activities in Lesson 2 to present to your children at home.
Communicate the key ideas of Lesson 2, listed above.*

Note: We suggest that you complete the "Your Family Genesis Story," which is for your family storybook (the white binder provided to you).

Activity 1: How Can We Know God?

Ages: All ages

Focus: We can know God through reason, Divine Revelation, and His creation.

“Parent’s Guide” pages: pages 28-29

“Children’s Activity Book” pages: pages 14-15

Activity: Read and discuss with your family, “How Can We know God? Essay.”

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- “Mystery” in our faith is OK and expected. We have truths in our faith that are above our reason, but not contrary to it.
 - We can know God through reason, through his Divine Revelation, and through creation.
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Activity 2: Who is God?

Ages: All ages

Focus: God is holy, almighty, omniscient, eternal, and omnipresent.

“Parent’s Guide” pages: pages 30-31

“Activity Book” pages: pages 16-18

Activity: Share the five attributes of God and help your children understand them to the best of their ability. Page 16 of the *Activity Book* allows younger children to write or draw how they would describe God. Page 17 allows older children to consider Scripture passages in describing God. Page 18 allows the children some prayer time to acknowledge their worries and concerns and give these things over to God.

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- The five attributes of God: Holy, almighty, omniscient, eternal/unchanging, omnipresent.
- With God, nothing is impossible. He is bigger than any of our concerns. We can gain comfort by asking God to help us through the tough times in life.

Supplement:

- **Grades 1, 3, and 4:** Read with your children, “Jesus is the Word of God,” in the *Book of Bible Stories*, pages 48-51. This story refers to the mystery of God and will help you discuss God’s Divine Revelation.
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Activity 3: The Blessed Trinity

Ages: All ages

Focus: God is one in Three Persons.

“Parent’s Guide” pages: pages 32-34

“Activity Book” pages: pages 19-20

Activity: Share the mystery of the Trinity and help your children understand this to the best of their abilities.

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- Two bullet points on page 33 of the *Parent’s Guide*.

Optional Activity: The video excerpt at sophiasketchpad.org is a free video. Just play the video that is embedded under the “Marriage” headline on the page.

Activity 4: The Story of Creation

Ages: All ages

Focus: God created everything good.

“Parent’s Guide” pages: pages 35-37

“Activity Book” pages: pages 21-33

Activity: Reading passages from the Book of Genesis to understand the steps of God’s creation of the earth, animals, and human beings. To give thanks to God for creation.

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- The steps of God’s creation, which are listed in the passages from Genesis
- Humans are the top of God’s creation. We were told by God to be fruitful and multiple. God made us stewards or caretakers of His creation.

Supplement:

- **Grade 5:** In the *BreakThrough Bible*, read Genesis 1:1 – 2:25. Complete the call outs on those pages: “Live It! And God Was Pleased” and “Study It! Uncovering the Truth.”

Activity 5: Your Family Genesis Story

Ages: All ages

Focus: God has a plan for each one of us.

“Parent’s Guide” pages: pages 38

“Activity Book” pages: n/a

Activity: Share the story of the “genesis” of your family, how God began your family and has worked in your family’s life. Help your children capture this story in words and pictures in your family storybook (white binder). If you haven’t already, decorate the cover of your family storybook with your family’s last name and other images.

Key ideas to communicate to the children:

- Creation did not stop with the Book of Genesis. Each time a baby is conceived, God creates an immortal soul that gives life to that child. Thus we are all part of God’s plan!
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Additional Activities for the Month

Explore the additional activities: Saint of the Month, Verse of the Month, Car Conversations, etc.