

Joyful Catholic Families
Lesson #1 – I am a Child of God

Read “How God Made the World”:

(from Read-Aloud Bible Stories, Vol. 3, by Ella K. Lindvall)

Who made you?

Who made the trees? (God)

Who made the giraffe? (God)

Who made the stars? (God)

Who made dogs? (God)

Who made the moon? (God)

Who made you? (God)

Who made your parents? (God)

Who made your friends? (God)

God made each one of you.

He made every person that is alive today.

He made all the people who have died.

He will make all those who will come in the future.

Who made you? (God)

God makes everyone special.

Is there anyone who is just like you? (No)

He made you different than everyone else.

There never has been and there never will be another person just like you.

(Show a picture of identical twins. You can google “identical twins” for a picture)

These are identical twins.

Do they look alike? (yes)

Sometimes their parents have trouble telling them apart.

Are they exactly alike? (No)

They may look alike but they are different.

People can tell them apart – maybe not always, but most of the time.

Thumbprints:

(Go to [this post](#) for the PDF)

God makes everyone special and different.

- One way that identical twins and all people are different is our finger prints.
- We each have different fingerprints.
- Look at your fingers.
- Can you see the lines on your fingers?

Fingerprints can be hard to see so I have a way that we will be able to see them.

- Show the children a magnifying glass. Explain what it does.
- Give a magnifying glass to each child.
- Children return to their seats.

(Give each child the paper with a magnifying glass copied on it, felt with carbon rubbed into it, scotch tape, magnifying glass, and baby wipe.)

- Put one of your thumbs on the felt where the carbon is – get your thumb black
- Put a small piece of clear tape on the thumb.
- Remove the tape from the thumb and put the tape on the paper
- That is your thumbprint.
- Clean your thumb on a baby wipe.
- Using the magnifying glass, look at your thumbprint.

Now make a print of your other thumb.

Using the magnifying glass, compare your thumbprints. Are they the same or different?

(The children can make as many fingerprints as they want and look at them with a magnifying glass.)

(Pick up the felt with carbon. Leave magnifying glasses on tables in case they have extra time later in class. The kids liked looking through the magnifying glasses.)

Baptism: (back to the group)

You are so special to God that he made each of your thumbprints different than everyone else's.

- You are so special that God wants you to be a part of His family.

(Show a picture of a baptism. You can google "Catholic baptism" to find a picture.)

What is happening in this picture? (a child is being baptized)

- When we are baptized, we become a child of God.
- We become one of God's children.

So, is (insert one of the children's names) one of God's children? (yes)

- Is (insert another one of the children's names) one of God's children? (yes)
- Repeat the question for each child.
- God made us all special and God loves each of us very much.

Door Hangar:

(Go to [this post](#) for the PDF)

Give each child a sheet of cardstock with a door hangar printed on it.

- (Cut out and glue first so it is easier to have everyone end at the same time.)
- Parents/kids cut out door hangar on outside lines, circle, and dashed line. Do not cut the line down the middle.
- Fold in half and glue.
- Kids decorate the door hangar with crayons, markers, and/or stick on foam cut-outs.

Life-size game board:

(Go to [this post](#) for more information.)

- Use different colors of cardstock/construction paper to make a life-size game board. You will need one set of colors for each child.
- Draw a happy face on one color (i.e. on all the red pieces of cardstock/construction paper).
- Draw a sad face on another color (i.e. on all the blue pieces of cardstock/construction paper).
- Using the cardstock/construction paper, make a path for the children to follow around the room. Some options for the life-size game board are:
 - If you don't have a large space, tape the cardstock on the walls of the room with painter's tape. The children can walk around the room and stand in front of the squares when playing the game.
 - If you have a large space, tape the sheets of colored cardstock to the floor so it looks like a path on a game board. The children can stand on the cardstock while playing the game.
 - If you have a large space and don't want to tape down each individual piece of cardstock, tape two pieces of cardstock together and put over a small cone. The children stand by the cone when playing the game.

The children start throughout the game board with all the children standing on different squares that are the same color (for example, all the children are on a red square).

- Ask the children a question.
- After the question is answered, tell the children to move forward to a certain color of cardstock (i.e., "Go to the yellow one.")
- You can also tell the children to move a certain number of spaces (i.e., 3).

Possible questions to use while playing the life-size game board:

- Who made the stars? (God)
- What is the name of our priest?
- Do we talk to our friends and family during Mass? (sad face)
- What is the name of our church?
- Who made you? (God)
- Should we sit still in Mass? (happy face)
- What color of vestment did Father wear today?
- Should you kick the pew in front of you during Mass? (sad face)
- When we enter church, we put our fingers in the holy water and (what do we do)? (make the Sign of the Cross).
- Are you God's child? (yes)
- Should you listen to the readings at Mass? (happy face)
- What do we do before we go into the pews at church? (genuflect towards the tabernacle and make the Sign of the Cross)
- When did you become a child of God? (when you were baptized)
- Should we run up and down the pews? (sad face)
- Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas? (Jesus')
- Should we make the Sign of the Cross after dipping our fingers in Holy water? (happy face)
- Who made your friends? (God)
- Who is Jesus' mother? (Mary)
- Should we play in the holy water? (sad face)
- Who is Jesus' earthly father? (Joseph)
- Who made your mom? (God)
- Should we go to the bathroom before Mass begins? (happy face – then you won't have to leave during Mass)
- Is it okay to run in church? (sad face)
- Should we be quiet in church so people can pray? (happy face)
- Should we talk while others are singing in church? (sad face)
- Should we pray in church? (happy face)
- Should we kneel when everyone else kneels? (happy face)
- Who made your dad? (God)
- Should we sit when everyone else is standing? (sad face)

Prayer Rings:

(Click [here](#) and [here](#) for posts with more information.)

(Note: If you don't have time for the prayer rings, save them for another class.)

- This is a prayer ring. (Show a prayer ring with a few prayers in it.)
- Today you are going to make your own prayer ring.
- You can then take your prayer ring home.
- When you pray at home (meal time, bed time), you can learn these prayers.

- To the parents: Part of learning our Catholic faith is learning the prayers of our faith.
- On the table are cards with prayers that your child can learn.
- Pick up a prayer card for each of the prayers your child already knows.
- Pick up a prayer card for **one** prayer that your child is going to learn.
- When your child learns that prayer, he/she can pick a new prayer to learn.
- If your child knows all the prayers I have out; let me know. I have more prayer cards.

- Hand out the covers for the prayer rings. Children color them and put their name on it.
 - If a child has participated in Little Lambs in past years, he/she can color new covers for his prayer book.
- Parents pick out the prayer cards with prayers that their child already knows plus one prayer to learn.
- Place the prayer cards between the covers.
- Put the prayer ring together using 1" binder rings.

While children are coloring prayer ring covers, discuss with parents:

Magnets: Hand out magnets with schedule on them. (I put the dates Little Lambs will be meeting in the coming year on a magnet so families can easily keep track of our meeting dates.)

Home lessons: Handout home lessons.

- At the front of the folder I put "extras" – things that I have found that I think you might like
- You don't need to do everything
- Pick out the activities that will work best for your family

Most importantly, HAVE FUN! Sharing our faith with our children can be the most rewarding thing we do. It is the **most important thing we do.**

Stickers: Give each child a sticker as they leave.

Supplies:

Nametags & permanent markers
Home lessons
Snack
Plates, napkins, water & glasses
Stickers (for each child at the end of class)

Read-Aloud Bible Stories, Vol. 3, by Ella K. Lindvall

Picture of identical twins

For each child:

- Child of God Thumbprint paper (has magnifying glass on it) – printed on white paper/cardstock
- Carbon powder rubbed into a small piece of felt
(enough carbon that if they rub their finger on it, the finger gets black)
- Something to put the piece of felt on
(I used plastic lids from cottage cheese containers)
- Scotch tape
- Baby wipe
- Magnifying glass

Picture of a baptism

Child of God door hangar printed on white cardstock

Scissors

Crayons, markers, and/or sticky foam shapes (kids really liked the foam shapes)

Glue sticks

Colored cardstock/paper for life-size game board

Blue painters' tape or cones

Sample prayer ring

Covers for prayer rings

Markers/crayons

Copies of prayers for prayer rings

1" binder rings

Magnets with class dates on them