

# FAMILY CATECHESIS

## PARENT GUIDE

This **Parent Quick Guide** is intended for at-home use by parents and can be used across chapters and grade levels of *Finding God*.



### PRELIMINARIES

- Designate a space and, as a family, make the space sacred by placing a Bible, a crucifix, and a candle (or other sacred objects) in your midst.
- Gather materials such as pens, pencils, scissors, and crayons.
- Briefly review each child's chapter in their Finding God Student Book and/or consult the At-Home Guide or Study Guide for each child's chapter.

### GATHERING (2-3 mins)

- Ask each child to recall something they learned in your last session together (their last chapter).
- Remind children what unit you are working in.

### ENGAGE (1st page of each chapter – 5 mins)

- Together, read aloud the prayer, "As I open this book..." on the first page of the Student Book.
- Have the children open their Student Books to the assigned chapter and invite each child to read aloud the title of the chapter.
- Ask each child to describe the image on the first page of the chapter.
- Have each child read aloud the question on the page or choose one to ask and discuss.
- Pause for prayer, ask the children to bow their heads and to be silent for 10-15 seconds.
- Invite them to mention anyone or anything they would like to pray for. Include your own intentions.
- Pray the Sign of the Cross and then have each child read aloud the prayer on the bottom of the page.
- Together, say, "Amen" and pray the Sign of the Cross.

**EXPLORE** (2nd and 3rd page of each chapter – 10-15 mins)

- Ask each child to read aloud the title on the page and then have them quietly read the two pages.
- When they are done, ask:
  - What were the main points?
  - What is Jesus teaching you?
  - What did you find new or most interesting?
- Have each child point out the vocabulary words (bold) on the pages and ask them to explain the meaning of each. If needed, consult the Glossary.
- Draw attention to any Feature Boxes (Reading God's Word, Link to Liturgy, Did You Know? Sacred Site) and ask them to read them out loud.
- Draw attention to images and art work on the pages and read aloud the captions and discuss.

**REFLECT** (4th and 5th pages of each chapter – 10 mins)

- Perform some simple action to indicate that it's time for prayer: light a candle, ring a bell, strike a chime, etc.
- Ask the children to bow their heads and to be silent for 10-15 seconds.
- Pray the Sign of the Cross.
- Have each child quietly read the prayer on the 4th page of the chapter.
- Choose one of the children's prayers and pray it together as a group. (If there is a specific prayer to be learned such as the Act of Contrition or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, be sure to pray that prayer out loud.)
- Together, say, "Amen," and pray the Sign of the Cross.
- Have the children complete the activity page (5th page) individually as you assist each child as needed.
- Draw attention to any Feature Boxes (Reading God's Word, Link to Liturgy, Did You Know?, Sacred Site) and ask them to read them out loud.
- Draw attention to images and art work on the pages and read aloud the captions and discuss.

**RESPOND** (6th page of each chapter – 5 mins)

- Have each child read aloud their Faith Summary.
- Review the *Words I Learned* and see if children can recall the meaning(s) of the word(s). If needed, consult the Glossary.
- Have each child read aloud the *Ways of Being Like Jesus* feature.
- Pause for prayer, ask the children to bow their heads and to be silent for 10-15 seconds.
- Invite them to mention one thing they are thankful for.
- Pray the Sign of the Cross and then have each child read aloud the prayer on the bottom of the page.
- Together, say, "Amen" and pray the Sign of the Cross.
- As you collect their Student Books, have each child read aloud the prayer on the back cover.
- Choose one of the ideas from *With My Family* to focus on during the week.

To prepare for Mass this Sunday, go to [The Sunday Connection](#), to reflect on the Scripture Readings.