

Week 1—YOU ARE BLESSED

10/11, 10/12, 10/13 & 10/14

“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

The Readings for this Sunday (10/18) remind us to give glory to God for who He is and all that He has blessed us with.

Gather: Count Your Blessings Circle

As you gather for the lesson, pick a comfortable spot to sit together. Give an example of a couple of blessings in your own life (try to avoid material ones). Have the children name a blessing in their life. Continue to name blessings and see if you can reach 100 blessings!

Connect: Our greatest blessing is the gift of life! We give thanks and glory to God for all His blessings! Today we are going to explore the blessing of all that God has created.

Explore:

- **Year 1 CH. 1** - We all belong to a family. Part of our family includes our Church family. Today, when kids receive their books, you can have them look through pages 9-15 and find some *I Spy* * items listed below. Read the Story of the Good Shepherd. It is important that the children know how special their names are. **I Spy* items: 2 priests, 2 chefs, 1 angel, 1 cat, slippers, a bell & 8 napkins & count the “Amen” at the end of each prayer. Activity: Find pictures of the day your child was born, or came home – how did you choose their name?
- **Year 2 CH. 1** - Discuss the 7 sacraments (pages 10-15; Episode 4). Each of the sacraments is a blessing. Create the **Seven Sacraments Sort Chart**. See your weekly email for instructions. Activity is in your packet. Share with your child that they will be making first **reconciliation** in December and First **Communion** in May. Read and reflect on the Gospel story of the 10 Lepers (pages 17-19, Episode 5). Discuss the questions in the Show What You Know section (pages 24-25) Activity: **Baptism: share with your child the day they were baptized. Pull out the pictures from their baptism.**
- **3rd Grade CH. 1** - Talk about who makes up our families we belong to (*parents, grandparents, siblings, step-parents...*). When each of us are baptized we become members of another family—our Church Family. At baptism we receive the Holy Spirit. Read Saint Paul’s Message (pg. 28) & explore the ways the Holy Spirit brings us together to love one another & build up the Church. Activity: Find pictures of your child’s baptism and share with them.
- **4th Grade CH. 1** - God created our beautiful world for us to explore and enjoy with friends and family. Read Story of Creation (pg 28). Just as God gave us the world. He also is part of the Holy Trinity. Explore more about the Holy Trinity (pg. 29 & 260). Activity: Take a walk outside enjoying God’s creation, how many sets of three can you find (ex. three types of flowers, three trees, etc.).
- **5th Grade CH. 1** - Read The Story of Creation (pg 28). God created everything in our world from His love. Humans are a special part of His creation as we were made in His image. If time, read about Saint Damien de Veuster (pg 30). Activity: We thank God for making us in His image by taking care of ourselves. Exercise by taking a family walk or bike ride.

Reflect: Matthew 22:15-21. Read and/or explain in your own words this Sunday’s Gospel—*The Question about Paying Taxes*. We remember to give glory to God for who He is and the world He has created for us.

Live It: Count and Share Your Blessings. At the next family meal, take a moment to appreciate the blessing of family and food. Then take a moment to offer a prayer for those who do not have this blessing. Sometime this week, commit to make a few “Lunch-to-Go” kits (instructions online) and bring them to Faith Formation next week for the staff to deliver to Roof Above.