

Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return: *God, the Father*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- For more information about God, the Father, see the full Catechism sections 3-3
- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

I wonder...

- Why can I call God my Father?
- What is the relationship between man and His Creator?
- What is the position of man in the creation?

I believe...

- I can call Him Father because He created me and loves me and wants to have a relationship with me. (Catechism Q&A question 67)
- Human beings are dependent on God in their existence. (Catechism Q&A question 84)
- God gave human beings a special position by creating us in His image. (Catechism Q&A question 80)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)

References:

- Bible: Psalm 139, Matthew 6:25-26, John 8:28, John 14:9
- Catechism Q&A questions: 67-69, 80-84
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 73 – Made in the image of God](#)

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

God is our Father. Have you ever taken the time to think about how wonderful that is? This week, we'll discuss God, the Father – one Person of the Trinity. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about God, the Father. Share with your student how you have felt the loving care of God, the Father. Considering that the previous lesson was about the Trinity, try to help your student understand that God, the Father is not a part of God that is separate from Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. They are all God, all the time. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)	
Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
HOOK (up to 10 minutes)	
Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? <p>Tell the students: Take your age and subtract 5. Then take that number and multiply it by 52.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ i.e. Your age = 15 ➤ $15 - 5 = 10$ ➤ $10 \times 52 = 520$ <p>Tell the students: This is a rough estimate of how many times you have prayed the Lord's Prayer and called God your Father. This equation assumes you didn't start praying the Lord's Prayer until you were 5 and that you attended church every week since then. While it may seem a little silly, and the equation doesn't completely give you an accurate number of how many times you have called God your Father, it starts to give you the idea of just how often you call out to Him as your Father.</p>
SET THE STAGE (1 minute)	
Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students. 	I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why can I call God my Father? ➤ What is the relationship between man and His Creator? ➤ What is the position of man in the creation?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- For the sake of preparing for the discussion, the full Bible passage from Matthew is included in the facilitator guide. However, in the actual discussion with the students, it is encouraged that the facilitator look up the passages in a physical Bible along with the students to reinforce the importance of using one's Bible and Bible literacy.

Student Question #1 Why can I call God my Father?

Tell the students: At the time that Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer, He introduced a concept that was revolutionary for that time – that God wants to have an intimate relationship with believers, a relationship that is characterized by the intimacy that exists between a child and a loving father. The actual name of God was never spoken by the Jewish people, except sometimes by the High Priest. God was almighty, holy and revered. He was perceived as being distant, but this changed when Jesus came to earth.

Jesus constantly referred to His Father as the source of all that is good, as His guide in all decisions. The deep relationship that Jesus has with His Father is what He desires for us. The Psalmist, in chapter 139, speaks of a God who searches us, knows us, and is acquainted with all our ways. Let's read this together.

- Ask a student, or group of students, to read Psalm 139 (not included in facilitator guide due to length)

After reading Psalm 139, ask the students:

What does it mean to you that God, the Father, knows you, and that He wants you to know Him?

Student Question #2 What is the relationship between man and His Creator?

Tell the students: **Psalm 139:13-14 gives us a look at the relationship between us and God. What is this relationship?**

- He is our Creator.

Tell the students: God is the Creator and Sustainer. He has made all things, including us! For thousands of years, people have studied the creation, and we still have not come to the end! Everything that exists has emanated from God's creative activity and is subject to Him.

Catechism Q&A question 84 brings up a similar idea: Human beings are dependent on God in their existence.

Sometimes it's hard to depend on others, and it may be even harder to completely trust and rely on God to care for us because we don't physically see Him. But let's read an excerpt from Matthew 6 that also speaks to this.

- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read Matthew 6:25-26.
 - *Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Your Journey episodes can be found on the NAC USA YouTube channel <i>and</i> in the NAC USA mobile app Make sure to emphasize with the students about the fall and our broken relationship with God. 	<p><i>they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask the students: What do these verses tell you about God the Creator and God our Sustainer? ➤ Ask the students: How might these verses help you through a time of worry or being in a situation where you have to completely depend on God? <p><u>Student Question #3</u> What is the position of man in the creation?</p> <p>Tell the students: We have been given a special place in God's creation. We are made in His image. Let's watch a For Your Journey episode about this topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For Your Journey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Episode 73 – Made in the image of God <p>Ask the students: What does this video tell us about our position in creation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are made in God's image. ➤ He's given us His attributes with the intent that we would live in perfect harmony with Him, each other, and the rest of creation. ➤ We have speech, senses, freedom, the ability to reason and love, responsibility. ➤ Sin broke the relationship that we had with God, each other, and creation. Man became remote from God. ➤ Sin causes men and women to try to be over one another, but men and women were created equal. ➤ Only Jesus Christ can restore us so that we can again have a perfect relationship with God, each other, and creation. <p>Ask the students: Understanding our position in the creation, that we fell out of harmony with God but that we want a perfect relationship with Him again, what is our responsibility going forward?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Love and care for one another ➤ Don't exploit the resources we have – take care of the earth ➤ Other answers could include: follow the Ten Commandments, share the gospel with others, encourage others, pray, follow God's will, etc.
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WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with who God, the Father, is.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already vowed to surrender themselves to the triune God in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful until their end.

I wonder...

- Why can I call God my Father?
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I believe...

- I can call Him Father because He created me and loves me and wants to have a relationship with me. (Catechism Q&A question 67)
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- God gave human beings a special position by creating us in His image. (Catechism Q&A question 80)

Point to Ponder....

- When Jesus was on the earth, He wanted people to discover who the Father was by seeing what He, Jesus, was doing. Jesus said to the people in the temple, *I do nothing of Myself, but as My Father taught Me...* (John 8:28). God, the Father, was revealed to the world through the actions of Jesus: *He who has seen Me has seen the Father* (John 14:9). When we call God our Father, we are making profound commitments. First, we are committing to grow in our understanding of the Father by continually studying the life of Jesus, who perfectly reflected the character of His Father on earth. Secondly, we are making a bold statement that our actions reflect the nature of Christ to the world around us. These are the commitments that belong to a true Christian.

A Call to Action....

- The next time you pray the Lord's Prayer, focus on or emphasize the opening phrase, "Our Father." Let this lesson help you bring new expression to these words as you pray them with the rest of the congregation.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return: *God, the Father*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why can I call God my Father? ➤ What is the relationship between man and His Creator? ➤ What is the position of man in the creation? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can call Him Father because He created me and loves me and wants to have a relationship with me. (Catechism Q&A question 67) ➤ Human beings are dependent on God in their existence. (Catechism Q&A question 84) ➤ God gave human beings a special position by creating us in His image. (Catechism Q&A question 80)
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1. Why can I call God my Father?

2. What is the relationship between man and His Creator?

3. What is the position of man in the creation?

Point to Ponder: When Jesus was on the earth, He wanted people to discover who the Father was by seeing what He, Jesus, was doing. Jesus said to the people in the temple, *I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me...* (John 8:28). God, the Father, was revealed to the world through the actions of Jesus: *He who has seen Me has seen the Father* (John 14:9). When we call God our Father, we are making profound commitments. First, we are committing to grow in our understanding of the Father by continually studying the life of Jesus, who perfectly reflected the character of His Father on earth. Secondly, we are making a bold statement that our actions reflect the nature of Christ to the world around us. These are the commitments that belong to a true Christian.

Call to Action: The next time you pray the Lord's Prayer, focus on or emphasize the opening phrase, "Our Father." Let this lesson help you bring new expression to these words as you pray them with the rest of the congregation.