

Grade 2 - Chapter 1

Discover

- Catechist Tips: The Holy Family
- Catechist Tips: Saint Joseph
- Catechist Tips: Wonders of the Universe
- Glossary Activity: Creation
- Additional Activity: Jesus Says
- Additional Activity: Creation Quilt
- Additional Activity: Poster
- Parish Video Connection: In the Beginning ...
- Parish Video Connection: Drawing Mary and Joseph

Discover

Catechist Tips: The Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family honors Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. It is celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas or on December 20 when Christmas falls on a Sunday.

Catechist Tips: Saint Joseph

In Matthew 1:19, Joseph is described as “a righteous man.” He accepted without question his role as foster father to Jesus, despite the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the Christ Child’s birth. Joseph’s trust in God’s will stands as a testament to his deep faith. Saint Joseph has two feast days: March 19 for Joseph the Husband of Mary and May 1 for Joseph the Worker.

Catechist Tips: Wonders of the Universe

Gather the children in a story circle and read aloud some of the poems on the wonders of the universe from *Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars*, by Douglas Florian. Allow time for the children to discuss their favorites.

Glossary Activity: Creation

Creation

Creation is everything God made. Use the following activities to expand children’s understanding of creation.

1. To reflect the gifts of nature, have the children make a creation quilt.
2. Have each child draw a picture of something from nature on a light colored piece of construction paper.
3. Arrange squares in a design and staple or tape pictures together.

Additional Activity: Jesus Says

This activity is best done in a large indoor or outdoor space with plenty of room to run and move around.

Introduce the activity. Say, **Today we're going to act out what it's like to be separated from God and other people because of sin. This will work a little bit like the game "Simon Says."** Have children stand next to each other and form a line facing you.

Give instructions. **Listen carefully to what "sin" says, what "forgiveness" says, and what "Jesus" says. Okay, let's start.**

Sin says turn and face the opposite direction. Sin says keep looking that way and move only in that direction. Sin says take two steps forward. Sin says now skip ahead. (Pause)

Sin says stop skipping and start tiptoeing forward. (Pause) **Sin says stop tiptoeing and start hopping.** (Pause) Then continue as needed until students are near the boundaries of the space. **Forgiveness says stop hopping and turn around. Jesus says, "I save you from sin." Come back to the spot where you started.**

Go through the sequence again, varying the actions and moving students further away when "sin" is in charge. When Jesus says, "I save you from sin," substitute a different action (*dancing, shaking hands with everyone, etc.*).

Additional Activity: Creation Quilt

To Reflect the gifts of nature have the children make a creation quilt.

- Have each child draw a picture of something from nature on a light colored piece of construction paper.
- Arrange squares in a design and staple or tape pictures together.

Additional Activity: Poster

Print the words *God Created Me* across the top of a large poster board. Ask children to bring pictures of themselves to class. Have them tape their pictures on the poster. Display the poster in a prominent place in the classroom.

Parish Video Connection: In the Beginning ...

After reading *God's Word* on page 55, tell the children that you are going to watch a video to review how God made creation. Write Days 1 through 7 on the board or chart paper. Tell the children to call out what happened on each day as they watch the video and then add their responses to your list. Play the video, then review with the children what happened on each day.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/gt4PewVzjzE>

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Parish Video Connection: Drawing Mary and Joseph

After completing the Catechist Edition instruction on page 56, pass out drawing paper to each child and play this video for them. Allow them to work on drawing Mary and Joseph as they watch. If time

allows, let them draw baby Jesus and a background for their picture as well.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/FW0yohMrQu8>