

# Grade 1 - Chapter 9

## Discover

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## Discover

### Catechist Tips: Offering Blessings

Explain to the children that when they ask God to bless someone, they are asking him to place that person under his divine care.

- In other words, they are saying, "God, please watch over this person."

### Catechist Tips: The Lord's Prayer

This prayer has its roots in Scripture in the Gospels according to Matthew (Matthew 6:9-13) and Luke (Luke 11:2-4).

- Jesus teaches a form of this prayer to his disciples. Catholics sometimes refer to this prayer as the Our Father, from its first words. The Lord's Prayer is prayed at Mass and in the Rosary.

### Catechist Tips: Abba

Remind the children that Jesus called on God the Father, and asked us to do so, too.

- The title Jesus uses in the Gospels is the Aramaic *Abba*, an affectionate nickname similar to "Daddy" or "Papa." This usage demonstrates the close, loving relationship between God the Father and God the Son—a relationship we are called to emulate.

### Catechist Tips: Pray Always

Share this example of a time when you could pray in an unusual situation. **Say: If I were driving on the highway and saw a car accident, I might want to pray for anyone who might be hurt or scared. Should I fold my hands and shut my eyes while driving a car? No! Instead, I might:**

- **Ask God to help the people in the accident not be afraid.**
- **Thank God for the police and the people that will help them.**
- **Thank God when I arrive home safely.**

Ask the children to pretend they are driving. Talk about the accident they see, and say a little prayer using the examples above.

**Let's pretend we are doing other things, and we see what we could talk to God about as we do them.** Invite the children to take turns improvising the following scenarios. Help them recognize what things may be important to praise, ask for, or communicate to God. Here are a few situations to get started.

- **As you sit down to a delicious meal, thank God for food and time with family but also remember to ask God to help us feed the hungry.**
- **If you see a friend picked on at school, ask God to help you stand up for your friend. Also ask God to help you be nice even to kids who are sometimes mean. You might also tell God how you are afraid when you are picked on at school.**
- **When you take a bike ride, thank God for the beauty of the trees, birds, and squirrels. Ask God to make you a helper of the Earth by recycling, saving water, and picking up trash.**

### **Glossary Activity: Prayer**

Have the children work together to put the phrases of the Lord's Prayer in order.

- Print each phrase of the prayer on an index card.
- Shuffle the cards.
- Invite the children to put the phrases of the prayer in order by laying the cards out on a desk or table.

### **Additional Activity: Spontaneous Prayer**

Children of this age are able to memorize formal prayers, but can also pray in their own words.

- Give the children a few quiet moments to talk with God. Ask them to pray for their own needs, or for other people who need help.

### **Additional Activity: The Lord's Prayer**

Play for the children several musical selections of the Lord's Prayer.

- Invite the children to develop gestures or dance movements to accompany their favorite musical selection.

### **Additional Activity: Blessings**

Asking God to bless is a wonderful form of prayer. You might want to have the children write their own book of blessing prayers.

- You could have them make up daily blessings such as brushing their teeth or playing with their friends. In this way, they are offering what they do during the day to God.