

ACTIVITY Page



To the Teacher Make a Scrapbook of God's Love

For this project, each child will need:

- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Glue
- Old magazines
- Four or five pieces of 8 1/2" x 11" drawing paper or construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- 12" - 15" pieces of yarn

Direct the children through the following steps:

1. Hold all four or five pieces of paper together and fold them in half to make a book.
2. Punch holes on the folded edge and string the yarn through the holes to hold the book together.
3. On the cover of the book, write, "My Book of God's Gifts."
4. Look through magazines to find pictures that are reminders of God's love.
5. Glue a different gift on each page of the book. Beneath the pictures, write a thank-you prayer for that special gift.

To the Parents

As the children begin their journey toward an understanding of God's forgiveness, they must first be made fully aware of God's love for them and of the many ways that this love is shown in their daily lives. You, as parents, have countless opportunities to point out the signs of God's love for them.

An excellent family project for this week is a "faith walk" in a wooded area or park. In preparation for this project, decorate a shoe box with pictures cut from a magazine. You can print "God Made the World for Me" on your box.

On the day of your walk, have the children carry bags to collect small mementos: acorns, leaves, birds' feathers, small stones, flower petals, and so forth. During your walk, point out signs of God's love that the children may miss, but give them the opportunity to discover some of these signs on their own.

After your walk, read about the wild flowers in the Sermon on the Mount (see Lk 12:27-28), or the story of creation as found in the Book of Genesis. The children can then store their collections in the decorated box.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- #295, #341 on creation
- #218-21, #733 on God is Love
- #370, #374 on God's attributes and friendship



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PREPARING CHILDREN for the RITE of RECONCILIATION First Penance

Lesson One

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How many of God's gifts can you find in this picture?



I woke up this morning and the sun was shining in my window. I heard a little bird singing in the tree outside. It seemed like the bird was saying, "Get up! Get up! God has made a wonderful day!"

And all the beautiful things in my world reminded me of God's love.

I went downstairs to the kitchen where Mother was making breakfast. She placed my breakfast on the table, and, oh, how good it smelled! Then, Mother smiled a special mother smile. "Good morning, sweetheart," she said, and gave me a great big hug and kiss. Daddy came in and lifted me way up high.

"Have a wonderful day," he said. I felt the love of my parents and remembered that God is my loving Father, who watches over me every day.



At school, I read a story all by myself. It was about a little girl and her dog. Then, my teacher helped me with a math problem that I didn't understand. After lunch, we had a spelling bee, and I came in third.

I was so glad that God gave me a

mind that can love and learn new things, and a teacher to show me the way. After school, I went out to play. It was a beautiful day. My best friend came riding by on his

brand new bicycle. "Would you like to ride my bike?" he asked. And I said, "Oh, yes, I would." My friend was not afraid that I would break his new bike. He trusted me. So I let him play with my best ball while I took a ride on his bike.

And I remembered that God is the best kind of friend, a very good friend who loves me a lot.

Every time I walk in the park, and see children and flowers and trees and birds, I remember again about God's love for the world and the people on earth.

I learn more about how God loves me when I go to church with my family and hear the words of Jesus and about all the loving things he did for all of God's children — like me.

When I hear how Jesus came to our world just to teach about God's love, I know nothing I do will ever make God stop loving me.

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