

**2019-20 Elementary Lesson Guides**  
**Kindergarten – Catechist Guide**  
**Text: *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts***

**Finding God Resources:** There are Black-Line Masters in the back of each teacher manual that you can use to reinforce the chapter at the beginning or the end of class. There are also CDs with songs and readings suggested for each lesson. There is an easel of Art prints for every grade level, which are referenced in every chapter. There is a plush doll Jesus (one in each Kindergarten classroom) to use with various lessons as noted in the Catechist Guide. Please refer to your Catechist Guide for more details and instructions on accessing online materials at [findinggod.com](http://findinggod.com).

Date	Lesson	Focus
8/27	Catechist Meeting	Elementary Catechist Orientation at 7:00PM in School Library
9/7	Open House And Opening Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open House 9:30 am Session 1</li> <li>• 10:00 AM Mass for both Sessions</li> <li>• Open House 11:00 am Session 2</li> </ul>
9/14	<b>Unit 1: God, Our Creator and Father</b>  <b>Unit Saint: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus</b>  <b>Session 1:</b> God Creates the World  <b>Make nametags</b> <b>Pass out books and folders</b>	Gathering/Opening Prayer  <b>Session 1 Theme:</b> God has created a beautiful world for us. <b>ENGAGE</b> (pgs. 1-3): St Therese; God's Colorful World; Prayer on pg. 3 <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 4-5): God Creates All Things; We Care for the World; Art Print: <i>God Creates Animals</i> <b>REFLECT</b> (p. 6-7): <b>Prayer</b> ("Sign of the Cross") <b>RESPOND</b> (pgs. 8-9): Living My Faith  Closing Prayer and Blessing
9/21	<b>Session 2:</b> God Creates People <i>(Focus on this chapter)</i>  <b>Session 3:</b> Adam and Eve Make a Choice <i>(Highlight this chapter if time permits)</i>	Gathering/Opening Prayer  <b>Session 2 Theme:</b> God created us, and we are special to him. <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 9): He's Got the Whole World in His Hands <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 10-11): God Gives Us Life; God Loves Us; Art Print: <i>Peaceful Children</i> <b>REFLECT</b> (p. 12-13): Prayer; God Gives Us Senses <b>RESPOND</b> (pgs.14): Living My Faith  <b>Session 3 Theme:</b> When we make bad choices, we disobey God's rules. Gathering/Opening Prayer <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 15): The Beautiful Garden <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 16-17): Follow the Rules; A Bad Choice; Art Print: <i>Adam and Eve</i> <b>REFLECT</b> (pg. 18-19): Prayer; Stay Close to God <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 20): Living My Faith Closing Prayer and Blessing
9/28	<b>Session 4:</b> God Promises a Savior	Gathering/Opening Prayer

	<p><i>(Focus on this chapter)</i></p> <p><b>Session 5:</b> Celebrating Ordinary Time <i>(Highlight this chapter if time permits)</i></p>	<p><b>Session 4 Theme:</b> God sent Jesus to be our Savior.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg.21): Safe and Sound  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 22-23): S is for Savior; Be Like Jesus; Art Print: <i>Prophet Isaiah</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 24-25): Prayer; Thank you, God  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 26): Living My Faith</p> <p><b>Session 5 Theme:</b> During Ordinary Time, we learn about the life of Jesus and give thanks and praise.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg.27): Special Days and Seasons  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pg. 28): A Time of Praise (skip if low on time)  <b>REFLECT</b> (pg. 29): The Grace of God; Art Print: <i>Amen</i> (skip if low on time)  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 30): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
10/5 10/12	NO CLASS NO CLASS	<b>Columbus Day Holiday</b> <b>Confirmation for Grade 8</b>
10/19	<p><b>Review Unit 1</b></p> <p><i>Unit 2: Jesus, Our Lord and Savior</i></p> <p><i>Unit Saint: Mary, Mother of God</i></p> <p><b>Session 6:</b> Mary Says Yes to God</p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 6 Theme:</b> Mary says yes to being the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pgs. 31-33): Unit Saint: Mary, Mother of God; Wait and See  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 34-35): God Sends a Messenger; Mary Helps Us Say Yes  Art Print: <i>Mary Says Yes</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 36-37): Prayer; We Honor Our Mother  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 38): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
10/26	<b>Session 7:</b> Joseph Says Yes to God	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 7 Theme:</b> Joseph says yes to being Jesus' father on earth and is part of the Holy Family.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 39): I Say Yes!  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 40-41): God Calls Joseph; The Holy Family; Art Print: <i>Saint Joseph</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 42-43): Prayer; Jesus Grew Up  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 44): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
11/2	NO CLASS	<b>Fairfax County Holiday</b>

<p><b>11/9</b></p>	<p><b>Session 8:</b> Jesus is Our Friend (Focus on this chapter)</p> <p><b>Session 9:</b> Jesus Heals Us (Highlight this chapter if time permits)</p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 8 Theme:</b> Jesus loves us and is always there for us.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 45): Jesus Loves You and You Know It!  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 46-47): God the Father Sends His Son Jesus; Our Friend; Art Print: <i>Boys in a Pasture</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 48-49): Prayer; Always With You  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 50): Living My Faith</p> <p><b>Session 9 Theme:</b> Jesus heals us when we are sick or sad.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 51): Get Well Soon  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 52-53): Jesus Heals Us; Jesus Heals Our Hearts; Art Print: <i>Jesus Heals a Sick Man</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 54-55): Prayer; Jesus Cares for Everyone  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 56): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
<p><b>11/16</b></p> <p><b>11/23</b></p>	<p><b>Session 10:</b> Celebrating Advent</p> <p><b>Unit 3: The Church, Our Community in the Spirit</b></p> <p><b>Unit Saint: Saint John XIII</b></p> <p><b>Session 11:</b> God Gathers Us</p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 10 Theme:</b> Advent is a time to get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 57): Getting Ready  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pg. 58): Waiting for Jesus  <b>REFLECT</b> (pg. 59): What We Do At Church; Art Print: <i>Las Posadas</i>  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 60): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p> <p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 11 Theme:</b> We belong to God's Family, the Church.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pgs. 61-63): Unit Saint: Pope John XXIII; Here's the Church  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 64-65): We Are the Church; A Good Place to Be; Art Print: <i>We Are the Church</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 66-67): Prayer; We Go To Mass  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 68): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
<p><b>11/30</b></p>	<p><b>NO CLASS</b></p>	<p><b>Thanksgiving</b></p>
<p><b>12/7</b></p>	<p><b>Session 12:</b> Jesus Calls His Disciples</p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 12 Theme:</b> We spread Jesus' message by showing love.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 69): Follow Jesus  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 70-71): Come, Follow Me; Being a Disciple; Art Print: <i>Jesus Calls</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 72-73): Prayer; A Disciple Believes  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 74): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
<p><b>12/7</b></p>	<p><b>Session 15:</b> Celebrating</p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p>

12/14	Christmas	<p><b>Session 15 Theme:</b> Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 87): A Day of Joy  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pg. 88): Angels Bring the Good News  <b>REFLECT</b> (pg. 89): What We Do at Church; Art Print: <i>Jesus Is Born</i>  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 90): Living My Faith</p> <p><b>Highlight Session 15, celebrate, and go to church for Grade 6 Lessons and Carols</b></p>
12/21 12/28 1/4	NO CLASS	Christmas Vacation
1/11	<p><b>Session 13:</b> God Sends the Holy Spirit</p> <p><b>Session 14:</b> Jesus Leads Us</p> <p><b>Review Unit 3</b></p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 13 Theme:</b> The guidance of the Holy Spirit helps us grow closer to God and share Jesus' Good News.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 75): Gift of the Spirit  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 76-77): We Believe in One God; Art Print: <i>Peter Talks About Jesus</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 78-79): Prayer; The Holy Spirit Helps Us  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 80): Living My Faith  Closing Prayer and Blessing  Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p>Session 14 Theme: God calls us to share and help others in need.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 81): Feeding the Five Thousand  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 82-83): Jesus Tells Us to Share; Share and Serve; Art Print: It's Good to Share  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 84-85): Prayer; Give Glory to God  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 86): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
1/18	NO CLASS	Martin Luther King Holiday
1/24	NO CLASS	Fairfax County Holiday
2/1	NO CLASS	Fairfax County Holiday
2/8	<p><i>Unit 4: Sacraments, Our Way of Life</i></p> <p><i>Unit Saint: Saint Ignatius of Loyola</i></p> <p><b>Session 16:</b> Jesus Calls Us to Pray</p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 16 Theme:</b> Jesus teaches us to pray and gives us the Lord's Prayer.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pgs. 91-93): Unit Saint: Saint Ignatius of Loyola; Blessings  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 94-95): Reasons We Pray; Ways We Pray; Art Print: <i>Evening Prayer</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 96-97): Prayer; Thy Kingdom Come  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 98): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
2/15	NO CLASS	President's Day Holiday

2/22	NO CLASS	OLGC Basketball Tournament
3/1	<p><b>Session 17: The Church Celebrates (Highlight this chapter if time permits)</b></p> <p><b>Session 18: The Church Welcomes Us (Focus on this chapter)</b></p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p>Session 17 Theme: We celebrate the sacraments, which were given to us by Jesus.  ENGAGE (pg. 99): Celebrate!  EXPLORE (pgs. 100-101): We Celebrate the Sacraments; God's Blessings  Art Print: Church Wedding  REFLECT (pgs. 102-103): Prayer; We Pray  RESPOND (pg. 104): Living My Faith</p> <p>Session 18 Theme: The Church welcomes us into God's family at Baptism.  ENGAGE (pg. 105): Philip Baptizes a Traveler  EXPLORE (pgs. 106-107): The First Sacrament; The Signs of Baptism; Art Print: The Christening  REFLECT (pgs. 108-109): Prayer; Shout with Joy  RESPOND (pg. 110): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
3/8	<b>Session 19: Jesus Shares a Special Meal (Focus on this chapter)</b>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p>Session 19 Theme: We hear the story of the Last Supper and learn the meaning of the Eucharist.  ENGAGE (pg. 111): We Go to Mass  EXPLORE (pgs. 112-113): The Last Supper; A Special Meal; Art Print: The Last Supper  REFLECT (pgs. 114-115): Prayer; The Sign of Peace  RESPOND (pg. 116): Living My Faith</p>
3/15	<p><i>Unit 5: Morality, Our Lived Faith</i></p> <p><i>Unit Saint: Saint Martin de Porres</i></p> <p><b>Session 21:</b> God Calls Us to Make Good Choices</p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 21 Theme:</b> We make good choices when we follow God's rules.  <b>ENGAGE</b> (pgs. 121-123): Unit Saint: Saint Martin de Porres; That's a Rule for Me!  <b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 124-125): Choosing What is Good; God Helps You Choose Art Print: <i>Sisters and Friends</i>  <b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 126-127): Prayer; The Ten Commandments  <b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 128): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
3/22	<b>Session 20: Celebrating Lent and Holy Week (Highlight this chapter if time permits)</b>	<p>Session 20 Theme: Lent and Holy Week are a time to grow closer to Jesus  ENGAGE (pg. 117): Jesus Gives His Life  EXPLORE (pg. 118): Growing Closer to Jesus  REFLECT (pg. 119): Ash Wednesday; Art Print: Veronica  RESPOND (pg. 120): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
3/29		Gathering/Opening Prayer

	<p><b>Session 25:</b> Celebrating Easter</p> <p><b>Review Unit 4</b></p>	<p><b>Session 25 Theme:</b> At Easter we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead to be with us always.</p> <p><b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 147): Jesus Rises From the Dead</p> <p><b>EXPLORE</b> (pg. 148): Alleluia!</p> <p><b>REFLECT</b> (pg. 149): Easter Mass; Art Print: <i>The Angels in the Tomb</i></p> <p><b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 150): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
4/18	<p><b>Session 22:</b> God Calls Us to Love our Family (<i>Focus on this chapter</i>)</p> <p><b>Session 23:</b> God Calls Us to Forgive (<i>Highlight this chapter if time permits</i>)</p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 22 Theme:</b> Showing our love for our families shows our love for God.</p> <p><b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 129): Song of Love</p> <p><b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 130-131): Family Tree; Families Show Love; Art Print: <i>Family Picnic</i></p> <p><b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 132-133): Prayer; The Sign of Peace</p> <p><b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 134): Living My Faith</p> <p><b>Session 23 Theme:</b> We learn to forgive others just as God forgives us when we make bad choices.</p> <p><b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 135): Zacchaeus</p> <p><b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 136-137): Bad Choices Hurt; I Am Sorry; Art Print: <i>Hug</i></p> <p><b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 138-139): Prayer; Important Questions</p> <p><b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 140): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
4/25 5/4	<p><b>Session 24:</b> God Calls us to Help</p> <p><b>Review Unit 5</b></p>	<p>Gathering/Opening Prayer</p> <p><b>Session 24 Theme:</b> All people should have what they need to live good lives.</p> <p><b>ENGAGE</b> (pg. 141): Caring and Sharing</p> <p><b>EXPLORE</b> (pgs. 142-143): Our Needs; How Can You Help?; Art Print: <i>Saint Vincent de Paul</i></p> <p><b>REFLECT</b> (pgs. 144-145): Prayer; The Ten Commandments</p> <p><b>RESPOND</b> (pg. 146): Living My Faith</p> <p>Closing Prayer and Blessing</p>
5/16	<b>Closing Mass and Celebration</b>	<b>Closing Mass at 9:00AM for all, led by Grade 6. Parents are invited and encouraged to come. Celebration to follow in DeSales Hall</b>