

Growing in friendship with God

FOCUS

1. God is present and active in creation. We are challenged to find God's presence in the world around us.
2. All creation is indeed good and we are to be responsible for the care of it. This is a role given to us by God, and one which we must take seriously.
3. We are created in the image of God.
4. All human life is sacred. Human life is to be respected and is always a marvelous gift of God's goodness. (Pope John Paul II in *Familiaris Consortio*).
5. Prayer to a loving God is natural. It is a human response that unites us with the divine. God created us so that we could have a loving friendship with him.

During these lessons your child may have:

- *recognised God as creator of all things and the goodness of God's creation;*
- *developed an awareness that we have a duty to care for and develop the gifts of creation;*
- *suggested ways that they can care for gifts of creation in their own lives;*
- *recognised that each person is unique and special because each is made in God's image and likeness;*
- *listened and responded to a story of Jesus at prayer;*
- *identified that prayer strengthens our relationship with God.*

Genesis 1:1-31

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. . . . God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them . . . let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of the heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth . . . And so it was. God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very good.

Ephesians 2:10

We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

To Remember :

Prayer helps us to grow closer to God.

Mark 1:35-38

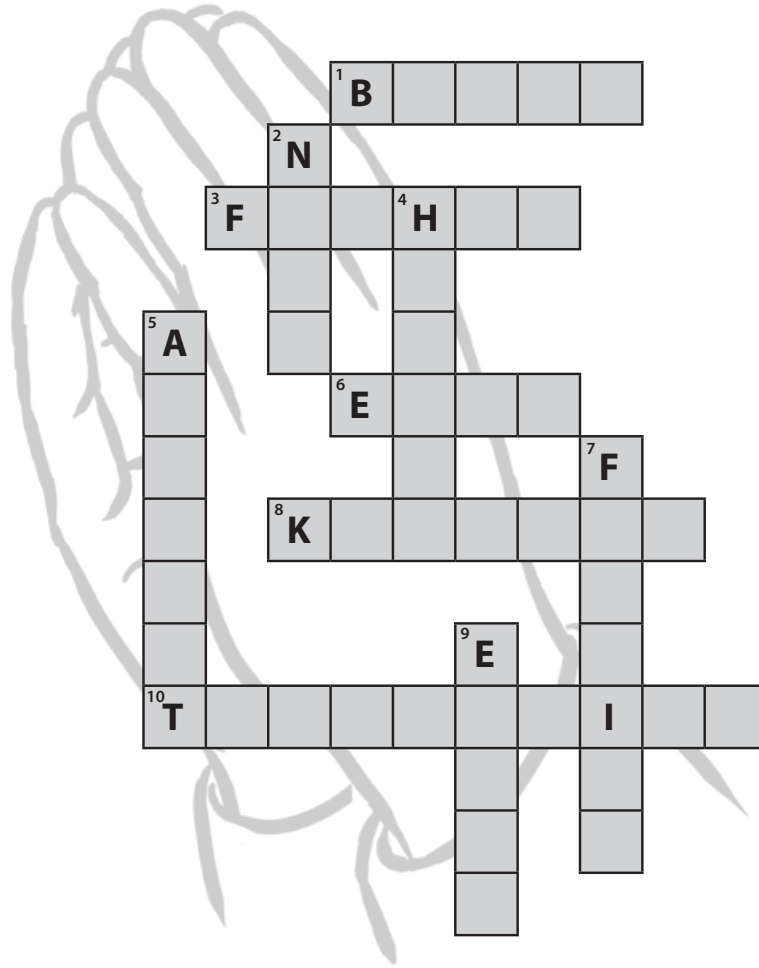
In the morning while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring towns, so that I can proclaim the message there too; because that is why I came."

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

The following are suggested activities for you to do with your child.

1. Highlight to your child aspects of nature that are particularly beautiful.
2. Discuss with your child how you as a family can help look after God's creation.
3. Reinforce the uniqueness and specialness of each person in the family.
4. Explore with your child ways in which we share a friendship with others. Use this as an example to encourage your child to see why it is important to pray.
5. More activities can be found at <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org> Click **Curriculum overview/ Stage 2/Extension Activities**.

Complete the missing words to the Our Father and solve the crossword.



Our _____ who art in _____,
3A 4D
 hallowed be thy _____. Thy _____ come
2D 8A
 thy will be done on _____ as it is heaven.
9D
 Give us this day our daily _____ and _____
1A 7D
 us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
5D 10A
 _____ us and lead us not into _____
 but deliver us from _____.
6A

Amen.



May the Lord bless you and keep you.
 May his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
 May he look upon you with kindness and give you peace.
 Amen.