This Week’s Scripture Story

Jesus Makes a Sick Man Well

Jesus Helps a Sick Man

Many people were following Jesus. A leper, a man with a skin disease, bowed to Jesus. The man said, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.”
Jesus touched the man and said, “I do choose. Be made clean!”
As soon as Jesus said this, the man’s skin was well again!
Jesus sent the man to show the priests his clear skin.

Based on Matthew 8:1–4

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning. Discussion starter: How do you think the man felt after Jesus healed him?

This Week’s Lesson

Jesus makes sick people well.

Keep It Simple

- When your child is sick or hurt, in your expression of sympathy for him or her, say also that God knows he or she is hurting and wants him or her to get better, too. When your child gets better, talk about how “God helped” this happen.

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson,

by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Three- and four-year-olds know what it means to feel sick or be injured, but they might not understand more serious illnesses like those Jesus healed in Scripture. They understand care for the sick primarily through their parents’ care for them when they are sick or injured. It’s difficult for all of us to understand God’s apparent healing of some and not others, but this is less of a dilemma for the very young, who do not yet have a clear concept of death. For this reason, when listening to stories of Jesus’ healing, children this age are more apt to grasp his care for someone who is hurt than a miraculous healing.

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Mealtim e Prayer

Dear Jesus, we pray for those we love who are sick. Please bless them.
Amen.

Through the Week
Pray as a family for those who are sick, and consider doing acts of service (for example, preparing food or making cards) for them.

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)
1. Does Jesus care for people who are hurting? (Yes.)
2. What did Jesus do when he met sick people? (He helped them get well.)

Jesus Heals
Color the picture.
How did the man feel when Jesus healed him?

Saint of the Week
Martin de Porres
(1579–1639)
Feast Day: November 3
Did you know?
Martin helped sick people heal. But he cared very much about animals, too. He worked to give them the love and medicine that they needed to get better.
Saint Martin de Porres, pray for us!
**This Week’s Scripture Story**

Jesus Says God the Father Takes Care of Us
tells us that God takes care of us.

Do Not Worry!

Jesus was talking to his friends. He said, “Do not worry about what you will eat or wear. Look at the birds. They don’t grow crops or try to store food. God makes sure that they have enough to eat.”

Jesus also said, “Look at the flowers that grow everywhere. They don’t make clothes, but they are more beautiful than a king in fine robes! You are more important than birds and flowers. God will take care of you!”

Based on Matthew 6:25–34

**It Helps to Know**

Scripture tells us that

- “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.” (Matthew 6:31–32).
- “Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

The *Catechism* teaches us that

- “God cares for all, from the least things to the great events of the world and its history” (*CCC*, 303).
- “Jesus asks for childlike abandonment to the providence of our heavenly Father who takes care of his children’s smallest needs” (*CCC*, 305).

Keep It Simple

- Look for ways to point out to your child that God notices and cares for him or her, and remember to show your child this particular kind of care as well.

**How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.**

At ages three and four, children often have no trouble believing they are important to others. This is the perfect time to impress upon them that God knows them by name and cares about each and every individual child. They understand this first through the care given by their parents, who know them well and take care of them in a special way.

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Sharing Faith at Home
Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning.
Discussion starter: How does God take care of you?
Pray this prayer as a family.

**Dear Jesus,**

thank you for always making me feel special.

**Amen.**

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**Setting the Family Table**

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**God Our Father Takes Care of Us**

Circle all items that show how God provides for you. Then draw or share your favorite thing that God has given you.

---

**Through the Week**

Make an extra effort to give one another your full attention—a smile, nod, or encouraging word can help our children feel special and particularly loved.

---

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Who takes care of the birds and flowers? (God does.)
2. Does God take care of each of us as well? (Yes.)

---

**Ask Me!**

---

**God Our Father Takes Care of Us**

---

**Circle** all items that show how God provides for you. Then draw or share your favorite thing that God has given you.

---

**Saint of the Week**

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**Guardian Angels**

Feast Day: October 2

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**Did you know?**

Angels are spiritual beings who have been present in the world since the beginning of creation. **Guardian Angels, pray for us!**
This Week’s Scripture Story
tells us to love one another.

Jesus Says, “Love Each Other!”

Jesus said, “I am giving you a new rule: Love each other. Love each other the way that I love you! When you do this, everyone will know that you are my friend.”

Based on John 13:34–35

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that
• “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34–35).
• we show our commitment to God and to others by the things we actually do. The Bible says in James 2:26 that “faith without works is dead.”

The Catechism teaches us that
• “Jesus makes charity the new commandment. By loving his own ‘to the end,’ he makes manifest the Father’s love which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which they themselves receive” (CCC, 1823).

Keep It Simple
• Look for situations in which you can prompt your child to “show love” to someone else by sharing a toy, giving the first turn, or giving a hug (when the child is comfortable).

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Three- and four-year-olds experience love and care from their parents and other significant caregivers and are also learning to express love by saying, “I love you,” giving hugs and kisses, and perhaps making things (such as coloring a picture) for others. They are also learning to take turns and share, but because of their limited ability to understand the perspectives of others, they can sometimes miss opportunities to “show love” to others unless prompted by adults.

In this week’s lesson your child learned
• Jesus said, “Love one another.”
• We can show love to one another by what we say and do.

Sharing Faith at Home
Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning. Discussion starter: How can we show love for each other?

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Visit Allelu.com and click on the Lectionary link for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
Pray this prayer as a family.

**Mealtime Prayer**

Dear Jesus, you said that we should love one another. We promise to try our best to love like you did. Amen.

---

**Setting the Family Table**

**Who Is Showing Love?**

*Draw* a happy face by the people who are showing love. *Draw* a sad face by the people who are not.

---

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Who said that we should “Love one another?” (Jesus)
2. Who are some people that love you? (Answers will vary)
3. Who are some people that you love? (Answers will vary)

---

**Through the Week**

Be sure to point out to one another when someone has been loving towards you. Jesus’ commandment to “love one another” is about giving as well as receiving love.

---

**Saint of the Week**

Pope Saint John Paul II (1920–2005)

**Did you know?**

Pope Saint John Paul II performed a miracle not very long ago, in early 2006, when he helped heal a nun in France from Parkinson’s Disease.

**Pope Saint John Paul II, pray for us!**
Jesus Calms the Storm

This Week’s Scripture Story teaches us that God is with us during scary times.

Don’t Be Afraid

One day, Jesus and his friends were in a boat. Jesus fell asleep. A storm began to toss the boat. Water started coming into the boat. Jesus’ friends were afraid.

Jesus’ friends woke him up by calling, “Jesus, save us! We will drown!”

Jesus woke up. He said, “Why are you afraid? Have faith in me!” Then he talked to the wind and the water. He told them to be calm. Everything became quiet.

Jesus’ friends were surprised. They said, “What kind of man do the wind and the sea obey?”

Based on Matthew 8:23–27

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning. Discussion starter: How would you feel if you were on the boat with Jesus and his friends?

In this week’s lesson your child learned

• Jesus kept his disciples safe during a storm.
• God is with us, even when scary things happen.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

• “In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid; what can flesh do to me?” (Psalm 56:4).
• “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Phil. 4:6).

The Catechism teaches us that

• “With creation, God does not abandon his creatures to themselves. He not only gives them being and existence, but also, and at every moment, upholds and sustains them in being, enables them to act, and brings them to their final end” (CCC, 301).

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Most three- and four-year-olds know what it’s like to be scared during a storm or another type of unfamiliar situation. Usually they look to adults for comfort and security at these times, much in the same way that Jesus’ disciples seek his help as the storm begins to toss the boat. It’s sometimes difficult for children this age to picture a God they cannot see, but loving adults serve as a visual reminder that God is with them. In a very special way, parents are “icons” of God, who is Father of us all.

Keep It Simple

• When your child is afraid or sad, or even when he or she is very happy about something, mention that God knows how he or she feels and is with him or her. For example, you might say, “God knows you are afraid and he wants you to know that he is with you right now and will keep you safe.”

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Growing and Celebrating with Jesus Lesson 20, Ages 3-4

Allelu! Growing and Celebrating with Jesus Lesson 20, Ages 3-4
Pray this prayer as a family.

**Mealtime Prayer**

Dear Jesus, help us remember that you are always with us whenever we are scared. Please keep us safe. Amen.

---

**Setting the Family Table**

**The Wind and Sea Obey Jesus**

Trace the sail on the boat, and then color the sail to complete the picture.

---

**Setting the Family Table**

**Through the Week**

Remind your child when he or she is scared or worried that God is with him or her all the time and that is a good reason not to be scared or worried.

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Who kept Jesus’ disciples safe during the storm? (Jesus did.)
2. Where is God when something scary happens? (God is right beside us.)

---

**Saint of the Week**

Faustina Kowalska (1905–1938)

Feast Day: October 5

**Did you know?**

Faustina only went to school for three years. But she was not afraid to write a journal about Jesus—700 pages long!

Saint Faustina Kowalska, pray for us!
Share What You Have

Saint Paul wrote letters to Jesus’ followers. One of his letters is about sharing. Paul wrote, “God gives you many things. You will always have what you need. You should share what is left over. God loves it when people are happy to share with others.

Based on 2 Corinthians 9:7–8

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson,
by Joseph White, Ph.D.

It’s difficult for some children to move from the “mine” stage of the toddler to the preschool stage, when children must learn to share in order to get along with one another in early social settings. However, they soon find that when they are willing to share, the experience of playing and interacting with others can be its own reward.

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Sharing Faith at Home
Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning. Discussion starter: What kinds of things can you share?

Keep It Simple

• Say to your child, “Here are two cookies. You can eat one and I would like you to take the other one to your brother.” (You might have to supervise this early sharing to be sure it happens as you have directed!)
Pray this prayer as a family.

**Mealtimes Prayer**
Dear Jesus, please help us to share whatever we have with one another.
Amen.

---

**Setting the Family Table**

**Who Is Sharing?**

*Draw* smiley faces by the people who are sharing. Then *draw* yourself sharing your favorite things.

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**Through the Week**
Give your child opportunities to share by giving him or her an extra of something and asking that it be given to another family member.

---

**Ask Me!**
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What did Jesus say about sharing? (Jesus taught that we should share what we have with other people.)
2. What is something you can share? *(Answers will vary)*

---

**Saint of the Week**

**Damien of Molokai**
(1840–1889)
Feast Day: May 10

**Did you know?**
Saint Damien helped those who had leprosy. This disease that we hear about in the Bible is still a disease today. But doctors have found medicine to treat it. **Saint Damien of Molokai, pray for us!**
In this week’s lesson your child learned
- When we hurt someone or make them sad, we should say, “I’m sorry.”
- One way to show we are sorry is to do something to make things better.

It Helps to Know
Scripture tells us that
- “So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23–24). The Catechism teaches us that
- “Conversion is accomplished in daily life...by the admission of faults to one’s brethren” (CCC, 1435).
- making efforts to reconcile with those we have hurt is one means of obtaining forgiveness of sins (CCC, 1434).

Keep It Simple
- Make sure your child knows you are sad or disappointed when he or she deliberately harms someone else. It’s best to do this in a calm and straightforward manner (e.g., to say in a very calm voice, “I’m very sad that you hit your sister.”). Prompt him or her to say, “I’m sorry,” and also give your child a way to make things better. For example, you might suggest something nice he or she could do for the person who was hurt.

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.
Young children sometimes see saying the words “I’m sorry” as a way to keep from being punished (or to make punishment lighter). They may quickly (and perhaps insincerely) say they are sorry when they are caught. However, as they progress through the preschool years, they grow in empathy and are able to feel sorry, first because they do not like adults they love to be displeased with them, and later because they do not want to make others feel bad.

We Are Sorry
This Week’s Scripture Story helps us learn how to say we are sorry when we have hurt someone.

Father, I Am Sorry
Jesus told a story one day about a man who had two sons. One of the sons said, “Father, one day my brother and I will own what you have. Give me my half now.” So the father gave him half of everything, and the son went far away. The son spent all his money on silly things. Then the son didn’t have enough money for food. The son had to get a job taking care of pigs. He was so hungry that even the pig food looked good! The son thought about his father’s home. He remembered that even his father’s servants had more food than he did now. He decided to go back home. His father saw him coming home. He ran out to meet him. The son said, “Father, I am sorry for what I did. Please let me be a servant in your home.” The father said, “Let’s have a party, because you have come home at last!”

Based on Luke 15:11–24

Sharing Faith at Home
Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning. Discussion starter: How do you think the son felt about what the father said?
Pray this prayer as a family.

Mealt ime Prayer

Heavenly Father, sometimes it is hard to say, “I’m sorry.” Help us to learn from our mistakes when we do something that is wrong. Amen.

Setting the Family Table

Making Things Better

Circle the children who are making things better.

Tell how you show that you are sorry.

Through the Week

Help your child understand how someone feels when he or she is hurt. Give examples of how saying you are sorry can help make things better.

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What should we say when we hurt someone or make them sad? (I’m sorry.)

2. How do we show that we are sorry? (by doing something to help make things better)

Saint of the Week

John Vianney (1786–1859)

Did you know?

Nearly 75,000 people a year traveled to confess before John Vianney. They came from around the world because they heard that he could see into people’s souls.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us!
A Sad Story
Sometimes Jesus confused people when he taught. They thought he wanted to be a king and to be in charge of a country. That is not what he wanted. These people didn’t know how much Jesus loved us. They didn’t know that Jesus was good and wanted us to be good. They didn’t know that Jesus was God’s Son. They hurt him by putting him on a cross. That is how he died.

Jesus’ friends were sad. They put him in a tomb and cried. Someone closed the tomb with a rock. Soldiers stood by the tomb. No one knew what would happen next. In a few days, a wonderful surprise would come!

Based on Matthew 27:27–66

Sharing Faith at Home
Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning.

Discussion starter: What do you know about why Jesus died?

This Week’s Scripture Story teaches us about how Jesus died.

Keep It Simple
• When you and your child see a crucifix at home or at Church, remind your child that some people hurt Jesus and he died, but that Jesus did not stay hurt or dead because God did something amazing.

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Death is very difficult for children this age to understand. Developmentally, children are not able to comprehend the difference between body and soul, the permanence of death, causes of death, and many other concepts that are key to understanding death. Even if they have had someone close to them die (for example, a beloved pet or a family member), it probably appeared to them that the animal or person was asleep and wouldn’t wake up, or that the person or animal was there one day and gone the next. However, even with these developmental limitations, introducing this very important part of Jesus’ story is critical because it is at the very center of our faith.

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It Helps to Know
Scripture tells us that
• “God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).
• “For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living” (Romans 14:9).
The Catechism teaches us that
• “Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures” (CCC 619, cf. I Cor. 15:3).
• “Jesus freely offered himself for our salvation. Beforehand, during the Last Supper, he both symbolized this offering and made it really present: ‘This is my body which is given for you’” (CCC 621, cf. Luke 22:19).

• “For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living” (Romans 14:9).
Pray this prayer as a family.

Jesus, we know that you are God the Son. Thank you for your amazing life.
Amen.

Mealt ime Prayer

Setting the Family Table

The Cross

Color Jesus’ Cross. Talk to your parents about a great surprise that would happen three days after Jesus was on the Cross.

Through the Week

Point out how often the image of a cross is seen during the day: on necklaces, on steeples, on signs. Then remind your child what the cross represents—how Jesus died.

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What did the people who did not believe Jesus do to him? (They hurt him and killed him.)
2. When Jesus died, was that the end of the story? (No, God was going to do something amazing!)

Saint of the Week

Charles Lwanga (1865–1886)
Feast Day: June 3

Did you know?
Christian missionaries have worked hard to bring Jesus to the people of Uganda, like Charles Lwanga, in Africa. Eight out of ten people in that country now consider themselves to be Christian.

Saint Charles Lwanga, pray for us!
This Week’s Scripture Story

Jesus Is Alive Again!

shares the Easter story.

Jesus Comes Back!

After Jesus died, his friends missed him. They went back to the place where he was buried. A large rock had been in front of his tomb. The rock was gone! A young man was sitting in the tomb.

The young man said, “Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus. He is alive again! He walked away from this tomb. You will see him again later.”

One of the friends at the tomb was named Mary Magdalene. She ran and told Jesus’ other friends that he was alive.

Based on Mark 16:1–10

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning.

Discussion starter: Why were the friends surprised?

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson,

by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Because children this age do not typically comprehend the permanence of death, they might not fully understand how miraculous Jesus’ Resurrection was. However, they can understand that Jesus was hurt and seemed to be gone forever, but that he came back and spent time with his disciples and friends.

Keep It Simple

Especially during the Easter season, point out that we are celebrating that Jesus is alive. This is the purpose of the holiday of Easter (a favorite holiday of young children), the white and gold colors in the Church, and the “Alleluia” we sing at Mass.

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Through the Week
If possible, decorate your home with an Easter lily plant. Point out to your child that this is a way to show we are happy that Jesus is alive.

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)
1. What happened after Jesus died? (He rose from the dead and came out of the tomb.)
2. What did Jesus do after he rose from the dead? (He spent time with his friends and then went to be with God the Father in Heaven.)

Easter Surprise!
Trace and color the tomb and rock. Then talk to your parents about the Easter surprise!

Mealt ime Prayer
Dear Jesus, you are God the Son. We are so amazed and thankful that you rose from the dead.
Amen.

Saint of the Week
Thomas the Apostle (lived in the time of Jesus, died in 72)
Feast Day: July 3
Did you know?
Saint Thomas is believed to have built, with his own hands, the first church in India.
Saint Thomas the Apostle, pray for us!
Growing and Cultivating w/Jesus

Le/s.001/s.001on 25, Age/s.001 3-4

Sharing Faith at Home
Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning.

God Makes Trees and Flowers Grow

Jesus was talking with his friends. He talked with them about how plants grow. He said, “Farmers scatter seeds on the ground. The farmer does not know how the seed starts to grow, but it does. The seed knows how to grow. It starts out small, then it buds, and then it gives us food to eat.”

Based on Mark 4:26–28

The Catechism teaches us that
• “God willed creation as a gift addressed to man, an inheritance destined for and entrusted to him. On many occasions the Church has had to defend the goodness of creation, including that of the physical world” (CCC, 299).
• “In God’s plan man and woman have the vocation of ‘subduing’ the earth as stewards of God. This sovereignty is not to be an arbitrary and destructive domination. God calls man and woman... to share in his providence toward other creatures” (CCC, 373).

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that
• “I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit” (Leviticus 26:4).
• “Ask rain from the Lord in the season of the spring rain, from the Lord who makes the storm clouds, who gives showers of rain to you, the vegetation in the field to everyone” (Zechariah 10:1).

Keep It Simple
• Point out the changes that are associated with the spring, such as the blooming of flowers and trees and the warmer temperatures. Connect this with God’s work by saying things such as “Oh, look at the beautiful flowers God put on that tree!” or “God is giving us some warmer weather for spring so we can enjoy being outside.”

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The blooming of trees and growth of flowers can be amazing and mysterious for children this age, who are seeing it for the first time they can remember. They can begin to associate these changes with things God is doing if the change is explained this way by adults in their lives.

Visit Allelu.com and click on the Lectionary link for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
Pray this prayer as a family.

Good and Gracious God,
thank you for creating flowers
and plants. We will help take
care of your creation.
Amen.

Setting the Family Table

God Makes Everything

Color the picture. Then tell which picture came first, second and third as the seed becomes a tree.

Through the Week
Consider “working together with God” by planting some seeds or flowers outside.

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Who makes the trees bloom and flowers grow in the spring? (God does.)
2. How can we work together with God in the springtime? (by planting seeds and flowers and by taking care of God’s Earth)

Saint of the Week
Kateri Tekakwitha (1656–1680)
Feast Day: July 14

Did you know?
Kateri loved the cross and carved one on a tree so she could have a special place in the woods to pray to God.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us!
All God’s Animals

When God created the world, he created the first man and woman. He created them in his own image and likeness. He made a garden for them to live in and to enjoy all he created.

God said to the first man, “I don’t want you to be alone.”

Then God made animals out of the earth. He made wild animals. He made birds that fly in the air. God took the animals to the man. God said, “What will you name these animals?”

And the man gave all of the animals their names.

God wants us to watch over animals. They are one of his gifts to us.

Based on Genesis 2:18–20

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus
Lesson 26, Ages 3-4

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Preschool children love baby animals, especially puppies and kittens. Because they tend to use their own experiences and perspectives to understand others, they naturally see baby animals as being like human children, with animal parents that take care of them. They are not ready yet to understand the biology of where babies (human and animal) come from, but they can learn that babies are gifts from God, and human babies and animal babies are given as part of God’s plan.

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God Made Animals
Circle the pairs of animals.

Pray this prayer as a family.

God our Father, after you made the Earth, you filled it with plants and animals. We promise we will try to take care of them. Amen.

Through the Week
There are many children’s books about baby animals. Check out a few titles from your local library and read them together.

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)
1. Do animals have babies, too? (Yes.)
2. Who takes care of animal babies? (Animal parents take care of their babies, just like my parents take care of me.)

Saint of the Week
Francis of Assisi (1181–1226)
Feast Day: October 4
Did you know?
One of Francis’ childhood dreams was to become a troubadour, which is a poet who writes love songs. As an adult, he used this skill to write hymns—songs about loving God!
Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!
Growing and Celebrating with Jesus Lesson 27, Ages 3-4

I Am Growing

This Week’s Scripture Story helps us understand that we are growing, just as Jesus grew.

Jesus Grew
You have already heard that Jesus was a baby. You also know some stories about when he was grown up.

But there was a time when Jesus was a child. He was a child just like you. The Bible tells us that Jesus grew up a long time ago in Nazareth, a town that is far away.

Jesus did many of the things that you do. He helped Mary at home. Joseph was a carpenter, so Jesus probably helped him make things. Jesus had a cousin named John, and he spent time with him. And Jesus probably had fun with his friends.

Most of all, Jesus loved God. He prayed to his Father in Heaven.

As you grow up, try to be like Jesus.

Based on Luke 2:51–52

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In this week’s lesson your child learned
• Baby Jesus grew each day and became a child like me, and then a man.
• God is helping me grow, too.

It Helps to Know
Scripture tells us that
• “The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him” (Luke 2:40).
• “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor” (Luke 2:52).

The Catechism teaches us that
• “The everyday obedience of Jesus to Joseph and Mary both announced and anticipated the obedience of Holy Thursday: ‘Not my will…’” (CCC, 532).
• “The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life (CCC, 533).

Keep It Simple
• Keep a “growth chart” in your child’s room or in another prominent place in your home (one traditional place has been on the inside of a doorframe). Periodically (e.g., monthly or quarterly), mark your child’s height and the date on the growth chart. You might also want to make a note of something new your child has learned how to do. Let your child see the markings and notes and talk about how God is helping him or her grow.

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.
Preschool-age children learn and do new things each year. They may not be conscious of how they are growing, but they frequently hear adults in their lives tell them how big they are getting. They are proud of growing taller and being able to do new things, and are often anxious to show us what they have learned how to do.

Sharing Faith at Home Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning.
Discussion starter: How are you like Jesus?
Pray this prayer as a family.

Heavenly Father, thank you for helping us to grow and learn, like Jesus did.
Amen.

Setting the Family Table

How Am I Like Jesus?

Match the scenes from the left to similar scenes on the right. Tell what activities Jesus might have enjoyed when he was a child.

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Did Jesus stay little, or did he grow up? (He grew from a baby to a child to a man.)
2. Are you growing, too, just like Jesus did? (Yes.)

Through the Week

Find some clothes your child has outgrown, or point out how fast your child outgrows his/her shoes. Remind your child that Jesus was a child, too, and he grew up.

Ask Me!

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Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Did Jesus stay little, or did he grow up? (He grew from a baby to a child to a man.)
2. Are you growing, too, just like Jesus did? (Yes.)

Saint of the Week

Philomena
(thought to have lived during persecution of Christians by Romans, relics discovered 1802)
Feast Day: August 11, informally celebrated

Did you know?
Philomena, or Filumena, means “Child of Light” in the Latin language.
Saint Philomena, pray for us!
Growing and Celebrating with Jesus
Lesson 28, Ages 3-4

Bless You!
We have shared many stories this year. We learned about how God made the world and everything in it.
We learned that the Church teaches us about God.
We learned that Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus lived on earth and taught us about God.
We learned that Jesus loves everyone.
We learned that Jesus died and rose again on Easter.
Most of all, we learned that God loves us. One way of showing God’s love is to say a goodbye prayer called a blessing.
Here is a special goodbye blessing:
May God watch over us all when we are apart. May God bless you and keep you.
May God’s face shine on you and be kind to you. May the grace of Jesus be with all of us! Amen.

(Based on Genesis 31:49, Numbers 6:24–25, Revelation 22:21)

Sharing Faith at Home
Share the Scripture with your child by reading it aloud at bedtime and talking about its meaning.
Discussion starter: What do you remember learning in class this year?

How Three- and Four-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson,
by Joseph White, Ph.D.

For many preschool children, there is often little ritual or closure regarding goodbyes. Very often, with the exception of close family members, people come in and out of their lives at times that might seem random to young children. As they spend more time with peers and expand their social circles beyond the home, it is helpful to ritualize these transition times so that children may celebrate the time they have had together and recognize when this time is coming to an end.

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Pray this prayer as a family.

Heavenly Father, thank you for our friends and family. Please bless us as we grow in your love.
Amen.

Through the Week
Revisit pictures with your child of her or his friends and recall the friendships and good times spent together.

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. When a class or a fun time together is over, what do friends have to say to each other? (Goodbye)
2. Can friends still be friends even when they can’t be together? (Yes)

What Have You Learned This Year?
Color the things that you have learned about this year.

Saint of the Week
Mary MacKillop (1842–1909)
Feast Day: August 8

Did you know?
Mary, who was born in Australia, always prayed to God before making decisions. She devoted her life to running schools for poor children, including the native Australians, who are called “Aborigines.”

Saint Mary, pray for us!