

6 YEAR OLDS

MODULE 1 (GOD IS OUR FATHER)

Lesson 3 (Thanking God Our Father)

AIMS

1. Children learn that they should thank God their Father in Heaven for His good gifts
2. They will practice thanking God for His gifts.
3. They will observe that some of God's gifts come to them via other people.

PREPARATION

1. Prepare a little gift box containing a small gift for each child (e.g. stickers, a holy picture or even a sweet). Wrap the box in pretty paper with a bow.
2. You will need scissors and glue for each child.
3. Copy and cut up the sentence strips in the Children's Packs. You need about 6 sentence strips for each child.
4. Optional: "God Father, praise and glory," *Adoremus Hymnal*, #464

STEP 1

1. Pray the Our Father together. Note those who are making progress and assist those who need it.
2. Show them the gift box and explain that in this lesson they are going to learn about receiving gifts.

STEP 2

1. Read the Special Paragraphs with the children.
2. Tell the children to think back to their last birthdays. Ask them if they received anything from their family, and friends. Ask them why these people gave them presents. Did they have to do that? Or did they give the gifts out of love? Did the children say anything when they received their gifts? Of course they did; it's only good manners to say "thank you" when you receive a gift!
3. Pass the gift box around to a number of students and have each of them practice saying "thank you." Explain that just as they thank their families and friends for the good things they give them, they must also use good manners with God, their Heavenly Father. For the many good gifts He has given out of love, they must say "thank You."
4. Ask the children if God's gifts come in pretty packages like the one in the classroom. Obviously they do not. However, tell the children that for this reason they must be ever alert for God's gifts - they can come when least expected. And they should not take them for granted just because they do not have a big, beautiful bow on them, or shiny wrapping paper.

5. Ask a student to give the gift box to another child whom you specify. Point out to the class that the gift went to the child by way of another child. Tell them that some of God's gifts are given in that way, not directly, but through other people. For example, God gave them parents who in turn give them food, clothes, a home, love, education, etc.
6. Remind the children that in the last lesson they made a list of many of the good things God has given to His creatures. Point to or pass out a copy of this list and read it with the children. Tell them that they should thank God for all of these gifts.

REINFORCE

1. Pass out a prepared sentence strip to every child. Using your own sentence strip, demonstrate how to complete the sentence:
"God gave us _____"
Direct them to fill in the blank on their own sentence strip; assist any that may need help.
2. When they are finished, teach the children this response: "We thank You God our Father! ", then ask each child to read his sentence strip, and help all the children to say the response. When every child has had a turn, direct the students to take their sentence strips home and share what they have learned with their parents.
3. Play a memory game based on what was observed during the last lesson outside. Give an example, such as: "God made trees; thank You, God." Explain that the first child you call on will repeat what you have said and add another gift. For instance: "God made trees and squirrels; thank You, God." The next child will repeat the first two gifts, and add a third, and so on, until each child has had a turn. They may need help as the list grows in length.
4. Continue learning the Our Father by setting the Our Father project in the Children's Packs. The children cut out the words at the bottom of the page and paste them in the right places.

CONCLUDE

1. Pass out a gift to each child from the gift box, perhaps a holy card or a sticker or even a sweet.
2. Have pairs of students continue memorizing the Catechism answers to Questions 1, 2, and 3
3. Optional: explain that in addition to thanking God for all He has given us, they can also tell Him how wonderful He is in song. Then sing, "God Father, praise and glory" *Adoremus Hymnal*, #464.

PREVIEW

We will learn to talk to God our Father in our own words.