

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Module 1	God is Our Father
Lesson 1	We have a Father in Heaven

AIMS

1. Students will be able to identify a good father as the source of life and provider of good things.
2. They will be able to explain that God is our perfect Father in Heaven who made each of us out of love.
3. They will begin to learn the Lord's Prayer.

PREPARATION

1. Make sure you preview the lesson before attempting to teach it.
2. Print out a children's pack for each child.
3. You will need a blackboard or something suitable on which to write the children's answers.
4. Cut a piece of card and write "GOD" on it in large letters.
5. You will need something small and valuable, such as a key for Step 5.
6. It may be worth considering laminating the Our Father.
7. Optional: "God Father, praise and glory," *Adoremus Hymnal*, #464
8. A word of caution: Sadly, in today's world many children will not have a father who they can relate too. You will need to be sensitive to this when delivering this lesson.

STEP 1

1. Have the children turn to the cartoon of the man with his child and ask the students whether:
 - a. they know who these people are
 - b. they think that the man and the child know each other
 - c. they think the man and child are friends or related to each other
 - d. they think the man is the child's father
2. Point out the love the father shows toward the child and how trusting the child is toward the father.

STEP 2

Read the "Special Paragraph" with the students. Explain that God is the Father of everyone. It is God who is the "giver of life." Write the word "Father" on the board and point out to the children that when anyone refers to God as Father, he uses a capital letter. This signifies that He is the perfect Father of all, even of all earthly fathers; this is because everyone is His child.

STEP 3

Explain that fathers care very much for their children. They give their children life and then

care for them as they grow up. They give their children only those things that are good for them. Have the students give examples of things that their fathers have given to them for their good. Make a list of their examples on the board. Save the list of good things on the board to use with the next lesson

STEP 5

1. Ask the children to look at the painting in their packs. Ask them if they know who this is supposed to represent. Explain that there is someone who is Father of everyone in the world; everyone in the world has the same Father. Ask whether or not they know who this someone is. Have the children hold up the “God flash card” in their packs and have them look at the painting representing God the Father and read the flash card with the children. Tell them that God lives in Heaven.
2. Tell the students that God made them because He loves them. He did not need to make them; He created them out of love, and He continuously loves and cares for His creatures. He made everything in the world just for man because He wants His children to be happy. He gives His children things for their good everyday. Explain that all of the good things in their lives are God’s gifts to them.

REINFORCE

1. God’s love is greater than anyone else’s love. Read Is 49:16. Use their bibles for this if they have them; otherwise use the “Scripture Quote” in their packs. God assures His people that He will never forget them. He says, “Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands.” Demonstrate (or have the children demonstrate) how safe something is when placed in the palm of the hand - use a small object such as a marble, a key, or a piece of chalk. Let them imagine how much safer they are in God’s care since they are not only in His palm but carved on it, for this is the meaning of the word graven. Compare this to the way in which parents hold a newborn baby - cradled and therefore protected in their arms.
2. Have the children draw themselves in the palm of God’s hand, using the template provided in the children’s pack. Be sure to emphasize that this is an image from the Bible. NB Use larger sheets of paper if you judge that this would be more practical. In addition and optionally, teach the children to sing: “God Father, praise and glory” *Adoremus Hymnal, #464*

CONCLUDE

1. Practice the answers to questions 1 and 2 on the “Catechism Question and Answers” sheet with all the children. You should read both the question and the answer while the children listen. Then ask the question and have one child give the proper answer. Separate the students into pairs and give them a little time to practice the answers.
2. Read the Our Father (Mt 6:9-13) from your children’s Bible, and then begin teaching the Our Father to the students. Practice each day. Give the children a copy of the Our Father and ask them to practice it.

PREVIEW

Tell the children that next time we will observe and explore the natural world that God made and gave to us, as well as some of His other gifts to us.