

CALL to FAITH

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

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Unit 2
Chapter 4

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Chapter Four *Call to Faith* Parent Handout

Pencils

Crayons

Blank piece of white paper (one per child)

Trust in God activity sheet (one per child)

Trusting God with Our Prayers activity sheet (one per child)

For the opening prayer:

- Bible (Psalm 103)
- Small table covered with a table cloth
- Crucifix

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer

10 mins.

Conversation One

15 mins.

Conversation Two

15 mins.

Conversation Three

15 mins.

Closing

5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts on the table until you are ready to begin the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER **10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and the children. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time to talk about God our loving and caring Father. He loves us and takes care of us always.

Prayer

In place of the Prayer in the Student or Parish Edition, use the following prayer:

Gather participants in the prayer space.

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Read Psalm 103:13 (or invite one of the parents to read it).

Let us pray for all our family members, those who live with us and all those around the world who believe in Jesus. You can say your prayer aloud or in your heart.

Let us pray for our own family.

What shall we ask God our Father for them? (Pause; allow children to speak their petitions.)

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Let us pray for families who live in places where there is not enough food or water.

What shall we ask God our Father for them? (Pause; allow children to speak their petitions.)

Sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

Close with the Sign of the Cross.

Conversation One

15 mins.

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their book to page 67 (page 77 in School Edition) and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1 and 2**. Make sure each child has a *Trust in God* activity sheet.

Conversation Two

15 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn in their book to page 68 (page 78 in School Edition) and their handout to page 2.
2. Ask them to **complete steps 3-6**. Make sure each student has supplies to create their "I will never forget you" poster.

Conversation Three

15 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn in their book to pages 70 and 71 (pages 80 and 81 in School Edition) and their handout to page 3.
2. Invite them to **complete steps 7-10**. Make sure each child has a *Trusting God with Our Prayers* activity sheet.

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page (page 4 in handout). Thank parents and children for their participation and say that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the *Asking Prayer* from page 72 (page 84 in School Edition).

COACHING PLAN

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Begins on page 67
(page 77 in School
Edition)

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your son/daughter! Talking about faith with your child at any age is important. Your child needs to see you model your faith as he/she continues along the journey of faith.

This session invites us to explore our understanding of God the Father. God as Father is a frequent theme through the Scriptures. God reveals himself as the father of the Israelite people. The Israelites understand themselves as God’s children. In the New Testament, Jesus helps us to imagine something even more—an image of God as “Abba.” Abba was an endearing term for father, something like our word, “Dad.” In doing so, Jesus invites all God’s people into an intimate relationship with his Father.

As parents or caregivers, we know that good parents go to great lengths to protect their children and are willing to sacrifice most anything to meet their children’s needs. God, our heavenly Father, loves his children unconditionally. He invites his children to rely on him, to trust in him as a loving father. He invites them to experience the depth of his love.

1. Describe to your child two or three positive characteristics about your own parents. Then read *Let’s Begin* on page 67 (page 77 in School Edition).
2. Take turns sharing your responses to the question: Who loves you?
3. Read together the *Trust in God* activity sheet. Discuss with your child: Who are some of the people you trust and who trust you?

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Conversation Two

3. Talk together about the focus question on page 68 (page 78 in School Edition): How does God care for you?
(Possible responses: he blesses us with people who love us; he listens to us when we pray to him.)
4. Read together page 68 (page 78 in School Edition). Discuss with your child: What do you think Father John's home for children was like? *(Possible responses: the children were fed and clothed, they played games and laughed together, they spent time in prayer thanking God for taking care of them, etc.)*.
5. Turn to page 69 (page 79 in School Edition) and read together *Words of Faith* and *God the Father*.
6. Help children to trace your hand on a blank piece of paper. Have you ever considered that your hands are the hands of God for children? It is through your hands, words, and actions that they come to know that they are loved and valued. Write at the top of the page "I will never forget you." In the middle of the hand drawing, have them write their name, then beside each finger help them to name and write a way that they know God cares for them.

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Conversation Three

7. Talk with your child about the difference between need and want.

A need is something essential to survival and healthy living: air, water, love, food, friends, shelter.

A want is something people may desire, but that they could live without and have no harm come to them. For example, often children wants toys or to go places that they would enjoy but do not need.

8. Turn to page 70 (page 80 in School Edition) and remind your child that God's word is so special that we can hear God speak right to our own hearts. Read the Scripture story. Ask your child to describe the story back to you. Discuss with your child: How do adults/parents take care of children's needs? (*Possible responses: they help children get to school on time; they provide food and clothing; they hug us and tell us they love us*).
9. Now turn to page 71 (page 81 in School Edition) and read together *Words of Faith and Trust in God*.
10. Take out the *Trusting God with Our Prayers* activity sheet and work with your child to complete it.

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For Home

1. Read Matthew 6:19-21 and talk together about what Jesus says is the real treasure.
2. Work together to complete the prayer chain found in the *Live Your Faith* section on page 74 (page 86 in School Edition).
3. Read together *People of Faith* on page 74 (page 86 in School Edition). Close by praying the *Family Prayer*.

Trust in God



Focus

What does it mean to have trust?

When you love or respect someone, you have trust in that person. You believe that the person will do what is best for you. You know you can depend on that person in good times and bad times.

You can trust

- family members to love you and take care of you
- your friends to play fair and treat you kindly
- teachers to help you learn
- crossing guards and police officers to protect you
- members of your parish family to help you grow closer to God.

Sometimes, people you trust may let you down, even though they do not mean to. But you can always depend on God. You are his child. He is with you every day. You can trust God to love you, to care for you, and to give you what you need.

- ?** Who are some of the people you trust? Who are some of the people who trust you?

Grade 2

Name _____ Date _____

Trusting God with Our Prayers

Name some people, places, or problems that need prayers and begin with the letters in the word FATHER. Trust God the Father to listen to your prayers.

