

# Lesson Plan for Lesson 5

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## God Our Father

### Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 5, “God Our Father,” in the handbook.
- Gather Bibles, one for each participant.
- Make copies of the handout “Responding to Mystery” (Document #: TX003369), one for each young person.

### Pray It! (5 minutes)

**Direct** the participants to turn to page 449 in the handbook. **Lead** them in the Sign of the Cross, and **invite** them to pray the Apostles’ Creed together.

### Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

#### A. The Trinity: One God, Three Persons

1. **Direct** the participants to form pairs, and **explain** that they are to share with each other the reasons they have for believing in God and how they would describe God. **Ask** volunteers to share what they heard.
2. **Direct** the young people to read the chapter introduction and the section “The Trinity: One God, Three Persons,” on pages 55–58 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 through 3 on the handout “Lesson 5 Summary” (Document #: TX003368).
3. **(Optional) Invite** the participants to draw a picture of something that symbolizes God for them and to explain the meaning of their drawing with the group.

#### B. The Father Almighty

1. **Direct** the young people to form six groups, and **assign** each group one of the following Scripture passages: 2 Samuel 22:1–4, Psalm 131, Wisdom 7:24–26, Isaiah 61:7, Hosea 11:1–4, John 10:1–18. **Instruct** the groups to look up and read their passage and decipher what image is being used to depict God. **Ask** the groups to share what they discovered. **Write** the images they share on the board.
2. **Direct** the young people to read the sections “The Father Almighty” and “Creator of Heaven and Earth,” on pages 58–60 in the handbook. The content covers points 4 through 7 on the handout “Lesson 5 Summary.”
3. **(Optional) Ask** the participants to reflect on the following question: What does it mean when we say God is love? **Invite** volunteers to share their answers.



## C. God is Truth and Love

**Direct** the participants to read the section “God Is Truth and Love,” on pages 61–62 in the handbook.

*Note:* If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

### Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Distribute** the handout “Responding to Mystery” (Document #: TX003369) to the participants and **ask** them to read the questions and circle one of the two answer options for each. After they have answered the questions, **read** each question and its answer options aloud, asking first for those young people who chose option A to raise their hands, and then for those who chose option B to raise their hands. **Explain** that those who chose the same option should group together and share their reasons with at least one other person in the group. **Continue** in this manner for each question, having the participants regroup for each according to their answers, until you have gone through all five questions.
2. **Ask** the young people to form pairs, and with their partners to define *mystery*. **Invite** a few volunteers to share their definitions with the rest of the class. Then **ask** the participants to think about the question, What are some mysteries of our faith? Again, **ask** for volunteers to respond. (If the young people need help, give examples such as these: How can God exist in three Persons? What is the nature of God? Why were we created?)
3. **Share** the following comments in your own words:
  - When we talk about “mystery” in relation to our faith, we are talking about a great truth that God has revealed through Scripture and Tradition. We cannot arrive at this truth through reason alone. The mysteries of our faith are not beyond our ability to comprehend, but they are so “big” that we will never fully understand them in this life.
  - The Trinity is the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons. It is the central mystery of the Christian faith. We call it a mystery because it cannot be understood only by reason—God alone can make it known to us.
  - The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not three Gods, but one God in three Divine Persons. To use philosophical terms, they share the same “substance” or “essence.” Yet the three are also distinct from one another.
  - The Trinity teaches us that God is not solitary but exists as a communion of Persons united in perfect harmony.
  - Jesus is God the Father’s Divine Son, who has existed with the Father for all eternity. When Jesus Christ took on human nature, he was able to reveal his Father to us in the way that only a child can speak about a parent.
  - Although Catholics honor in a special way the image of God as loving Father, we recognize that any human image we have of God is incomplete.



## Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, **ask** a volunteer to read 1 John 4:7–12. Then **pray** the Collect for Trinity Sunday from the *Roman Missal*, which appears in the Pray It! sidebar on page 57 in the handbook. Close by **inviting** everyone to pray the Glory Be together.

