

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name.
 Your Kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those who sin
 against us.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.



When the apostles asked Jesus how they should pray, he gave them the words of the Our Father Read about it in Matthew 6: 39-13

Hail Mary, Full of Grace,
 The Lord is with thee.
 Blessed art thou among women,
 and blessed is the fruit
 of thy womb, Jesus.
 Holy Mary, Mother of God,
 pray for us sinners now,
 and at the hour of death. Amen.

The Hail Mary uses the same words that the angel Gabriel did when he told Mary she would be Jesus' mother. This prayer also included the words Mary's cousin Elizabeth said when Mary visited Elizabeth. Read about it in Luke 1:28, 42

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end AMEN

The LORD is my shepherd!

Psalm 23

I will have everything that I need.
 A good shepherd takes care of his sheep.
 He brings them to rest in green meadows,
 and he leads them to drink
 cool water from quiet streams.
 God will take care of me just as well.



He shows me
 the right way to go,
 so all the world will see how good God is.
 A good shepherd watches over his sheep.
 He reaches out with his staff
 and pulls them away from trouble,
 and with his rod he protects them from danger.

So even when things look dark and scary,
 I will not be afraid, because God is with me.

When trouble seems to be all around,
 God is making sure I am well fed.
 I am his special guest.

His goodness and forgiveness
 will be with me all of my life,
 and I will live with him forever.

AT HOME WITH GOD

Getting to know God together



*Ordinary ways to find God
 in your ordinary days*

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Give it a go . . .

Your child's years in primary school are a chance to give the "God thing" another go. By finding God alongside your child you have an opportunity to look at your faith through adult eyes and to find God in new and surprising ways.

This might seem a bit daunting: we have separated out "holy" and "ordinary" so well that we could be tempted to leave faith and God to the 'experts' without realising that what we have is enough. God is at home with us: through us, our children will experience the presence of a loving God in their lives.

A story to help . . .

A little boy awakens in the middle of the night, frightened by the sound of thunder rattling overhead. He begins to cry. His mum, (or dad) hearing his sobs, comes into his bedroom. She asks him, "What's wrong, pet?"

"I'm scared. I don't like that big noise."

"It's OK to be scared but you are in your own house. You are safe and God is all around."

The little boy wipes his eyes on his sleeve, saying through his tears, "I know that God is all around but right now I need a God with skin."

God with skin: this child's expression captures something of what we call the Body of Christ. You are Christ's Body! St Paul's words to the Corinthians are addressed to you, You were joined with Christ in your baptism; you are a sign of God's love in your house; God is at home with you.



But I have so many questions?

. . . . As children we think that the world is simple, black and white. We believe that for every question there is an answer. When we grow up, we realise that life is more complicated, a simple answer is often hard to find.

What we may not appreciate is that most people have questions about God. Questions are healthy. God is huge. Faith is not certainty. It is getting to know God; it is trusting that God will be with you through life's ups and downs.

Getting to know a God you can trust

It's hard to trust a stranger. One of the ways of getting to know God is through Jesus, by reading the gospels. Read to your little girl/boy: children's stories are a great way of getting to the heart of the gospels quickly.



You can go further by imagining yourself in the story as you read. Imagine that you are the one who is meeting Jesus. See the story play out in your mind as if you were watching it on TV. Jesus is with you as you read; this is one way - used for centuries in the Church - of helping you tap into that presence, to make it more "real" for you.

Ideas to help

Reading

Snuggle up and read a story from a children's bible. It only takes a few minutes and can be a cosy and very natural way of spending time together.

Talking to God

At the end of the day, remember the good things you said and did, the kind people you met, something beautiful or unusual that you saw. Say thank you to God for it.

Asking for God's help

"O God, if you bring me lots of good stuff tomorrow, I promise not to do anything bad between now and when I wake up."

Bart Simpson's prayer reminds us that sometimes we talk to a God who will give us what we ask for, if we are good. It is a childish kind of prayer: God is not Santa Claus. Better that prayer with your child is about knowing that no matter what happens in any day, God is there.



**God, you are listening
This is my prayer
Let me know
you are with me
Everywhere
AMEN**