

God's Providence

Let Us Pray

Leader: Gracious God, we thank you for caring for and guiding us.

“I will instruct you and show you the way
you should walk,
give you counsel with my eye upon you.”

Psalm 32:8

All: God our Father, your great love for us never ends.
We trust that following your plan for us will bring
us happiness and peace. Amen.

Scripture

“For [God] spoke and it came to be,
commanded, and it stood in place.

But the plan of the LORD stands forever,
the designs of his heart through all generations.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people chosen as his inheritance.”

Psalm 33:9, 11–12

What Do You Wonder?

- How many things did God create that we don't even know about?
- How do you know God's plan?

God's Creation

What did God say about all that he had made?

The world is something like a kaleidoscope. Its complex patterns and movements give clues to God's amazing plan for creation. This Scripture account teaches us about God and his creation.



Scripture

The Story of Creation

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland. It was completely dark. A mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." God saw that it was good. This was the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters." God made the dome. It separated the water above from the water below. God called the dome "the sky." God saw that it was good. This was the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin." The water was gathered into a single basin and dry land appeared. God called the dry land "earth." He called the water "the sea." God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let there be plants, and trees of every kind." The earth brought forth every kind of plant and every kind of fruit tree. God saw that it was good. This was the third day.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night." God made two great lights. He made the sun for the day and the moon for the night. Then God made the stars. God saw that it was good. This was the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the seas be filled with living creatures and the sky with flying birds." God created all kinds of swimming creatures and all kinds of birds. God saw that it was good. This was the fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth be filled with all kinds of living creatures." God made wild animals, cattle, and all kinds of creeping things. God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let there be people, made in my own image and likeness." God created people, a man and a woman. He blessed them and told them to take care of the earth, the seas, and all the plants and living creatures. God looked at everything he made and saw that it was very good! This was the sixth day.

After God had finished creating the world, he rested. He blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

Based on Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3



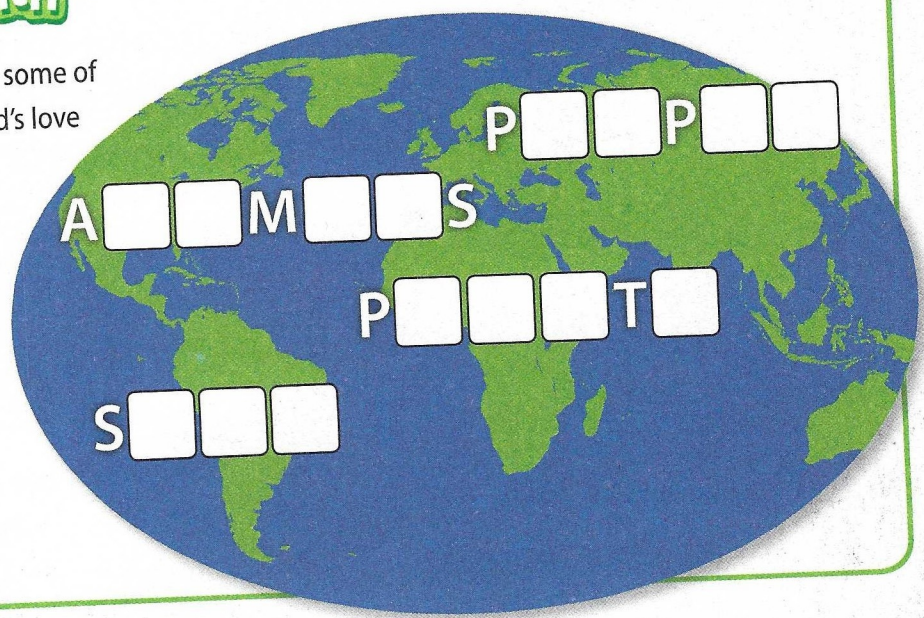
1. Circle the word *good* every time it appears in the Scripture passage.
2. Tell what you learned about God from this Scripture passage.

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Share Your Faith

Reflect On the globe, fill in some of the ways the world shows God's love and care for his creation.

Share Talk about some of these ways with a partner.



A Plan of Loving Goodness

How does God reveal his plan to us?

From the beginning, God has had a loving plan for all creation. As God's plan unfolds, he keeps everyone and everything in his loving care. This is called **providence**. God has a plan for you and for everyone.

Once, long before Jesus was born, there was a young man who lived in the tiny kingdom of Judah, where the nation of Israel is today. His name was Jeremiah, which means "the Lord raises up." Jeremiah was called by God to speak the truth to his people in a time of great danger. They had lost their way and were being invaded by powerful nations. This is how Jeremiah remembered God calling him.

Catholic Faith Words

providence God's loving care for all things; God's will and plan for creation



Scripture

The Call of Jeremiah

The word of the LORD came to me:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

"Ah, Lord God!" I said,

"I do not know how to speak. I am too young!"

But the LORD answered me,

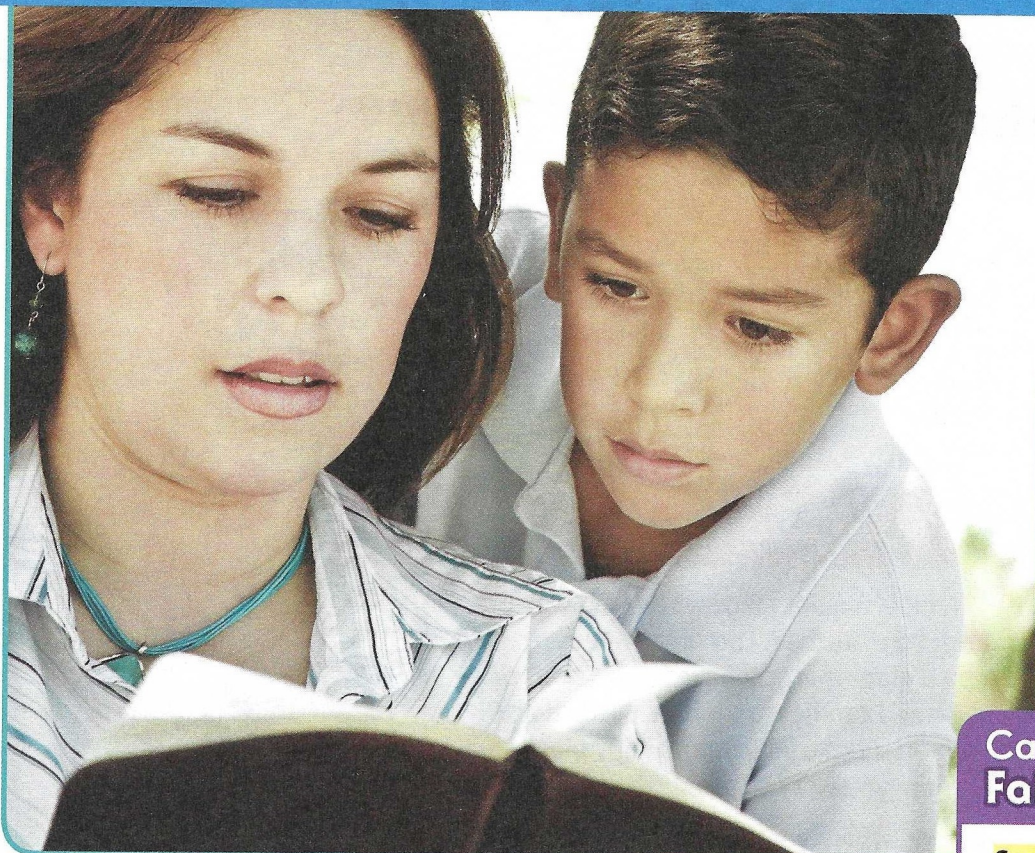
Do not say, "I am too young."

To whomever I send you, you shall go;
whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you.

Jeremiah 1:4-8

- ➔ When have you felt that God wanted you to do something or to make a certain choice?
- ➔ How did you know?



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Jeremiah answered God's call, or command, and followed his plan. The story of Jeremiah is in the Old Testament of the Bible. The Bible, also called **Sacred Scripture**, is God's Word written in human words. There are many more stories in the Old Testament that can show you how others have followed God's plan.

Then, in the New Testament, you can see God's Son, Jesus, answering his Father's call perfectly. Through Jesus, you can learn how you are to respond to God's plan for you. The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sent to the Church, will help you.

God's Revelation

God has made himself known gradually throughout history by words and deeds and in the experience of people. The way God shares the truth about himself and his plan is called **Divine Revelation**. Revelation is found in Sacred Scripture and in the **Sacred Tradition** of the Church.

Catholic Faith Words

Sacred Scripture another name for the Bible; Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God written by humans

Divine Revelation the way God makes himself, and his plan for humans, known to us

Sacred Tradition God's Word to the Church, safeguarded by the Apostles and their successors, the bishops, and handed down verbally—in her creeds, Sacraments, and other teachings—to future generations

Connect Your Faith

Define Providence Explain *providence* in your own words.

Our Catholic Life

Where do you pray?

Prayer is talking and listening to God. It is raising your mind and heart to God. Prayer helps you learn about

God's plan for you. Quiet time and a special place make it easier to think and pray. A prayer space is a place you can go to feel close to God.



Add your ideas in the spaces provided.

Make Your Own Prayer Space

1. Find a Space

Think of a quiet place where you will not be disturbed. The space needs to be a place that you have permission to use and can get to by yourself. It can be in your home, your yard, or any place where you will feel safe.

Name where your space would be.



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2. Prepare the Space

After you choose a prayer space, decide how you want to prepare it. If you are indoors, you might want to close the curtains or blinds, allowing only soft light. Perhaps you would like to add a religious picture, a cross, or an object from nature to help you quiet your mind and focus.

3. Prepare Yourself

Be sure to prepare yourself for prayer. Focus your eyes and listen to your breathing. Remember that God breathed his life into you when you were created. Think about a story of Jesus from the Bible, or imagine that he is sitting there with you.

Tell which story might help you prepare yourself best.

4. Pray

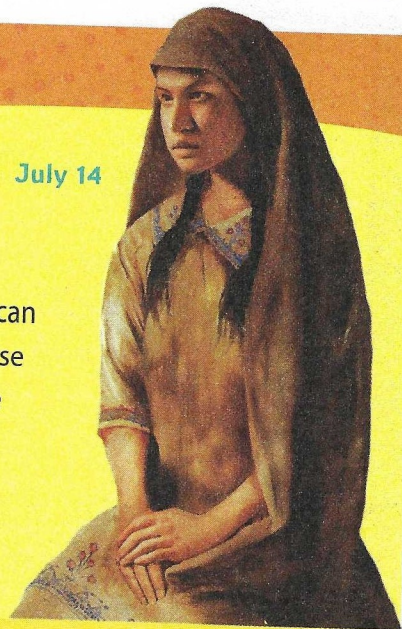
Pray from your heart. Listen for God. Give thanks to him for his constant presence in your life. If you start to think of something else, remind yourself that this is a time for prayer, and go back to thinking about God.

People of Faith

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, 1656–1680

July 14

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha's father was a Mohawk warrior. Her mother was an Algonquian woman who was Christian. Kateri is the first Native American to be canonized. She learned about Jesus from Jesuit missionaries. Because she lived so close to nature and found God in the natural world, she is the patron of ecology, nature, and the environment. Kateri often spent time praying in the woods, where she would talk to God. She would hear him in her heart and through the wonders of creation. One of her titles is the "Lily of the Mohawks."



Discuss: What in nature reminds you of God?

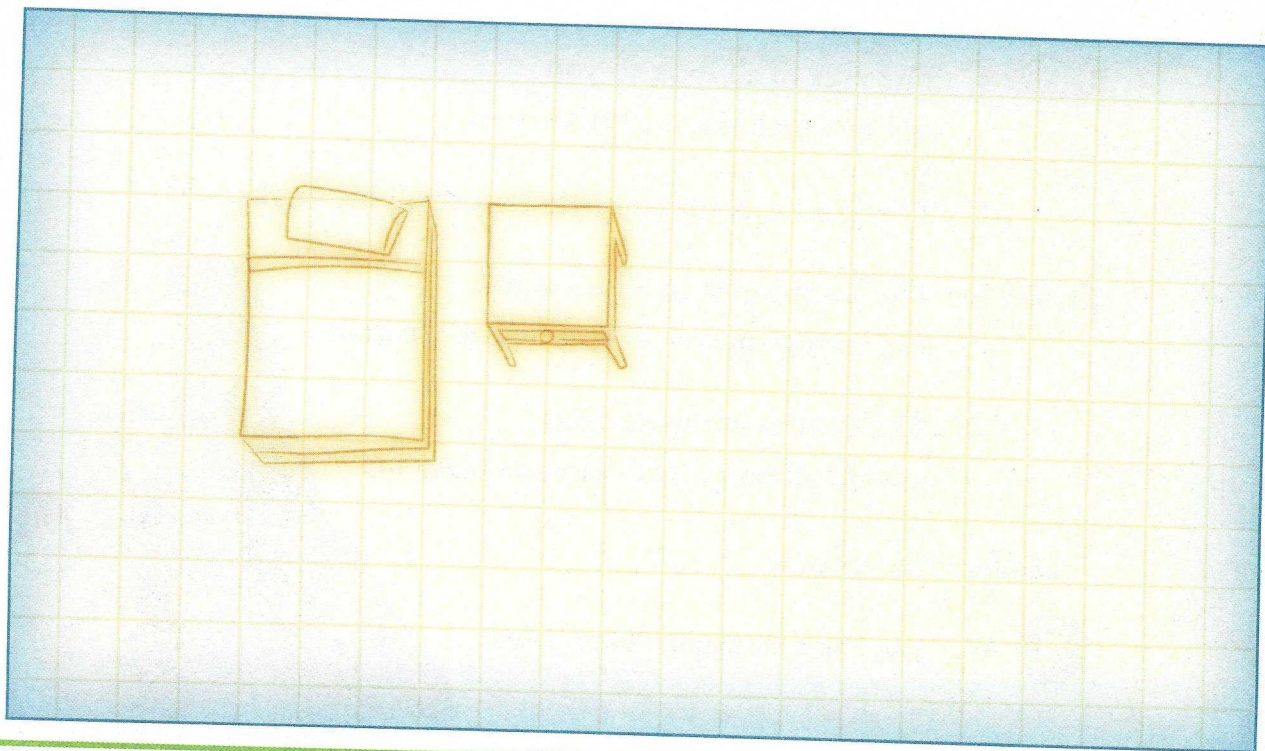


Learn more about Saint Kateri at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Design a prayer space for your room. What would be important to have in this space?

Identify three things on your sketch.



 Let Us Pray

Psalm Prayer of Praise

This prayer, taken from the Book of Psalms in the Bible, is a prayer of praise. We give praise to our loving and compassionate God, who is more than we can ever imagine.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Compassionate God, we praise you for your wondrous works, your kindness and love, your marvelous plan for your creation.

Reader 1: The Lord is gracious and compassionate, filled with great kindness and rich in love.

Reader 2: The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

All: The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

Reader 3: Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your holy People bless you.

Reader 4: The eyes of all look to you and you give them all they need.

All: The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

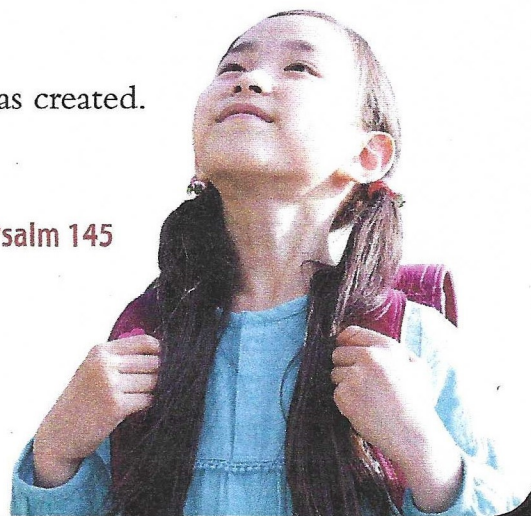
Reader 5: The Lord is just in all his ways and loving toward all that he has created.

All: The Lord is compassionate toward all his works. **Based on Psalm 145**

Leader: Let us pray.



All: Sing "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"



YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains that God reveals himself through Sacred Scripture and the Sacred Tradition of the Church.

Scripture



Read **Psalm 25:1–2a, 4–5** to find out about God’s plan for us.

Catholics Believe

- God loves and cares for all creation and has a plan for the world.
- Everything God wants you to know about him is contained in Scripture and in the Tradition of the Church.

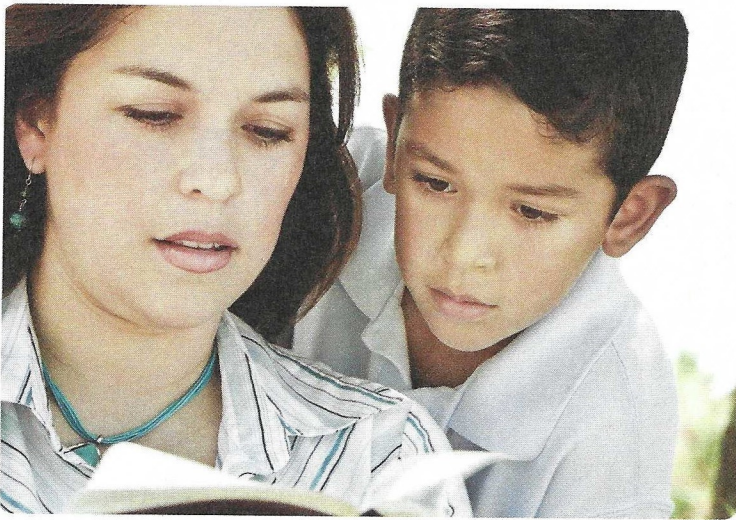
To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #80–83, 302–308 at uscgb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, a patron of ecology and the first Native American to be canonized.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand God’s Plan The logical nature of children’s thinking at this age leads them to a sensible conclusion about God’s creation: If God made everything, then he made everything for a reason. It’s helpful to talk with your child about the purpose behind created things and especially the idea that he or she is made for a unique purpose as well.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Do you ever wonder about God’s plan for you?

You are God’s greatest creation because he has created you in his image. He created you with a plan and purpose for your life. As Catholics, we know that “God guides his creation toward its completion or perfection through what we call his *Divine Providence*. This means that God has absolute sovereignty over all that he has made and guides his creation according to the divine plan of his will” (*USCCA, p. 56*).

LET’S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to tell you the Bible account of creation in his or her own words.
- Share a way that God has made himself known to you recently.

LET’S PRAY >>>



O God, help us to learn to know and love you through your creation as Saint Kateri did. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 1 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle next to the answer that best completes each statement.

1. God's plan for _____ is revealed gradually.
 the Bible
 creation
 animals
2. People experience God _____.
 throughout their lives
 only after death
 never
3. God's plan for everything that exists _____.
 continues today
 is finished
 has not started
4. God's loving care and plan for all creation is called _____.
 Scripture
 Tradition
 providence
5. Jesus always _____ God the Father's plan for him.
 ignored
 followed
 changed

B Check Understanding Complete the following statements.

6. God's Divine Revelation is found in Sacred Scripture and _____.
7. _____ is the inspired Word of God written in human words.
8. _____ is the way God makes himself, and his plan for humans, known to us.
9. Prayer is _____ and listening to God.
10. _____ involves raising your heart and mind to God.

