

# My Family

## Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

### Lesson 5, ages 3-4

#### Lesson 5 Goal

- Your child will learn about families and will talk about who is in your family.

#### Key Points

- Families are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and sometimes other people who live with us and love us.
- God gives us families to love us and take care of us.



#### Parent Reflection

Pope Saint John Paul II said, “As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the world in which we live.” Sadly, the family faces many threats in today’s world. These threats include the tendency to value material goods more than people; the constant busyness that causes us to spend less time together and form fewer close relationships; the cheapening of God’s great gift of sexuality in entertainment media; a moral relativism that we should be guided by how we feel rather than any truths about what is right and what is wrong; and an increasing secularism that says faith and daily life are separate and unrelated domains.

Still, the Pope’s statement can fill us with *great hope* in knowing that the family is the key to the future of our world. Catholic tradition calls the family “*the domestic Church*” for it is the smallest unit of the Christian community, and where our faith is formed and expressed. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2205) states that “the Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.” God reveals himself to us as a family—Father, Son, and Spirit—and as we grow in grace and in love for one another, we become visible signs of God to the world.

#### Reflection Question

In what ways do we as a family teach one another about love?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- drawing paper

- Lesson 5 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

### Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“God our Father, we thank you for our family. Thank you for our Church family, too. Amen.”*

## Discovering

**The Holy Family.** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about the Holy Family.

Ask, “How is our family like the Holy Family?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

**1. Who Is Obeying Their Parents?** Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child a

crayon or colored pencil. Explain the activity and have your child complete it. Talk with your child about what is happening in the pictures.

**2. People in My Family.** Invite your child to draw the people in your family and others who care for him or her. Talk with your child about each person in the picture. Have your child name one specific way each person shows him or her love.

**3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Isidore the Farmer.** Show your child the picture of Saint Isidore on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Isidore the Farmer to your child (see page 3).

Ask, “What could you give up each day to make a little time for God?”

Have your child draw about Saint Isidore the Farmer using the Lesson 5 Activity Master.

## Sending

**Pray with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

*“Thank you, Jesus, for your Holy Family. Please keep our families holy and safe. Amen.”*

## Saint Isidore the Farmer

### Making Time for God

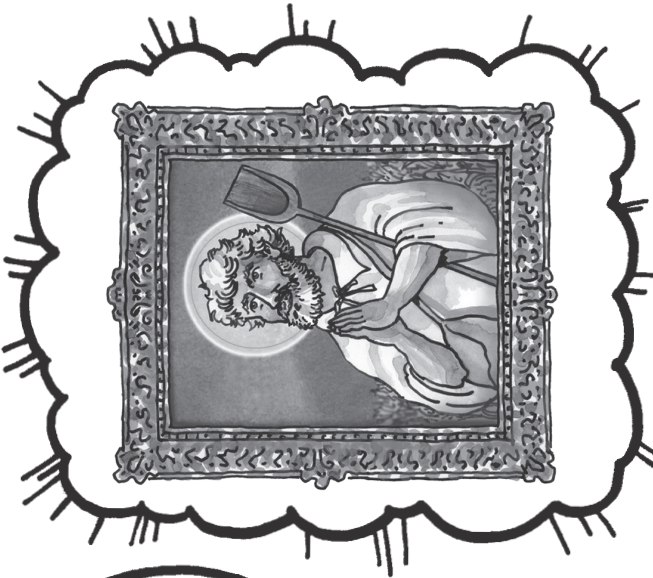
Isidore was a hard-working farmer in Spain. His wife, Mary, helped on the farm. She also cleaned churches and helped the poor. When their young son died, Isidore and Mary believed that God did not want them to be parents. They decided to put their love and attention toward God instead.

They wanted to honor God. Every day Isidore would plow the fields. Then he would stop his work and go to church to pray. This made the

other farmworkers angry. They thought Isidore was being lazy! "Why is he leaving all the work for us to do?" they cried.

The workers complained to the master, who owned the farm. They hoped that Isidore would get in trouble. But when the master went down to the fields to see for himself, he was surprised! The field wasn't empty! There were angels plowing the fields for Isidore! God had rewarded Isidore for honoring him through prayer.

**DRAW**



**Saint  
Isidore the  
Farmer,  
pray for us!**