Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, . . . ".

—Genesis 7:1a

Noah built an ark,
Tap, tap, tap went the hammer.
Because God said he should,
Tap, tap, tap went the hammer.
Two-by-two the animals came,
Tap, tap, tap went the hammer.
And when it was done,
Tap, tap, tap went the hammer.
God said it was good.
Tap, tap, tap went the hammer.

Dear Parents:
The story of Noah and the ark is appealing to children, especially the animals gathering two-by-two. Talk with your child about all the many kinds of creatures God has made.
and the dove came back to (Noah) in the evening, and lo, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf; . . .

—Genesis 8:11

Once I saw a little dove
Come hop, hop, hop;
So I cried, “Little dove,
Will you stop, stop, stop?”

Dear Parents:

Talk with your children about the kinds of birds seen around your home. Where do the birds live? What do they eat? How do they build their nests?
Rainbow, rainbow, in the sky,
your colors bright and true,
Tell us of God's promise
to make all things new.

Dear Parents:

Rainbow-like effects may appear in
glasses of water, waterspray from
fountains and hoses, or in lakes and
streams. Whenever you see a rainbow,
take the opportunity to talk about God's
promise to Noah.
Now the Lord said to (Abraham), ... And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, ...  
—Genesis 12:1a,2

Many are the children of Abraham, as many as the stars, and the grains of sand.

Dear Parents:
The daily time spent traveling to and from school and work offers an opportunity for quiet reflection. Consider using this time for conversation, telling stories from the Bible, and prayer.
God said (to Abraham), '... Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac.'

—Genesis 17:19a

Sarah had a baby boy, Isaac was his name.
Sarah laughed and smiled, And greeted him with joy.

Dear Parents:
Sarah's laughter was her praise to God.
Find time during each day to laugh and to share joy with your child.
And the child grew, . . . and she named him Moses, . . .

—Exodus 2:10a,b

Moses floated down the river in a basket dry. Until Pharaoh's daughter saw him drifting by.

Dear Parents:

Young children are often attracted to babies and find stories about them very appealing. Share a story with your child about his/her baby days.
And the angel of the Lord appeared to (Moses) in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; . . .

—Exodus 3:2

Go down, Moses, 'Way down in Egypt's land, Tell old Pharaoh, To let my people go.

—The Hymnal 1982, 648

Dear Parents:

Jewish families share the story of the Exodus with their children at Passover each year. The story is vital in our Christian heritage as well. Retell the Exodus account to your child.

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And Moses said to the people, "Remember this day, on which you came out of Egypt, . . ."

—*Exodus 13:3a*

The Lord told Moses what to do, to lead the children of Israel through the Red Sea waters.

Dear Parents:

Moses is the key figure in the *Book of Exodus*. Review some of the stories about him, and share one of them with your child.
All thy works shall give thanks to thee, O Lord, 
and all thy saints shall bless thee!
—Psalm 145:10

I sing a song of the saints of God, 
patient and brave and true, 
who toiled and fought and lived and died 
for the Lord they loved and knew.
—The Hymnal 1982, 293

Dear Parents:

All Saints' Day is one of the major 
celebrations of the Church Year. 
Individual saints' days are listed in The 
Look to see how many there are.
Dear Parents:

The custom of lighting the candles in an Advent wreath can be a special way of anticipating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent, and an additional candle is lit each succeeding Sunday until, in the fourth week, all are burning. The following is a prayer that may be used as the candles are lit.

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Baby lying in a manger. Amen.

—The Book of Occasional Services (Second Edition), 29
And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

—Luke 2:8

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

—The Hymnal 1982, 109

Dear Parents:

Children learn songs easily by singing and hearing them again and again. Spend some time singing and listening to traditional Christmas hymns with your children.

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What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

—*The Hymnal 1982*, 115

Dear Parents:

Nativity figures, suitable for young children to handle, can help to tell the Christmas story as it unfolds. Consider making or purchasing a set for your child.

Wind through the olive trees Softly did blow, Round little Bethlehem Long, long ago.

Sheep on the hillside lay Whiter than snow; Shepherds were watching them, Long, long ago.

Then from the happy sky, Angels bent low, Singing their songs of joy, Long, long ago.

For in a manger bed, Cradled, we know, Christ came to Bethlehem, Long, long ago.

—*Anonymous*
they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

—Matthew 2:11b

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him—give my heart.

—Christina Rossetti

Dear Parents:

The wise men are often included in the Christmas scene long before their actual arrival on the Feast of Epiphany, January 6. If your family has a set of nativity figures that include the wise men, place them across the room from the manger. Move the wise men closer and closer to the manger during the days after Christmas, celebrating their arrival on Epiphany.
It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;... 

—Mark 4:31

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

—The Hymnal 1982, 405

Dear Parents:

Planting seeds and caring for plants are good experiences for children. They can see in a concrete way God’s miracle of life and growth.
Ten silver coins tucked in a jar.
One rolled away. Oh, what a shame!
Oh look, one has returned.
Let us rejoice!

Dear Parents:

Remember a time when you or your child lost and then found something that was treasured. Share the feelings of sadness and delight that you experienced.

... 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which was lost.'

—Luke 15:9b
Shepherd, shepherd, watch your flock, count them one by one. Keep them safe within the fold, when the day is done.

Dear Parents:

Children may fear being lost or separated from their parents. The story of the shepherd, who searches everywhere until the lost lamb is found, is comforting and assures us of God’s love. Retell the story often.

...‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.’

—Luke 15:6b
Dear Parents:

Children see Jesus as a loving and caring friend. This idea is consistent with the image of a shepherd caring for sheep. Talk with your children about the love Jesus, our Good Shepherd, has for all of us.

Into your loving care,  
Into your keeping,  
God who is everywhere,  
Take us we pray.

—John 10:14

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dear Parents:

Family meals are wonderful opportunities to begin the practice of regular prayers with young children. A simple grace at meals, or spontaneous offerings of thanksgiving to God, can be shared at this time.
Be present at our table, Lord; 
Be here and everywhere adored. 
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we 
May feast in paradise with thee.

—John Wesley

Dear Parents:

The altar (Holy Table) is at the center 
of the Church’s sacred space. If possible, 
when worshiping with your children, sit 
where they have a view of the altar and 
can observe the preparations.
Bless, O Lord, your gifts to our use and us to your service; for Christ's sake. Amen.

— *The Book of Common Prayer*, 835

Dear Parents:

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized persons share in the bread and wine at Holy Communion. Practices may vary among dioceses and congregations.

*The Gifts of God for the People of God.*

— *The Book of Common Prayer*, 338; 364
Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to
the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

—The Hymnal 1982, 325 (alt.)

Dear Parents:

The word Eucharist could be translated “good grace.” It is like the word thanksgiving. Talk with your child about the service as a time for giving thanks to God.

... and be thankful.

—The Book of Common Prayer, 338
Thank you, God, for voices to sing, thank you for the bells we ring. Thank you, God, for songs of praise and faith to sing for all our days.

Dear Parents:

A number of musical settings are used for the Eucharist (Holy Communion). You may want to include your child in practicing some of the music most familiar to your congregation.
Dear Parents:

The events of Holy Week, especially Jesus’ death, can be disturbing to young children. A connection between the death of Christ and the Good News of Easter should always be made. Teach your child the Memorial Acclamation (on the front of this card) to help strengthen this link.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

—The Book of Common Prayer, 363
Then go quickly and tell (Jesus') disciples that he has risen from the dead, . . .
—Matthew 28:7a

The Lord of life is risen today!
Sing songs of praise along his way;
let all the earth rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

—The Hymnal 1982, 205

Dear Parents:

Enjoy the bunnies and colored eggs as a part of the Easter season. These symbols of springtime can be incorporated into our Christian celebrations, in gratitude for the new life we share in Jesus Christ.
The earth itself keeps Easter Day,
As Easter songs we sing.
Easter flowers brighten our way
As Easter church bells ring.

Dear Parents:

Whenever Christians gather at home or elsewhere, the risen Christ is present. As we sit down to a meal together, and offer thanks to God, we reflect the Good News of Easter.
Our Father,
Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
Who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.
Lord of all hopefulness,
Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike,
no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking,
and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.

—The Hymnal, 482

Dear Parents:

Spontaneous prayer comes naturally to young children. Provide quiet times for yourself and your child. Suggest praying. Speak your own prayer. Continue in silence, and see what happens.

Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

—Matthew 6:9
Thanks be to God.

Thanks to Thee, kind Father
For my daily bread.
For my home and playthings.
For my cozy bed.

—Charles Arnold Hepling, 1868-1921

Dear Parents:

The Catechism of The Book of Common Prayer (pages 856-857), identifies seven forms of prayer. Among these, giving thanks is the one that comes most easily for young children. Share prayers of thanksgiving often in your family.

Thanks be to God.
Question: What is prayer?
Answer: Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.

—The Book of Common Prayer; Catechism, “Prayer and Worship,” 856.

Dear Parents:

The Scriptures and the prayerbook are our primary sources of help when we search for words in our praying. Spend time introducing your child to prayers found in The Book of Common Prayer.

Let us pray.
Holy Spirit, help us
When we kneel to pray;
Nearer come, and teach us
What we ought to say.

—W. H. Parker (1845-1929); alt.

Dear Parents:

As a part of the daily rhythms of living, children develop rituals that govern their behavior (such as reading a favorite story repeatedly, or needing a special blanket or toy at bedtime). The Church's rhythms of prayer (Morning, Noonday, Evening) can be logically incorporated into their everyday routines. Look for opportunities to pray at different times with your child.
We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word
and Sacraments.
—The Book of Common Prayer, 387

The things, good Lord, that we pray for,
give us grace to work for.
—Sir Thomas More

Dear Parents:
When worshiping with your child, take
note of the vestments worn by the clergy.
Talk about the different garments—their
color and design. Encourage your child to
think of clergypersons as their friends.
Father, we pray for your whole Church;
That we all may be one.
Help us to serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.
We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.
We pray for all leaders of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.
Help us to do what you want us to do;
That our works may find favor in your sight.
Care for those who are sad or in trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.
Bless those who have died;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.
We praise you for your saints;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

Dear Parents:

This simplified form of Prayers of the People, Form III (The Book of Common Prayer, 387) may be used in your home.

"... pray at all times."
—Romans 12:12c (TEV)
We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism.
—*The Book of Common Prayer*, 306

I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

—From *The Book of Common Prayer*, The Baptism, 307

Dear Parents:
These words (above) are used at every Christian baptism. Children enjoy hearing stories about when they (or others in their families) were baptized. Tell your children the words so that they will be familiar the next time a service of Holy Baptism occurs in your church.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. . . .

—Acts 2:4a

In fire, flame, and rush of wind the Holy Spirit came. Apostles knew, and we do, too, the might of God's great Name.

Dear Parents:

Young children delight in the celebration of Pentecost. For the Church, it is like a birthday. Put on something red. Use red candles, flowers, or other decorations to continue the festive spirit.