

# Family of God Leader Guide

*February 2021*



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## **Program Overview**

The Family of God program is the official religious recognition program of the United States Roman Catholic Church for Girl Scouts in second and third grade. The Family of God program helps children explore a wide range of activities in order to discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of a family and a parish.

In addition to this overall purpose, each chapter in the Family of God program has a specific goal and set of objectives. The objectives describe dimensions of the children's lives within the family setting and within the Catholic Christian community - God's Family. The Chapters include:

- I am Special to my Family
- I am Special to God's Family
- I Belong to my Family
- I Belong to God's Family
- I Can Help my Family
- I Can Help God's Family

## **Steps to Complete the Family of God Program**

- Determine there is interest in the Troop
- Complete and submit [Declaration of Intention Form](#) to the Catholic Committee for Girl Scouting in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- Order one [Family of God book](#) for each participant
- Facilitate the completion of the activities in each chapter of the book (a sample agenda is included)
- Complete the medal application process including submitting the [Request Letter of Authorization Form](#)
- Receive Authorization from the Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting
- Order the awards
- Register for Fanning Faith's Eternal Flame Ceremony (if possible)
- Celebrate their accomplishment

## **Leader Tasks**

### Order Required Books

Each candidate is required to have her own copy of the Family of God Book. The books can be ordered online at: <https://nfcym.org/product/family-of-god-book/> . They are also available at the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio offices/shops.

### Facilitate the Completion of the Activities in each Chapter

See page 5 for a sample agenda.

### Complete Medal Application Process

Upon the Leader's determination that candidates have successfully completed all requirements for the Family of God Award, she will need to obtain and complete the Authorization Form provided by the Archdiocese in order to purchase the medals and / or patches.

Religious medals and patches for youth are purchased directly from NFCYM (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry), however, the completed and signed original applications must be submitted to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Committee for Girl Scouting in advance in order for the Leader to be authorized to make a purchase from NFCYM.

The step-by-step process is as follows:

1. Have each participant complete the Application for Family of God Medal found on page 49 of the book.
2. Complete one Group Summary-Application for Family of God Medal, also found on page 49 of the book
3. Complete a Request for Letter of Authorization. This document can be found on the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting website:  
<https://www.archcincgirlscouts.org/forms>
4. Mail all documents from Step 1-3 to the name and address noted on the Request for Letter of Authorization Form.

Once the Catholic Committee determines all paperwork is in order, they will email an electronic authorization letter to NFCYM on your behalf, copying you in that same message.

### Order the Awards

Once the Authorization email is received, an order for medals and / or patches can be placed directly with NFCYM. Specific contact information and links to order the medals is included in the Authorization email that the Leader receives.

### Celebrate their Accomplishment

Participate in the Archdiocese wide Fanning Faith's Eternal Flame Celebration held each Spring.

## Sample Agenda for Completion of Activities

*Note, this sample agenda was held in a retreat format over 2 days from 9am to noon each day. If you wish to use this agenda in a meeting format, plan that each chapter will take approximately 40 minutes to complete. To meet the program requirements, complete 3 activities from each chapter.*

### Day One

Chapter 1	Page #	Instructions
Activity 1	Page 7	Draw a picture of your family in your book and write in your family member's names.
Activity 2 & 9	Page 8	Make your handprint with paint. List four activities you can do well around your fingers.
Activity 5	Page 9	Paste your baby picture in your book. Read and insert your special letter from your family member.
Summary	Page 10	Write about what you learned while doing these activities.
Chapter 2	Page #	Instructions
Activity 2	Page 13	Write a prayer thanking God for something special. We will read it in the prayer service.
Activity 6	Page 14	Talk about how you choose someone to be a friend. How to be a good friend to others. Listen to each other. Paste ideas on page 14.
Activity 8	Page 15	Read Genesis 1. Pretend you are God and that you are making a wonderful world. Act out how you would care for creation.
Summary	Page 16	Write about what you learned while doing these activities.
Chapter 3	Page #	Instructions
Activity 2	Page 19	Draw a tree. Plan to do something nice for each member of your family. Write what you're going to do on a leaf and glue it into your book. Take another leaf and write it again to take home.
Activity 9 & Activity 10, chp 1	Page 20 Page 21	Take a link for each member of your family. Write in how that person cares for your family. Glue in book. Family traditions are special times. Select and paste words that describe how your family celebrates these.
Prayer Service		Plant bulb before starting prayer service. Read individual prayers of thanks. Read the Brownie bulb prayer.

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Prayer Service
9:15-9:55	10:00-10:40	10:50-11:30	11:30-12:00



## Family of God Prayer Service – Day One

### Leader

We will begin our prayer service with a Hail Mary.

### All

[Make sign of the cross, while saying:] In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are 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 our death, Amen.

### Leader

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 - Unity and Diversity in the Body

### All

Light Candles and Read Prayers Thanking God for Something Special.

### Leader

Let us now together say our Brownie Bulb Prayer:

### All

Today we plant this seed. It starts out very small.  
But just like you and me, one day it will grow tall.

We'll feed it with water, sunshine and love,  
And ask God to bless it from Heaven above.

May we always remember, my sisters and me,  
The day that we planted our Brownie Girl Scout seed.

### Leader

Heavenly Father. Thank you for bringing all of these girls scouts together today to learn about their roles in their families at home and about their roles as a family with You. Protect them in their daily activities. Help them to grow closer to their families and You. Guide them as they continue their journey completing the Family of God activities. Fill them with your love and spirit. We ask this in your name. Amen.



## Day Two

Chapter 4	Page #	Instructions
Activity 1	Page 25	Learn names of parish staff and others working in parish. Why is the priest called Father? What do the priest and other ministers do to serve our parish? Paste photo on page 25. Write Thank you note.
Activity 8	Page 26	Learn about the name of your parish along w/ the meaning and the event it honors and write about it
Activity 3	Page 27	Paste a picture of your baptism in your book on page 27. Write about your baptism. Who are your Godparents? What is your Christian name or who is your patron saint?
Summary	Page 28	Write about what you learned while doing these activities.
Chapter 5	Page #	Instructions
Activity 6	Page 31	Write a special prayer asking God to bless your family. Use it at home with your family. Then paste on page 31.
Activity 7	Page 32	Decorate a prayer box. Place the names of each of your family members in the box. Pick a name each day and say a special prayer for that person.
Activity 8	Page 33	Time, talent and treasures- Show how you share these with your family and friends by writing your special gifts/talents in your book.
Summary	Page 34	Write about what you learned while doing these activities.
Chapter 6	Page #	Instructions
Activity 6	Page 37	Some members of the family of God may worship God in different ways. Write about something that's the same and something that's different. Paste a picture of St. Perpetua in book and write about what you learned. Write a prayer to Thank God for making you s special person who has been able to work on this medal program. Recite in prayer service.
Activity 7	Page 38	
	Page 40	
Prayer Service		Read prayers written thanking God for making you a special person.

## **Family of God Prayer Service – Day Two**

### **Leader**

We will begin our prayer service with a gospel reading where a boy shares his food and Jesus feeds many people. This gospel was chosen for today because in our Family of God program we have learned about our families on earth and in heaven and how important it is to love and care for them. Jesus shows his love and care in the following reading.

### **Leader**

A reading from St John.

Jesus wished to spend a little time away from the crowds, so he along with his 12 disciples, went by boat across the Sea of Galilee to a quiet desert region near Bethsaida.

However, it soon became known where he was going and thousands of people poured out of towns and cities to meet Him there. When Jesus saw how greatly they needed him, he was moved, and walked among the crowd, talking, answering questions, and healing those who were ill.

Toward the evening the disciples said, “Surely it is time for you to send these crowds away? You are tired and need to rest. Let them look after themselves, and find food where they can.”

“No,” said Jesus. “There is no need for them to go. And you can feed them here.”

“But there are more than 5000 people!” exclaimed the disciples. Then Andrew, the brother of Simon said, “There is a boy here who has 5 loaves of barley bread and 2 small fish, but what use is so little among so many?”

Jesus told everyone to sit down on the grass, then he took the bread and the two fish from the boy, and blessed them. He told the disciples to give food to every man, woman, and child present. The disciples did as he asked them, and were astonished to find not only that there was plenty for all, but that afterward, 12 baskets were filled with the food that remained.

### **Leader**

Light candles and read prayers thanking God for making us special.

### **All**

Read prayers.

### **Leader**

Let us now together pray a Hail Mary.

**All**

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are 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 our death, Amen.

**Leader**

Heavenly Father. Thank you for bringing these girl scouts together today to complete their Family of God program. We have learned about how we are all special and belong not only to our earthly families but to our heavenly families as well. Help us to continue to grow in your love and to treat our families with love and respect and to live by your Golden Rule. Bless each of these girls as they continue to grow everyday and let them be a reflection of your love. Amen.

## Appendix A – Family of God Supply List

### Chapter 1

#### Table 1: Glue, ink pads

- 1- paste pictures of family
- 5- paste pictures of you
- 9- thumb prints

#### Table 2: Pencils

- 2- list 'do wells'
- 3- list 'do betters'
- 10- tell about family celebrations

#### Table 3: mobile supplies, crayons

- 6- make mobile
- 8- make model of home or draw home

#### Not covering

- 7- visit relative or write letter
- 4 puzzle pieces

### Chapter 2

#### As a group: He's Got the Whole World

- 7- learn song

#### Table 1: bible

- 3- read Luke 2:41-52, talk
- 4- read Cor 12:12-26, act out

#### Table 2: coloring supplies

- 1- make collage
- 6- draw how to be a friend
- 8- draw your world

Table 3: pencils

2- write prayer

10- list parish celebrations

Not Covering:

5- talk to family

9- share Jesus story with family

## Chapter 3

Table 1: pencils, markers, crayons

3- Draw picture of what family does

4- fill out family tree

1- list members of family & jobs

8- write or make banner

Table 2: posterboard, markers, construction paper strips, stapler, glue

6- make posters

9- make chain

7- paste family pictures & answer questions

Should we include?:

2- do something nice

5- prayer service

## Chapter 4

Table 1: glue, markers, pencils, scissors

4- paste pictures of children from around the world

6- draw or model place of worship

7- write or draw things parish does together

9- draw what you do in your parish

Table 2: parish directory, info about St. Christopher

1- learn parish staff

8- learn name of parish

Table 3: bulletin, bible

2- review the 3 readings of Sunday

5- Read Matthew 18:21-35

Not Covering:

3- talk to family about baptism

## Chapter 5

Table 1: paper slips, pencils, paper bags

6- Write special prayer

7- place names in bag

8- write how you share gifts with family

Table 2: Talk to girls about making a commitment for one of the following:

1- put toys & clothes away

4- make bed everyday

5- weekly I Love You Day

9- use food pyramids to plan meals

Table 3: soil, cups, seeds, craft sticks

2- plant seed to care for

Not Covering:

3- if hurt family member, say sorry

## Chapter 6

Table 1: bible, pencils, crayons

5- Read John 6:1-15, list/draw

7- Write or draw about favorite saint

Program: Mother Teresa patch

4- Mother Teresa

One of the following on their own or plan as a group:

1- show pics or read to younger kids

2- Do Christian Service for parish

3- Children's liturgy

6- Compare Not Catholic Christians

## **Appendix B – The Experiential Learning Cycle**

### **(AKA: Learn-by-Doing, Reflection Model)**

The Religious Recognition Program is an opportunity to support parents and Catholic Church in their daughters' Faith Development. (Discipleship and Evangelization)

The Archdiocese Committee on Catholic Girl Scouting believes the Girl Scout Program Model of Experiential Learning, provides a value-added framework to the Catholic Religious Awards program. The process is meant to be applied through informal settings, in a conversational atmosphere, based on the age level of the girls. When the Religious Awards Program is combined with the Girl Scout Reflection Model, girls' learning about their faith and themselves is deeper and more impactful, because of three key features of the Girl Scout program.

1. **Personal reflection allows girls to explore their values** and drawing meaning about their values—especially values of the Heart/Values of our Faith. These values are sometimes referred to as Eulogy Values, or Character Values: kindness, joy, patience, peace, generosity, faith, charity, hope, love., self-control, gentleness.
2. **Troop reflection** gives girls a supportive environment where they learn to share their personal beliefs and where they are encouraged to stand up for their personal beliefs.
3. **Girl Scouts teaches girls to reflect on personal values and ethics** found in the Girl Scout Promise and Law and girls' faith and family values to guide their actions, as a troop and as individuals. This teaches girls to practice those "values of the heart," in the Religious recognition program, in Girl Scout activities, and to put them into practice in their daily life.