



# Parent Pages

## Preparing the environment of the Domestic Church\*

\* The term "Domestic Church" refers to the family, the smallest body of gathered believers in Christ. Though recovered only recently, the term dates back to the first century AD. The Greek word *ecclesiola* referred to "little church." The early Church understood that the home was fertile ground for discipleship, sanctification, and holiness.

## Making Prayer Cards at Home

Your child carefully chooses a prayer card to place on the prayer table. It is more than a mere decoration, but rather it is an expression of their heart. Prayer cards are used to build your child's faith vocabulary and prayer language.

The Prayer Card contains words from the Psalms, sacred Scripture or a special prayer from our faith tradition. The Psalms offer rich images and "prayer language," while the infancy narrative prayer cards are what Sofia Cavalletti referred to as among the finest "prayer samples" we have.

- Perhaps there is a favorite **Psalm or other Scripture verse** or phrase from a **prayer** that your child would like to print on a prayer card. Some excellent examples for the 3-6 year old child:

<i>Amen</i>	<i>Psalm 23:1 and Psalm 23:1-3</i>
<i>Hosanna</i>	<i>"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you."</i>
<i>Alleluia</i>	<i>"Blessed are you among women; blessed is the fruit of your womb."</i>
<i>Glory to God!</i>	<i>Peace be with you!</i>
<i>Praise the Lord!</i>	

### For the 6-12 year old child:

Your older child may now want to add additional psalm verses, slightly longer which lift up images for God, praise and thanksgiving for God's Word and creation, such as

<i>Psalm 16:11</i>	<i>Psalm 89:11</i>	<i>Psalm 104:14</i>
<i>Psalm 23:1-4</i>	<i>Psalm 33:6</i>	<i>Psalm 113:1-4</i>
<i>Psalm 19:1</i>	<i>Psalm 104:24</i>	<i>Psalm 119:105</i>

Another option for the older child includes those Psalms that offer an awareness of our need for God's protection and help, as well as our need for forgiveness and reconciliation. Examples might include:

<i>Psalm 43:1</i>	<i>Psalm 121:1-2</i>	<i>Psalm 51:10</i>
<i>Psalm 51:15</i>	<i>Psalm 58:10</i>	<i>Psalm 91:4</i>
<i>Psalm 18:3</i>	<i>Psalm 17:8</i>	<i>Psalm 27:1</i>
<i>Psalm 124:8</i>	<i>Psalm 3:5</i>	

## 2. Your paper

Whatever type of paper you have will make lovely prayer cards: parchment paper, lined or unlined paper, white or colored paper.

## 3. The pen or pencil

The 3-6 year old child may use colored pencils, while the 6-12 year old child may prefer the option of a calligraphy pen.

## 4. Illumination

Some children enjoy using Florentine paper to “illuminate” the border of the prayer card, or they may want to decorate with their own illuminated design. (see *simple flowers, and Florentine design*)

## 5. Basket, box or container for your Prayer Cards:

You may want to find a basket or container to hold your prayer cards. In the box or container, you may want a small stand to hold the prayer card as it rests on your prayer table. Stands may be purchased at any craft store.

## 6. Additional Resources for your family

### List for the Prayer Table

Low table or bench

Small kneeler or cushion to invite individual prayer

Basket nearby to hold the prayer table articles

Bible

Lovely cushion for the Bible

Candle

Candle tray (with matches, spent match container, and snuffer)

Prayer table cloth(s)

Two or three small statues: the Good Shepherd, the Blessed

Mother or Madonna and Child, the Holy Family

Prayer card stands/easels

Prayer Card Collections

Optional

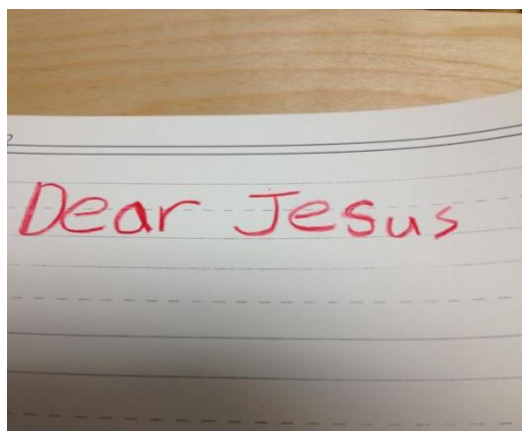
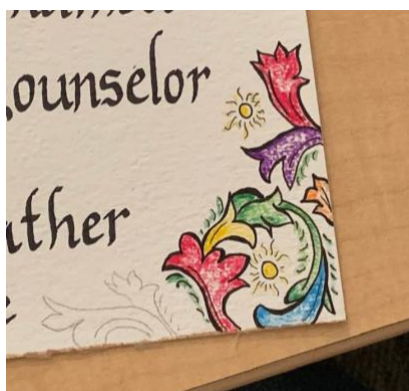
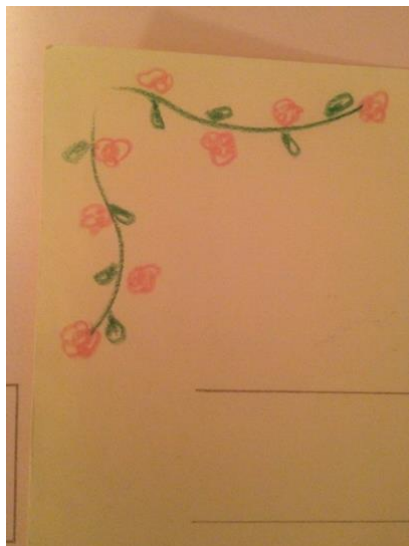
Basket of a few religious art cards

A “quiet bell” or chime

### Scripture Charts

The 6-9 year old child may want to select and read or even copy specific passages about the life of Jesus. The Scripture Charts on the following pages look at:

- The Birth and Childhood of Jesus
- The Parables of Jesus
- The Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus
- The Appearances of the Risen Christ



children may choose to write their own original prayer

## THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

Narrative	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Annunciation			1:26-38	
The Visitation			1:39-56	
The Nativity and the Adoration of the Shepherds	1:18-25		2:1-20	
The Presentation in the Temple			2:22-38	
The Adoration of the Magi	2:1-12			
The Flight Into Egypt	2:13-16			
The Return to Nazareth	2:19-23		2:39-40	
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple			2:41-52	

## The Parables of Jesus

Title	Gospel Reference	
The Good Shepherd	John	10: 1-16
The True Vine	John	15: 1-11
The Mustard Seed	Matthew	13: 31-32
The Pearl of Great Value	Matthew	13: 45-46
The Leaven	Matthew	13: 33
The Hidden Treasure	Matthew	13: 44
The Seed	Mark	4: 26-29
The Sower	Matthew	13: 3-8
The Ten Bridesmaids	Matthew	25: 1-12
The Wedding Feast	Matthew	22: 1-14
The Net	Matthew	13: 47-48
The Wheat and the Darnel	Matthew	13: 24-30
The Talents	Matthew	25: 14-30
The Workers and the Vineyard	Matthew	20: 1-16
The Good Samaritan	Luke	10: 30-37
Lazarus and the Rich Man	Luke	16: 19-31
The Found Sheep	Luke	15: 3-7
The Found Coin	Luke	15: 8-10
The Loving Father	Luke	15: 11-32
The Debtors	Matthew	18: 23-35
The Insistent Friend	Luke	11: 5-8
The Pharisee and the Publican	Luke	18: 9-14
The Judge and the Widow	Luke	18: 2-5
The Rich Fool	Luke	12: 16-21

# The Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Messiah Enters Jerusalem	21:1-11	11:1-11	19:28-40	12:12-19
The Last Supper	26:17-35	14:12-31	22:7-34	13:1-38
The Agony in the Garden	26:36-46	14:32-42	22:39-46	
Jesus is Arrested	26:46-56	14:42-52	22:47-53	18:1-12
Jesus Before Caiaphas	26:57-75	14:53-72	22:54-71	18:12-27
Jesus Before Pilate: The First Time	27:11-14	15:1-5	23:1-7	18:28-38
Jesus Before Herod			23:8-12	
Jesus Before Pilate: The Second Time	27:15-31	15:6-20	23:13-25	18:39-40 19:1-16
The Crucifixion	27:32-66	15:20-47	23:26-56	19:17-42
The Resurrection	28:1-8	16:1-8	24:1-12	20:1-10

## Appearances of the Risen Jesus

	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
To Mary Magdalen	28: 8-10	16: 9-11		20:11-18
On the road to Emmaus		16: 12-13	24: 13-35	
To the disciples (Cenacle)				20: 19-23
To the apostles (Cenacle)		16: 14	24: 36-43	20:24-29
By the Sea of Tiberias				21: 1-17
On a hill in Galilee	28: 16-20	16: 15-18		
At Jerusalem			24: 44-49	
The Ascension		16: 19-20	24: 50-53	
Pentecost	Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-13			