

Ordinary Time

Family Prayer Bookmark

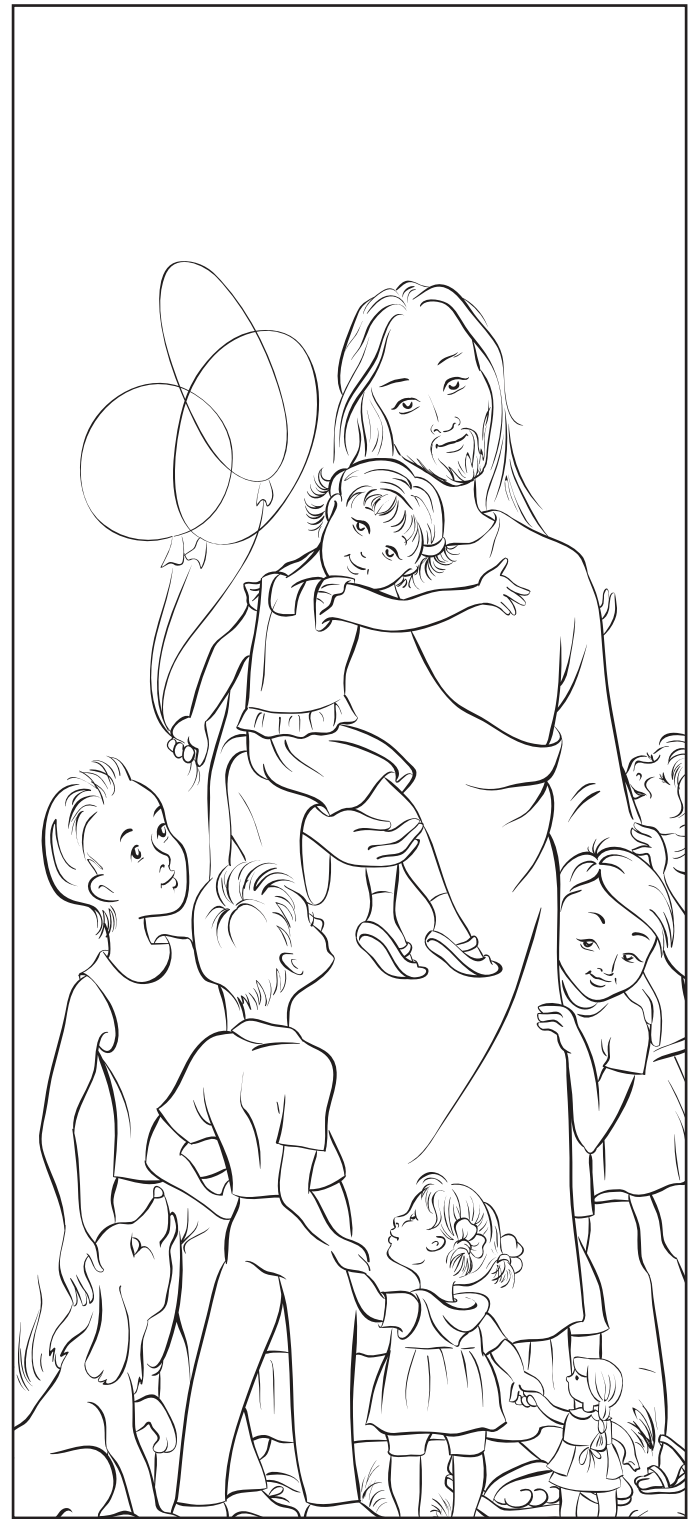
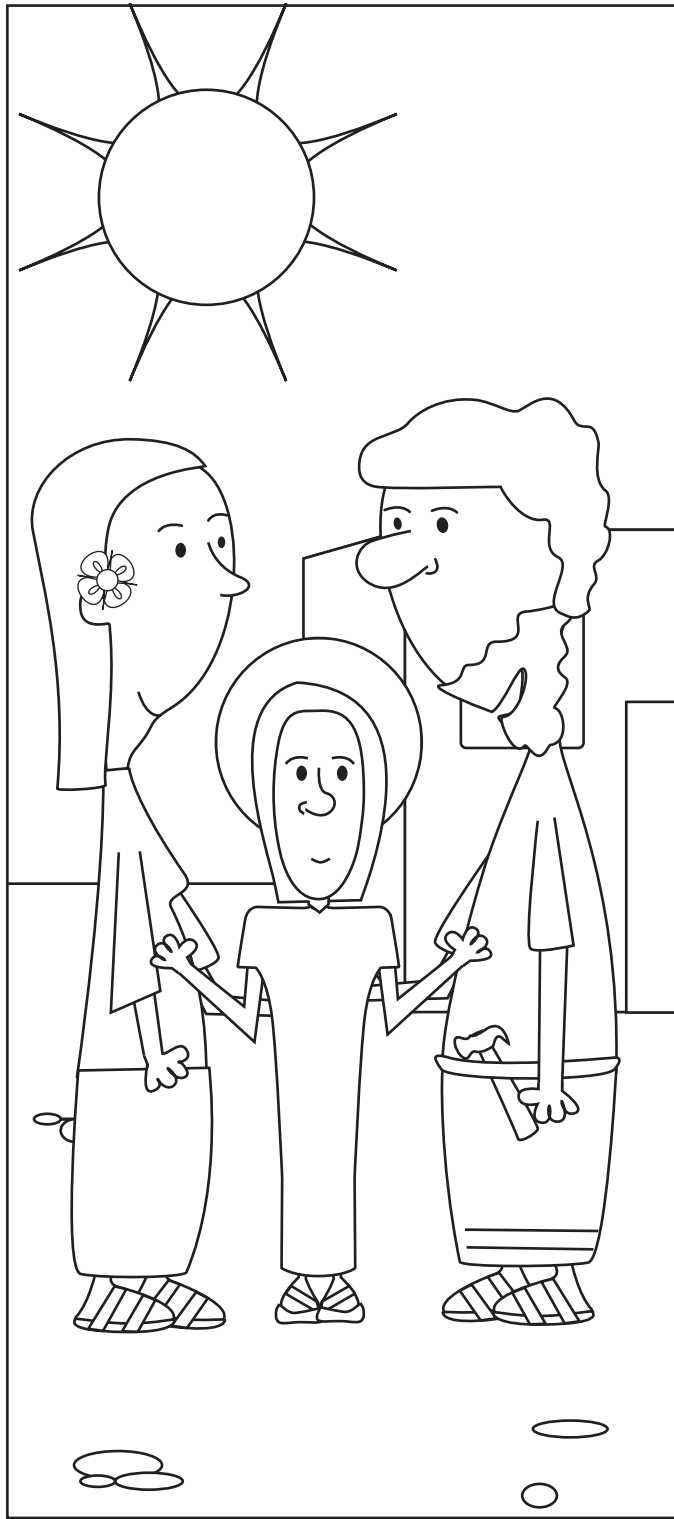
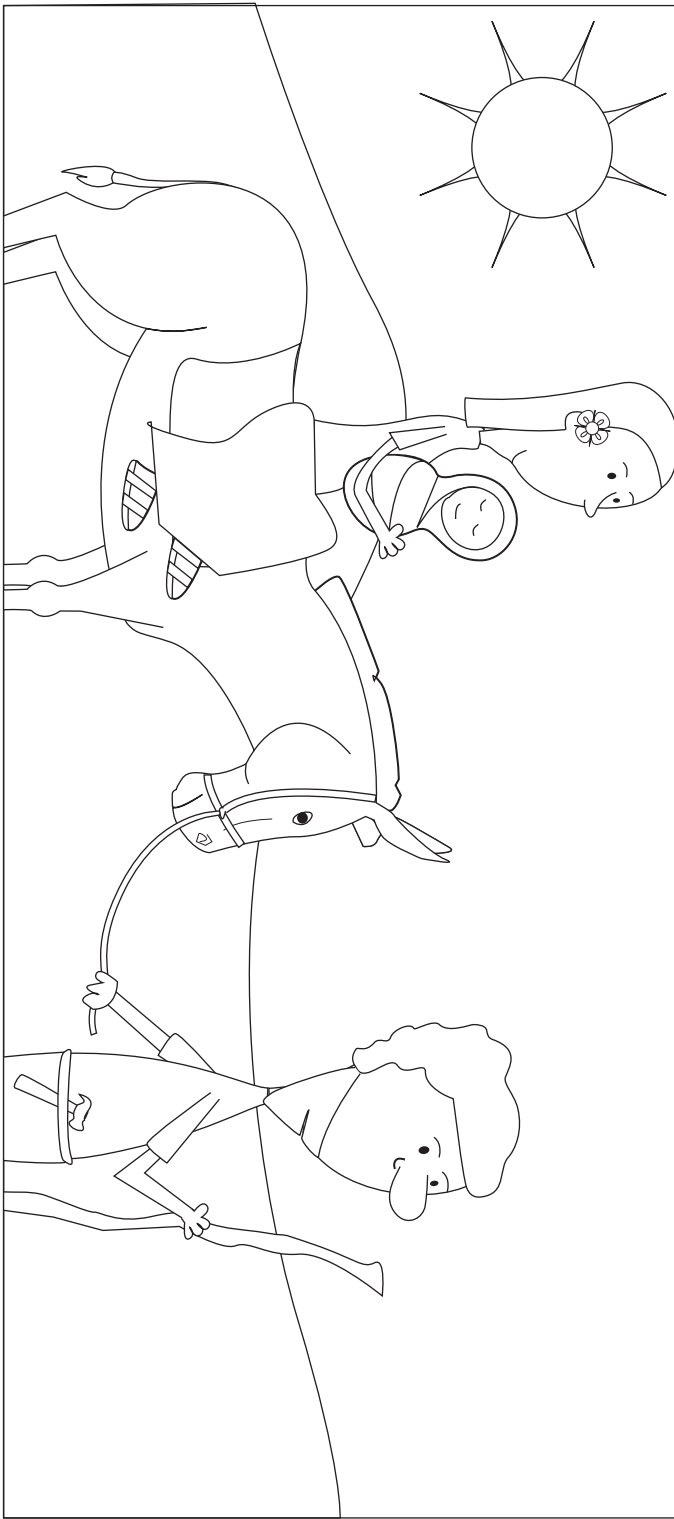
Marriage and family had a special place in the heart of our late Pope, John Paul II. Family life is not easy, a source of immense joy and also suffering and loss. John Paul II knew both, having lost his entire family to illness by the time he was 21.

The pressures of modern life have dramatically affected families. John Paul II was acutely aware of these pressures on families and dedicated an apostolic letter to families and a prayer to strengthen families. We have three prayers to choose from, John Paul II's Prayer for Families, a traditional Family Prayer and Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata's Prayer for our Family.

Decorating ideas for your bookmark:

1. Print the template onto light card, or hand copy the prayers onto any paper you like.
2. Use the coloured templates or decorate the bookmarks as you and the kids see fit.
Suggestions: coloured markers, sequins, photos, decorative paper, glitter... etc.
3. Optional: Laminate the bookmarks to make them more durable.

Keep them in your family prayer space or family bible to use in your family prayer time.



A Prayer for Families

St. Pope John Paul II

Lord God, from You every family in Heaven and on earth takes its name.

Grant that Your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families in the world.

Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family.

We ask this of You, Who is life, truth and love with the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Family Prayer

All: Dear Jesus, we are here to spend some time with you. We want to pray for ourselves, our friends, neighbours and everyone in the world. We know that you came to call all of us to know, love and serve your heavenly Father so that we would be one, big, happy family.

Mum: Jesus, be close to us now as we pray to the Father in the words you taught us.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven...

Dad: Jesus, we want to ask Mary to pray for us because we know, Jesus, that if we are close to her, we will be close to you.

All: Hail Mary, Full of grace...

Mum: Jesus, as God you became a human being so that you could tell the world how you and the Father and the Holy Spirit love all of us and want to share your life with us.

All: Glory be to the Father...

Amen.

Prayer for our Family

Heavenly Father,

you have given us the model of life in the Holy Family of Nazareth. Make our family another Nazareth where love, peace and joy reign.

Help us to stay together in joy and in sorrow in family prayer. Teach us to see Jesus in the members of our families. May the heart of Jesus make us humble like his and help us to carry out our family duties in a holy way.

May we love one another as God loves each one of us, more and more each day, and forgive each other's faults as you forgive our sins.

Help us, O Loving Father, to take whatever you give and give whatever you take with a big smile.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Holy Guardian Angels, be always with us, guide and protect us.

Amen.