

FULL NAME _____

FAMILY HANDOUT 1



God became a man in Jesus. Jesus reveals to us that God is real, powerful, merciful and loving. God is not a man in the sky, with a beard, looking down at us and judging us. God is with us, lives in us and wants us to have a relationship with him. We can only understand this when we trust and accept that God made us, knows us and loves us. God loves you!

LIFE



Did you know that people on earth usually live until around 80 years of age? Some people even live past 100 years of age!

Parents read these bits

But what are we supposed to do with 80 years on planet earth? What is the point of all this time? And more importantly, is there a point at all?

Is there more to life than this? Are we called to something more?



YOUCAT
for Kids

Question 2: Why do I exist? (p.12)

We are going to be looking at life's biggest questions, at God and what it means to have a relationship with him.

TO DO Fill in the box below with what you do every day.

What I do every day...
Every morning, I

.....

Then, I go to school and

.....

Then, I go home and

.....

Then, I go to bed and

.....

Then we do it all again!

What do you think of when you hear the word God? Write or draw it.

Try to answer the questions together

YOUCAT
for Kids

Question 18: What is my purpose in life? (p.35)

Some people can think being Catholic is just about going to church or that it is about following rules from an old book that has nothing to do with our day-to-day life. But being Catholic and having a relationship with God has everything to do with our whole life!



JOIN THE CLUB!



Have you ever been part of a club or a team?
What were you expected to do?

Joining a club can involve going to regular meetings, obeying its rules, wearing matching t-shirts or even learning a secret handshake and then you are in!

Being a Catholic can seem like joining another club.

Our relationship with God is like a very special gift that only we can open.



Being a Catholic is not about joining a club. It is about discovering a relationship, which helps us make sense of life.

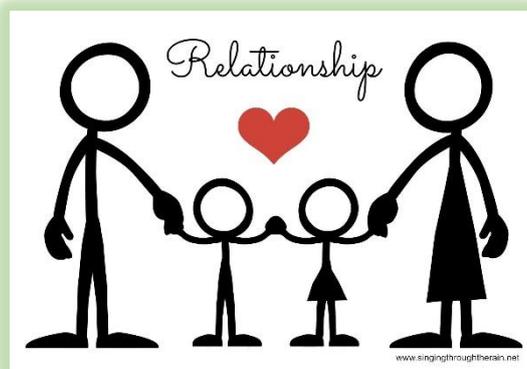


WHAT DOES "RELATIONSHIP" MEAN?

A relationship is a connection between two people, for example, between a husband and a wife or between a brother and a sister. Relationships are exciting. They are so important in our lives.

TO DO Write down some of the people that you have a relationship with.

I have relationships with...



Our relationship with God is the most important relationship we will ever have!



IS GOD A MYSTERY?



God can seem like a **mystery**; it can be hard to describe God and understand someone we cannot see. It can be difficult to understand what it means to have a relationship with God.

But God reveals himself – he shows us who he is all the time. He shows us who he is through creation, through loving people, but most clearly through Jesus.



We can learn about Jesus in the Bible. Jesus said...



"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6



YOUCAT
for
Kids

Question 4:
Can we know
God? (p.14)

*"You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are **restless** until they rest in you"*

St Augustine of Hippo

Restless means being unable to relax or find peace. Jesus is the peace we are looking for.

...This is amazing! Jesus says that he is the **way** to the Father. If we want to know who God is, then Jesus is the way, we can know him.

Jesus says that he is the **truth**, which means that through Jesus, we can know with our minds *and* our hearts that God is real and loves us.

Jesus says that he is the **life**; through Jesus, we can have a full life, free from shame and guilt because he died on the cross for us.



God reveals himself in the Bible. The Bible is the book where we can read how God first showed himself to the people of Israel, until in Jesus he shows us how huge God's love is.

B
I
B
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E



Dig out your family bible. Have fun answering the questions below together.

How many books are there in the Bible?

What are the two main sections of the Bible called?

Gospels tell us about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. How many Gospels are there?

YOUCAT
for
Kids

Question 10: What is the bible? (p.21)



A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



"Light of the World" by William Holman Hunt

God created you. Not only that, he loves you so much that he wants you to know him now and spend eternity with him - be with him forever.



Jesus came so that each of us can know and understand God in a personal way. In the Bible, Jesus says this promise to us...

“

Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if any hear my voice and opens the door, I will come into their house and eat with them, and they will eat with me. Revelation 3:20

”



Look at the picture "Light of the World" together.



I wonder who the man in the painting is.
I wonder why all the light in the painting comes from the lantern.
I wonder what he is doing.
I wonder why the door is overgrown with weeds.
I wonder what is missing from the door.

“

I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.
Hebrews 13:5

”



Ask your child to close their eyes and read this to them: "Imagine your life is like a house, and Jesus is knocking at the door of your life. Jesus is saying here I am, I stand at the door and knock, and I would like to come into your life, into the house of your life and be part of your life. I want to come in and eat with you. Eating together is a sign of friendship. Jesus is saying that he wants to be your friend. That is what it means to be Catholic; it is to be a friend of Jesus.

You see, Jesus is not going to force his way into our lives; He stands at the door and knocks. He leaves it up to us to decide to invite him in to be part of our lives. He promises that when you do choose to invite him in he will always be with you; he will never leave you.



GOD IS LOVE

“Where there is love, there is God.”

St Teresa of Calcutta



God sent his only Son, Jesus, to live with us, to make God's **love** known to everyone. What Jesus did and said shows us how God, the Father, loves everyone. God wants us to be with him forever.



“

We must love each other. Love comes from God... God is love... God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. Real love isn't our love for God, but his love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven... since God loved us this much, we must love each other. 1 John 4:7-11

”

YOUCAT
for
Kids

Question 19: Why do we call God “Father”? (p.36)

God loves us **unconditionally** – it means we do not have to do anything to earn his love.

God's love is **eternal** – it lasts forever.



Some people feel like they do not deserve God's love because they think the Church is not for people like them. Jesus spent time with outcasts, cheaters and sinners and yet they felt loved and accepted by him.

We can have **faith** in God's love because of the things Jesus did and said. Do you have faith in Jesus?

GOD knows each one of us by our name.

Our parents, family and friends love us and yet God loves us even more.

GOD loves us all the same.

GOD is our Father and we are all his children.



Have you ever heard someone say, “I have *faith* you can do this or that?”

What do you think the word *faith* means?

YOUCAT
for
Kids

Question 6:
Believing in God –
how do you do
that? (p.16)



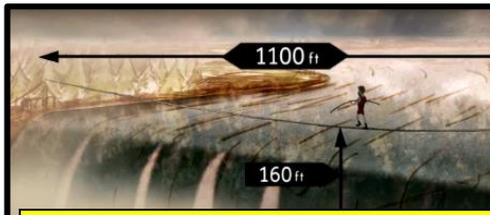
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE FAITH?



Have fun reading this together.



JEAN FRANCOIS GRAVELET, KNOWN AS THE GREAT BLONDIN, WAS A FAMOUS TIGHTROPE WALKER AND ACROBAT.



HE'S KNOWN FOR HIS MANY CROSSINGS OF THE TIGHTROPE, 1100FT IN LENGTH, SUSPENDED 160FT ABOVE NIAGARA.



HIS ACT WOULD BE WATCHED BY LARGE CROWDS...



...AND BEGIN WITH A RELATIVELY SIMPLE CROSSING USING A BALANCING POLE.



THEN HE WOULD THROW AWAY THE POLE AND AMAZE THE ONLOOKERS.



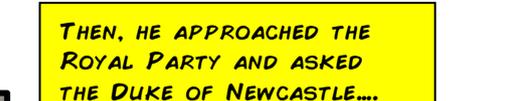
IN 1860 A ROYAL PARTY FROM ENGLAND CAME TO WATCH BLONDIN PERFORM.



AFTER HIS NORMAL SPECTACULAR CROSSINGS, HE THEN WHEELED A WHEELBARROW FROM ONE SIDE TO ANOTHER, AS THE CROWD CHEERED.



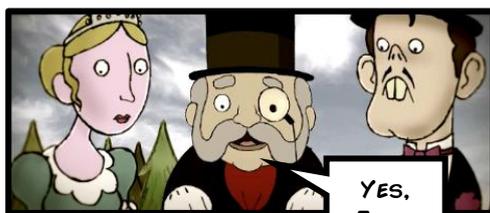
NEXT, HE PUT A SACK OF POTATOES INTO THE WHEELBARROW. THE CROWD CHEERED LOUDER.



THEN, HE APPROACHED THE ROYAL PARTY AND ASKED THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE....



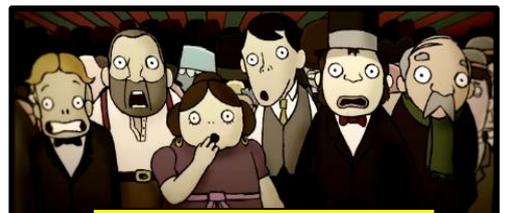
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I COULD TAKE A MAN ACROSS THE TIGHTROPE?



YES, I DO



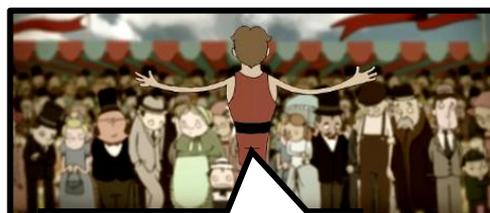
HOP IN!



THE CROWD FELL SILENT...



BUT THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE WOULD NOT ACCEPT BLONDIN'S CHALLENGE.



IS THERE ANYONE ELSE HERE WHO BELIEVES I CAN DO IT?



NO ONE WAS WILLING TO VOLUNTEER. EVENTUALLY, AN OLD WOMAN STEPPED OUT OF THE CROWD AND CLIMBED INTO THE WHEELBARROW.



BLONDIN WHEELED HER ALL THE WAY ACROSS AND ALL THE WAY BACK. THE OLD WOMAN WAS BLONDIN'S MOTHER. THE ONLY PERSON WILLING TO PUT HER LIFE IN HIS HANDS!

So, faith is putting our lives in Jesus' hands.



FAITH IS A GIFT



Have you ever been given a gift even when you felt you did not deserve it?



We can have faith that God loves us by putting our lives in Jesus' hands. Entering a relationship with God is a gift. This gift is called **grace**. And like any gift we receive it with gratitude – we say thank you!

God promises, through the bible, that **EVERYONE** is invited to a relationship with him, through Jesus.



“ For it is by **grace** you have been saved through faith, and this isn't from yourselves, it is a gift of God.
Ephesians 2:8 ”

When we receive his grace as a gift, we should give it away to others, which allows even more of God's grace to enter our hearts.

God is in the relationships we have with each other. When we show love to someone, God is there in the act of love, because God is love.



Look at the captions below and read them aloud. Colour in the ones that might help you become more like God and a better follower of Jesus.



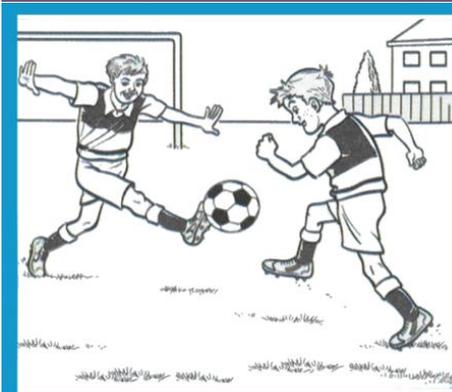
Be helpful at home



Keep all my sweets to myself



Pray before I go to bed



Be a good friend



Tell the truth



Take what doesn't belong to me

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IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO LOVE

“Love begins at home and it is not how much we do but how much love we put into what we do.”
St Teresa of Calcutta

We try to love people close to us: our parents, our brother and sisters, our friends, but there are times when it's difficult. Sometimes we **disobey** our parents, we fight or argue with our friends, we tell lies or we say unkind things.

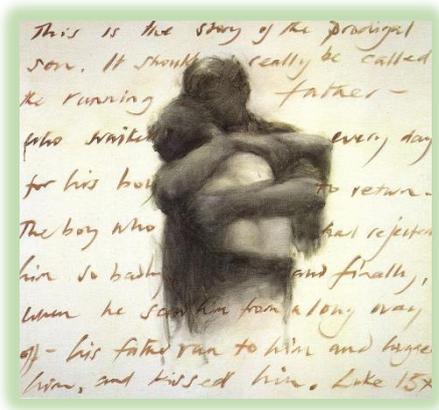


Sometimes we do not love God. We live as though he does not exist. Some days we hurt those around us or even ourselves on purpose. When we do this, we turn away from God's love, which is called **sin**. But God, our Father, does not leave us alone with our sin. He carries on loving us no matter what, and he wants us to turn back to him.

Have you ever found it hard to love someone? How did it make you feel?

“Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me. Matthew 25:40”

JESUS TEACHES US ABOUT...THE FATHER'S LOVE



"Prodigal Son" by Charlie Mackesy

Many people came to hear Jesus when he spoke about God. He told **parables** – stories about familiar things so that everybody would be able to understand him.



Find the parable about a man and his two sons in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15, verses 11 to 32 (**Luke 15:11-32**).



PARENTS, WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR...



- The **behaviour of the father**: his words, gestures and his feelings and desires.
- The **stages in the decision-making** of the son.
- The **joy of reconciliation** and the way in which joy is expressed.

This parable is so special. It shows us how God waits for **US** to return to him after we sin, how he forgives and forgets **OUR** sins and how he welcomes **US** back as his children.



What was your favourite bit of this parable? Draw a picture of it on a separate piece of paper.

