Dear

The theme for Unit Three is About Your Family. Your child will learn that the family is a special gift from God and that the family is a very special group of people. The lessons in this unit discuss the Orthodox Church family and that it is special to be an Orthodox Christian. To help your child realize the importance of caring for others, the lessons focus on sharing in all aspects of daily living; but the main focus of this unit is on the family sharing love for each other.

To reinforce the concept of sharing, do something with your child that shows sharing and caring. For example, write a letter to someone who lives far away, donate food to a food pantry, or visit someone who is homebound. Another activity that a six year old can understand is to care for a plant. After it has grown encourage your child to give the plant to someone as a gift.

The Biblical story in this unit is, "The Parable of the Prodigal Son" and appears in the lesson "A Father's Love For His Son" (Luke 15:11-31). Be ready to discuss this story with your child.

In this unit your child will continue learning the Lord's Prayer. Praying the Lord's Prayer together as a family will assist your child in learning the prayer. To help your child better understand the meaning of the prayer, talk about some of the more difficult words and phrases of the Lord's Prayer. Above all, encourage your child to say this prayer often.

With love in Christ,
UNIT 3  About Your Family

LESSON 1  WE BELIEVE
The Family Is a Gift From God

1. GETTING STARTED

OBJECTIVE
Appreciate how families love and care for one another

NEW VOCABULARY
- family - parents and their children
- obey - carry out a request or command

OPENING PRAYER
Recite the Lord’s Prayer

MOTIVATION
Instruct the class to examine the photo collage on pages 58-59. Allow time to discuss what is taking place in each picture. Discuss with the class the idea that they are all members of different groups. Encourage the students to name different groups they belong to such as scouts, sport teams, dance groups, first grade, Greek school, and so forth. Discuss the groups of which they are members and then say, Everyone belongs to a special group and that group is called THE FAMILY.

Ask: What do you think makes a family? (list their ideas on the chalkboard)

2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING THE LESSON
1. Write the word obey on the chalkboard and discuss the word. Point out that it is good to obey our parents. Read the text on page 60 to the class. Discuss the picture and allow time for the children to express themselves. Then ask the following:
   a. What makes up a family? (a special group of people)
   b. What does God want us to do? (obey our parents)

2. Continue reading the text on pages 61-63. Allow ample time for discussion of each picture. Then ask the following questions:
   a. Do all families have the same number of members? (no)
   b. How many members are in your family? (answers will vary)
   c. Who else beside your mother, father, brother and sister are members of your family? (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins)
d. What activities do you do with your family? (Give all children a chance to respond).
e. Who gave us our family? (God)
f. Why did God give us a family? (His gift to us)

USING THE BIBLE
A Father’s Love for His Son

Read the Bible story on page 64-65 to the class. Then ask the following questions:

1. What do you think of the younger son? (answers will vary)
2. What did the younger son ask of his father? (He wanted his share of the land)
3. What did the younger son do with the land when he got the land? (He sold it, and went to a faraway land)
4. What did he do with the money? (He spent it on bad things)
5. What did the father do when the son returned home? (He hugged him and kissed him)
6. What did the son tell his father? (He was sorry that he had sinned against him and God and he was sorry for the way he acted)
7. What did the father do? (He was so happy he gave a special party for him)

After reading the Bible story, explain to the students that the son was forgiven for what he did and the father was glad that his son realized that he had done wrong. This Parable of the Prodigal Son has several levels of meaning but deal only on the level that is understandable to a six-year old.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Making A Family Book Give each child two sheets of plain paper and a piece of construction paper. Instruct the children to fold the paper into a booklet and print on the cover, THE (name) FAMILY BOOK. Then have them draw pictures of their family members. Tell them to print each family members’ name and something that he/she contributes to the family. Afterwards, have them share their booklets with the class.

MATERIALS NEEDED
1. two sheets of white paper
2. one sheet of construction paper
3. pencils
4. crayons

Making a Family Collage Have the children cut out pictures of families from old magazines. Use the pictures to discuss differences in family compositions. Then have the children paste pictures on manila paper to form a collage.

MATERIALS NEEDED
1. 12’ x 18’ manila paper
2. old magazines
3. paste
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
The Family Today It is important to be sensitive to the problems of family life which today is often varied, complex, and strained. Nearly one-third of school age children are not living with both natural parents. Do emphasize that there are many different kinds of families and that a family is made up of people who love, care for, and respect one another.

3. REVIEW

RECALLING THE LESSON
Review aspects of the lesson before dismissing the class by asking the following questions:

1. What makes a family? (a special group of people)
2. Who gave us our family? (God)
3. Why did God give us a family? (His gift to us)
4. Why is your family special? (answers should include love for one another, care for one another, and respect)
5. What did the younger son ask of his father? (He wanted his share of the land)
6. What did the younger son do with the land he got? (sold the land and wasted the money)
7. Why did the son return home? (He was sorry for what he did)
8. What did the father do when he saw his son? (He was happy to see him and gave him a special party)

CLOSING PRAYER
Recite the Lord’s Prayer

LOOKING AHEAD
The objectives for Lesson 2, WE BELIEVE It is Special to Be an Orthodox Christian Family, are as follows:
- Identify himself/herself as a member of the Orthodox Church.
- Become familiar with special religious objects of the Orthodox Church which are found in the Orthodox Christian home.
LESSON 2

WE BELIEVE

It is Special to Be an Orthodox Christian Family

1. GETTING STARTED

OBJECTIVES

Identify themselves as a member of the Orthodox Church
Become familiar with special religious objects of the Orthodox Church which are also found in the Orthodox Christian home

NEW VOCABULARY

Church family - all the families that belong to the same church

OPENING PRAYER

Recite the Lord's Prayer

MOTIVATION

Ask the students to think for a few moments about their families and what makes them special. Call on volunteers to tell what these special things are. Allow several students to talk of the specialness of their families.

2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING THE LESSON

1. After the class has had sufficient time to discuss the specialness of their families turn to page 66. Tell the class that they are going to learn about some other things that make their families special. Read the text on this page. Discuss the picture of the woman standing in front of icons in her home. Then ask the following questions:
   a. Where do you have icons in your home? (answers will vary but the majority will answer in their bedrooms)

2. Discuss the picture of the Sunday School Class on page 66. Finish reading the text on page 67. Center the discussion around families attending church together.

3. Read the text on page 67 to the class. Discuss the term Church Family. Tell the class that we are all members of a very large family - the Church Family. After reading the text ask the following questions:
   a. What do we do in Church? (we pray, we learn, and meet other people)
   b. What is the name of the big family to which you belong? (The Church Family)

4. Continue reading pages 68-69. Discuss the events in the illustrations on both pages. In the photo of the bridal couple drinking from the common cup,
tell the students that this is NOT the Communion Cup. The bridal couple is drinking from the cup which symbolizes in their life together they will have joys and sorrows to share.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY**

**Making a Mobile** Make a mobile from a coat hanger, string and pictures drawn by the children. Instruct the students to draw any three of the following: a Baptism, icon of their patron saint, a marriage ceremony, praying in Church, picture of their church, people in Church, people at a wedding reception. Attach the pictures to a hanger with string or yarn.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

1. A coat hanger for each student
2. string
3. manila paper
4. paste
5. crayons

**3. REVIEW**

**RECALLING THE LESSON**

Review the material before class dismissal by asking the following questions:

1. How is your family very special? (it is an Orthodox Christian family)
2. What does the Orthodox Christian family have in their homes? (icons)
3. What do we believe? (it is special to be an Orthodox Christian family)
4. What is a Church Family? (all the families which belong to the same church)
5. What do we do in Church? (we pray, we learn, and we meet other people)
6. Name two special days we celebrate together. (baptism and marriage)

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The objectives for Lesson 3, WE BELIEVE God Wants Us to Share Our Love with Our Family, are as follows:

- Identify the needs people have
- Express compassion for others and respond in caring ways
LESSON 3  WE BELIEVE
God Wants Us to Share Our
Love with Our Family

1. GETTING STARTED

OBJECTIVES
Identify the needs people have
Express compassion for others and respond in caring ways

NEW VOCABULARY
share - giving, dividing

OPENING PRAYER
Recite the Lord's Prayer

MOTIVATION
Give out small bags of popcorn, small candy bars, or chips. Be sure you are
one or two items short. Tell the students there is not enough to go around, and
ask what they think would be the best solution. Lead them to see when there is
not enough of something, the best solution is sharing.

2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Read the text on page 70. Discuss the photo of the boy helping his
   mother. Then ask the following questions:
   a. How do you help at home? (accept logical answers)
   b. How do you feel when you help your parents? (Elicit answers that
      express good feelings)
   c. Do you help your brother/sister? (answers will vary)

2. Continue with the text on page 70. Discuss the sharing of food, not
   having proper clothes, and those who are homeless.

3. Discuss the picture on page 70 of the family building a snowman. Point
   out that families share having fun together and they also share times when
   they are not happy.

4. Read the text on page 71. Then ask the following questions:
   a. What things do we share? (our faith and love)
   b. What other things can we share besides food and clothing? (friends,
      kindness, caring for others)

5. Allow time for the children to explore the idea of sharing with others.
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Drawing a Picture Have each student draw a picture on manila paper that shows how he/she cares for someone.

MATERIALS NEEDED
1. manila paper or newsprint
2. crayons

Drawing a Picture Have the student draw a picture on manila paper that shows how he/she shared something with someone.

MATERIALS NEEDED
1. manila paper or newsprint
2. crayons

3. REVIEW

RECALLING THE LESSON
Review material presented in this lesson before dismissing the class by asking the following questions:
1. What does God want us to do? (share with everyone)
2. What does “share” mean? (to give; to divide)
3. Name some things we share with our family. (answers will vary)
4. What makes up the Church family? (All the people who belong to the same church)
5. What is God’s family? (All families)
6. What do we believe? (God wants us to share our love with our family)

CLOSING PRAYER
Recite the Lord’s Prayer

LOOKING AHEAD
In Unit 4, ABOUT YOUR CHURCH, students will be learning about the Orthodox Church.
UNIT 3 Review

New Words I Have Learned About

- family
- obey
- church family
- marriage
- God's family

We Believe

The family is a gift from God.
It is special to be an Orthodox Christian family.
God wants us to share our love with our family.
Checkup

Put a T on the line in front of each sentence that is true.
Put an F on the line in front of each sentence that is false.

1. T All Orthodox Christians share the same faith.

2. F All families have a mother and father.

3. F Only Orthodox Christians are part of God’s family.

4. T God wants us to share our love with others.

5. T Marriage is an important celebration.
I Love My Family

C F C F G7 C
I love my fam-ily, they are good to me. I love my
F C G G7 C fine.

C
I love my fam-ily, they are good to me. We share our home, we
F C C Am7 G7 C
share our food, we are a Christ-ian fam-i-ly. We share our love from
F C C G G7 C
God a-bove, we are a Christ-ian fam-i-ly.

"I Love My Family" is the simplest of the songs, correlating with Unit Three.
God is usually personified to children of this age through their parents. The emphasis of this song is the love found within the Christian family, their love of God and the sharing of God's gifts.

This song should be sung slowly and softly with meaning. Please note that "repeat" signs are found at the end of the song. Therefore when the song is sung to the last line, repeat it from the beginning and end at the line where the word, "fine" appears.