

The Not-the-End



1

Before you begin, please read the introduction on the right to yourself.

2

With the help of your child, prepare the meeting space. Pull out your Bible, light some candles, and add any other decoration you'd like to make the space beautiful.

Then begin with a prayer.

3

Getting started. Discuss together: Who is the best storyteller in your family or among friends? Why?

The title of this series is *Spirit With Us*. If the stories you have shared with your young person do anything, they should show you that the Spirit is still active, still needed, still loving. Nothing is finished; all is still in process. We are continuing on our journey to God and to the Reign of God no matter what our age.

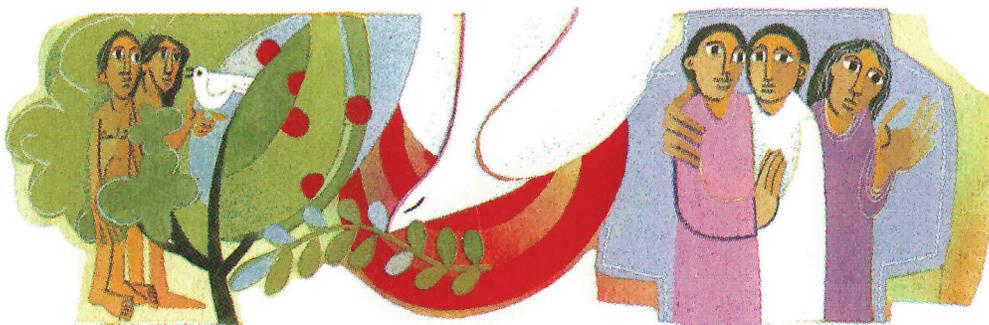
Read the story below out loud. If your child is old enough, he or she can read it to you. Otherwise, read it to your child. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.

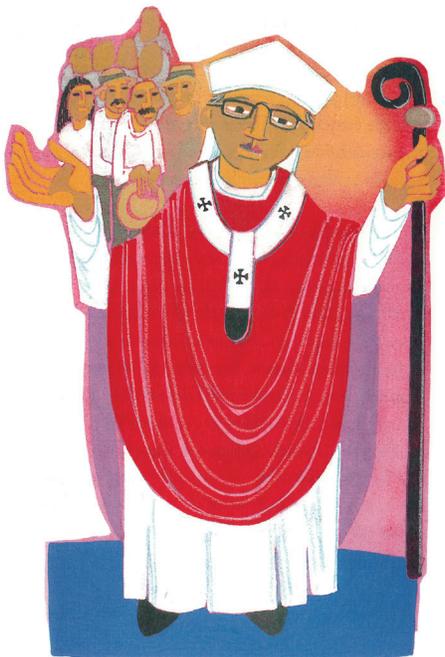
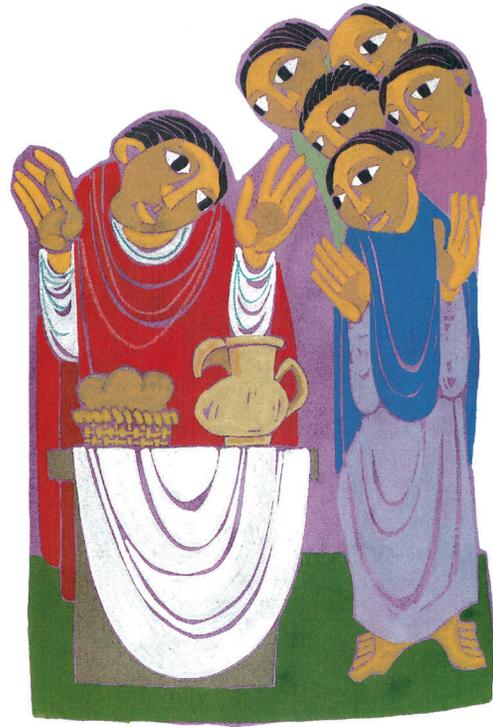
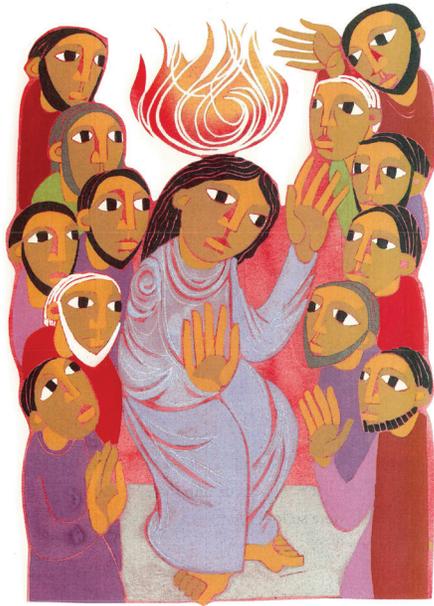
Stories, stories, stories—we have read a lot of stories. We have heard about all sorts of people who lived at different times and grew up in different lands. They all had their own stories. But they were each a part of a much larger story.

It is a story that began when the earth was brand new. It is a story that began when God first called out to Adam and Eve, and Adam and Eve responded. From before there was time God has called out. And people have answered.

Now God is calling you. God is calling you by name. There is no one else in the whole world like you. There has never been anyone like you since before time began. No one else can do what God is calling you to do. You are a part of God's story.

Your story is just beginning. There are all sorts of wonderful surprises ahead. Just remember, the great and Holy Spirit is with you and in you. If you let the spirit move you, great things will happen.





1

Now discuss the story with your child. Use the following or other questions:

1. Do you believe that your story is as important as anyone's in the book? Why or why not?
2. What was your favorite story in "Spirit With Us"? Why?

2

Get your child started on the activity on the next page, making sure they understand the instructions. Then continue to read below.

3

Just for you: We are sacraments, individually and in community, because we continue to show the Spirit of God in our actions and our lives.

While we learn much from our study of Scripture and our examination of the lives of other committed Christians, we must also reflect on our own lives, our own stories. Help your young person finish the blank pages in this book. Help your children see the value of their own stories of faith. Help them see the action of the Spirit, who is indeed with us, in their lives.

My Story

On the following pages, you will write and draw the story of the Spirit at work in your life.

To begin, on the cover below draw a picture of you helping to make the Plan of God happen in the world.



Your Story of the Spirit

1

Help your child get started on their activity on the next page, and then continue to step 2.

2

Just for you: A story—or many stories—makes up the fabric of our lives. Remember the weaving activity at the beginning of this series? That was to remind you that your story is just as important as any other story in this book.

3

Take a few minutes now to think of your story. You may wish to share your thoughts with your young person afterward.

I see the Spirit of belonging in my life in...

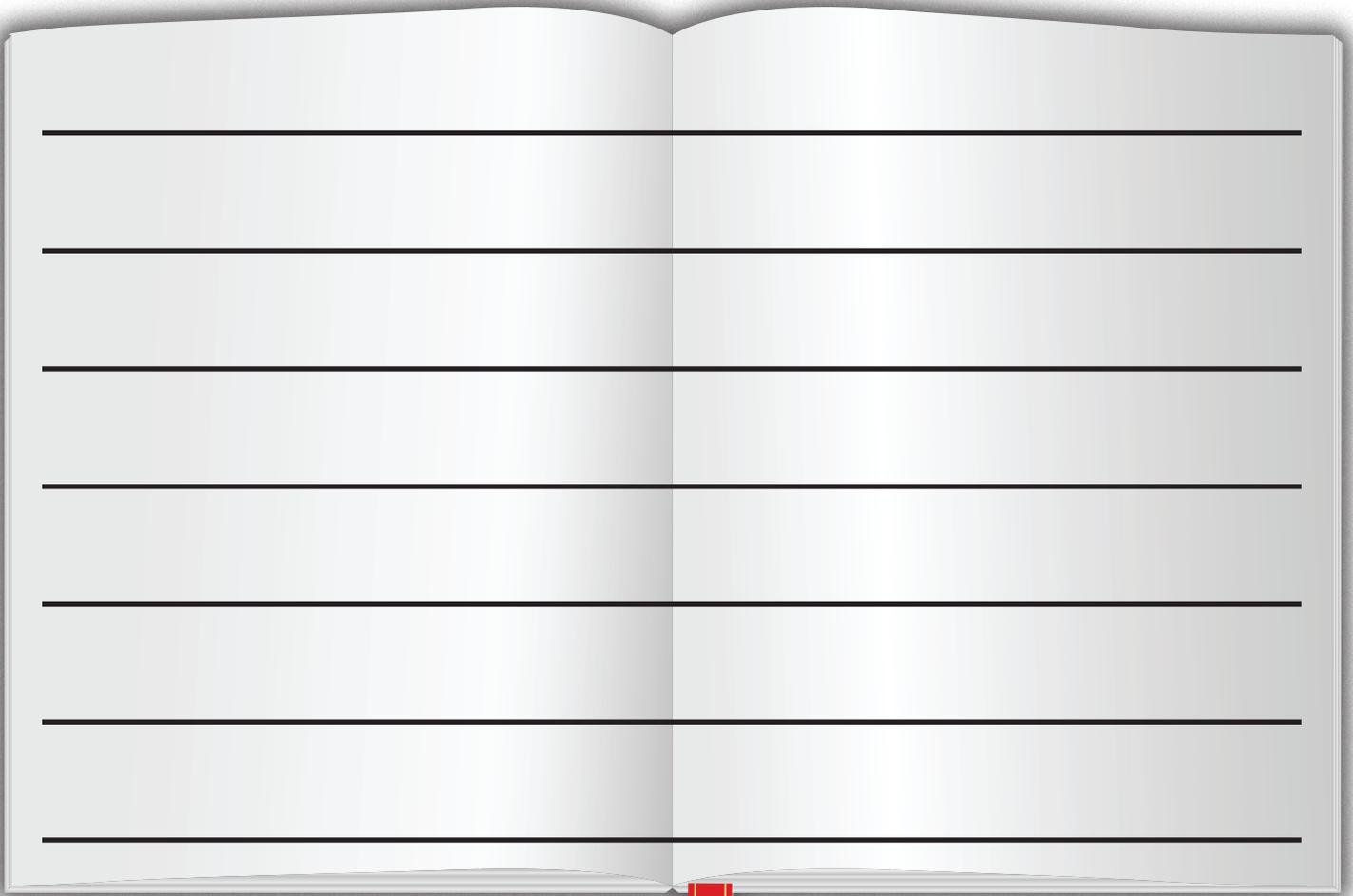


I see the Spirit of prayer in my life in...

I see the Spirit of forgiveness in my life in...

I see the Spirit of action in my life in...

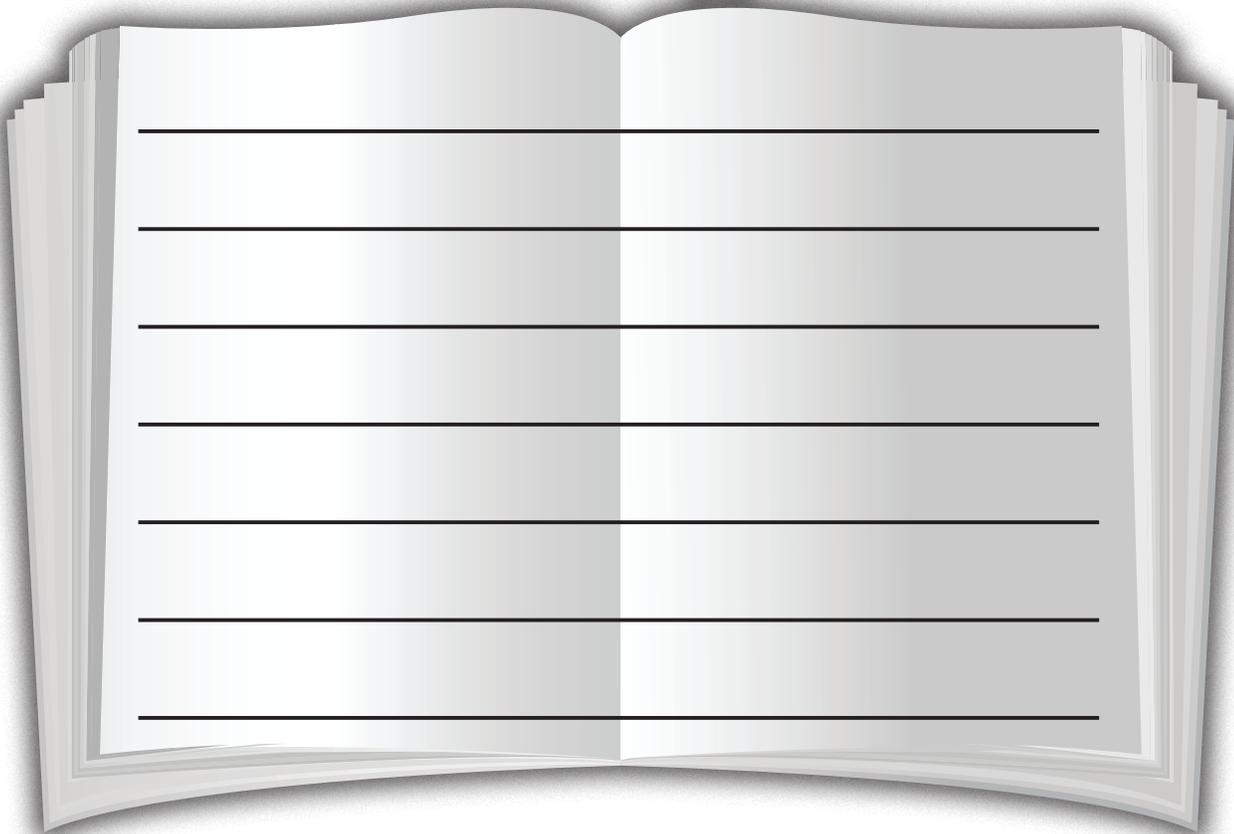
On the lines below write about a time you forgave someone.



An open notebook with ten horizontal lines on each page, intended for writing about a time you forgave someone.

Write a prayer that tells God how you are feeling today.

Tell God what you are thankful for.



An open notebook with ten horizontal lines on each page, intended for writing a prayer and expressing gratitude.

Seeing God in Your Life



1

The best way to help your young persons value their own stories is for you to share your story of faith with them.

Take time to reflect on where you have seen God and the Spirit act in your life.

Closing Ritual

2

Since this is your last session, close by sharing a meal or a special snack. As you eat, tell each other your “Not-the-End” stories. At the end of your time together, pray the doxology one more time.

Remember to pray for each other whenever you hear those words at Sunday Mass.

The Doxology

“Through Jesus, in Jesus, and with Jesus,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father,
forever and ever. Amen.”

