

## **The Story of St. Francis and the Hungry Travelers**

Once, while St. Francis was walking through the countryside, he met a group of weary travellers. They were poor and hungry, and they had no food to eat after a long journey.

Despite having very little himself, Francis welcomed the travellers with open arms. He found some bread and a little bit of food, and he shared everything he had with them. As they sat together, Francis prayed, thanking God for the blessing of food and friendship. He taught them that true joy comes from sharing what you have with others, even if it is just a little.

### **Reflect:**

While making S'mores, think about how, like St. Francis, we can share food with others. As you work together to make the S'mores, notice how making and sharing food brings people closer together, just like Francis and the travellers in the story.

After the S'mores are made, reflect on ways we can be kind and share food with others in our own lives. This could be with family, friends, and especially people in need.

### **Pray:**

Dear God,  
Thank You for the food we have to share today,  
And for the fun we have together.  
Help us to be like St. Francis,  
Sharing what we have with  
others,  
And showing kindness to  
everyone we meet.  
May this food remind us of Your  
love,  
And how You bless us with  
friends and family.  
Amen.



## The Story of St. Francis and the Birds

One day, St. Francis was walking through the fields when he noticed a large group of birds in the trees. Instead of flying away, the birds stayed close, chirping and fluttering around him. Francis smiled and began to speak to them, saying:

“Dear birds, you should always be thankful to God for the beautiful skies, the trees for your nests, and the food you find each day. God loves you and cares for you, just as He cares for all of us. So, sing your songs of praise to Him.”

The birds listened, and when Francis finished, they flew into the sky, singing joyfully. Francis was happy to see how the birds praised God, just by being themselves.



### Reflect:

As you make the bird feeders, think about how caring for birds and other animals is one way we can take care of God’s creation, just like St. Francis did. How else can we care for the world God has entrusted to us?

### Pray:

Dear God,  
Thank You for the birds and all the animals,  
For the beauty of nature and the world You created.  
Help us to be like St. Francis,  
To care for all living things,  
And to be kind to the creatures who share this world with us.  
May these bird feeders be a gift to Your birds,  
And remind us to always care for Your creation.  
Amen.

## The Story of St. Francis and the Canticle of the Sun

St. Francis loved all of God's creation and saw every part of the natural world as his family. He called the sun his "Brother" because it gave light and warmth, and the moon his "Sister" because of its soft glow in the night. He spoke of the animals, the wind, and the water as part of God's beautiful creation, all working together in harmony.

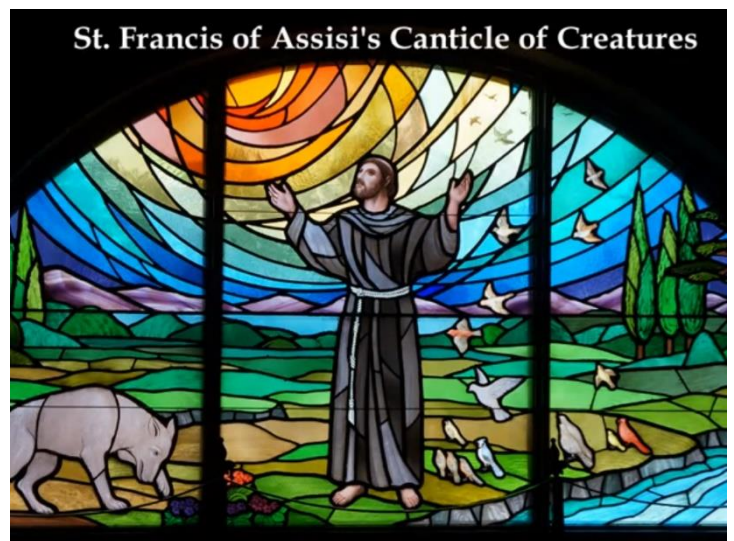
One day, Francis gathered his friends and said, "We should give thanks to God for all the wonders of creation! For Brother Sun, who brings us light, for Sister Moon, who shines in the night, and for the animals, trees, and plants that make our world beautiful. They remind us of God's love and care for everything."

### Reflect:

As you make your clay animals, think about how all of creation is connected and how we are called to care for every part of it - just as St. Francis did. The forest materials we gathered remind us that everything in nature is special and comes from God.

### Pray:

Dear God,  
Thank You for the sun, the moon, and  
the stars,  
For the trees, the flowers, and all the  
animals. Help us to be like St. Francis,  
To see all of creation as part of Your  
family, and to care for it with love and  
respect.  
As we create these animals from the  
earth, may we always remember to care  
for Your world, and to thank You for its  
beauty and wonder.  
Amen.



## **The Story of St. Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio**

Once, in the town of Gubbio, there was a great wolf that frightened all the people. The wolf was hungry and dangerous, and everyone was too scared to leave their homes. The townspeople tried to catch the wolf, but they could never stop it from attacking.

Hearing of their fear, St. Francis decided to help. He bravely went into the forest where the wolf lived, trusting that God would protect him. When the wolf appeared, growling and showing its teeth, St. Francis did not run away. Instead, he spoke to the wolf with kindness, saying:

“Brother Wolf, I know you are hungry, but you must not harm the people. God made us to live in peace with one another. If you promise to stop scaring the people, I will ask them to feed you so that you never go hungry again.”

To everyone’s amazement, the wolf listened to St. Francis. It lowered its head and placed its paw in Francis’ hand, promising to live in peace. From that day on, the wolf no longer attacked the people, and the townspeople fed and cared for the wolf. They lived together in harmony, and St. Francis was overjoyed that peace had been restored.



### **Reflect:**

Think about where peace is needed in our world, in our community, and in our lives. Write a short prayer on the tags provided, and hang it from a tree as a reminder of our commitment to peace.

### **Pray:**

Dear God,  
Thank You for the story of St. Francis and the wolf,  
And for teaching us that peace is possible,  
Even when we are scared or angry.  
Help us to be peacemakers in our homes,  
With our friends, and in the world.  
Help us to show love and kindness to everyone we meet.  
Amen.

## The Story of St. Francis Renouncing His Wealth

When Francis was a young man, he lived a wealthy and comfortable life. His father, Pietro, was a rich merchant, and Francis had everything he could ever want - fine clothes, money, and parties. But as Francis grew older, he felt God calling him to something different. He knew he couldn't live for wealth anymore and wanted to follow Jesus by living a simple life of love and humility.

One day, Francis made a bold decision. He took off his fine clothes and gave everything back to his father, saying, "From now on, I no longer need riches. I will live simply and help those who are poor and in need."

His father was angry and confused, but Francis didn't turn back. He gave up all his wealth and devoted his life to serving God, helping others, and taking care of the world around him. He learned that true joy didn't come from owning things, but from loving and giving.



### Reflect:

Search the forest for a small stone or pinecone, something that you can hold onto in your hand. While gripping the object, think about something you feel called to let go of - whether it's a material item, a feeling like anger, something we feel guilty about, or a fear. As you hold the stone or pinecone, reflect on what letting go would feel like – and then when you're ready, place it back in the forest as a symbol of letting go.

Just as St. Francis trusted in God and let go of his riches to find a deeper joy, reflect on how we too can feel lighter and free by releasing our burdens.

### Pray:

Dear God,

Thank You for the example of St. Francis,

Who gave up everything to follow You.

Help us to let go of the things that weigh us down—

Whether they are worries, fears, or things we do not need.

As we place our objects back in the forest today,

May we feel Your peace,

And trust in Your love to guide us.

Amen.