

Proclaim the Kingdom

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 139,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 279

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe the Kingdom of God as God's rule of peace, justice, and love that exists in Heaven, but has not yet come in its fullness on Earth
- Apply the parables to images of the Kingdom of God
- Recognize that Jesus performed miracles that showed God's Kingdom was being established
- Realize, through Jesus' words and actions, the need for conversion in our lives

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *The Kingdom of God is an abstract concept that may be difficult for someone your child's age to grasp. At this age, a child is probably only beginning to have the capacity to think figuratively, so a paradox we traditionally hold by faith, such as the Kingdom of God, can be challenging. The Kingdom is now and is also yet to be. It is on Earth and also in Heaven. The parables of the Kingdom are useful images to help your child begin to understand and continue to draw new meaning from these stories over time, as he or she is ready.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- I Will Sing
- Raise Your Voice for Justice

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Jesus' mission on Earth was to announce in words and deeds the presence and coming in fullness of God's Kingdom. Jesus called people to change their lives and to believe in the Good News of God's great love. This reading announces the beginning of Jesus' Kingdom mission.

Turn to Page 131,
Proclaim the Kingdom
Vivos en Cristo, Page 263



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus used parables to teach people about God’s Kingdom. He also cured the sick, forgave sinners, and welcomed outcasts in order to show that God’s Kingdom was being established and is open to everyone.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about the Kingdom of God.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 132,
The Power of Stories
Vivos en Cristo, Page 265

Ask your child to define the Kingdom of God in his or her own words.

Review the definition of **Kingdom of God** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Read aloud the opening question and the two paragraphs.

Discuss why Jesus used stories and what people did after they had heard Jesus speak. Ask how retelling Jesus stories helps your faith grow stronger. *(We learn the meaning of the stories by listening again and again.)*

Turn to Page 133,
Parables as Examples
Vivos en Cristo, Page 267

Have your child silently read the text.

Review the word **parable** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Ask: In this parable, who is the sower? What do the seeds represent?

Discuss how the responses relate to the artwork on pages 132-133.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: A parable conveys a message about God’s Kingdom using everyday images that we can relate to. Share the Scripture parable that means the most to you.

Turn to Page 134,
Signs and Wonders
Vivos en Cristo, Page 269

Read aloud the opening question and the text.

Ask: How can you help the Kingdom of God become more present in the world? (*loving others, behaving justly, being peacemakers*)



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *To encourage your child to apply the Scripture to his or her life, ask your child these questions about the parable or any other Scripture reading: What does this mean to me? What are these words asking me to do? How can I put this message into practice today?*

To delve deeper into how the Kingdom of God will come in fullness at the end of time, turn to page 310 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your child's book and read "Everlasting Life."

Have your child silently read the text.

Ask your child to circle the words that explain how Jesus continues to perform signs and wonders today. (*through the Church, the Sacraments, the community, and the Holy Spirit*)

Review the words **miracle** and **conversion** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Word box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Christians call the wonders that Jesus performed "miracles." The Gospels usually call them signs. The earliest Christians considered these significant, not because they defied ordinary laws of nature, but because they showed God's love for humans and Jesus' divine commission. God is continually showing signs of love in our everyday family life. Have an open heart to see the signs and wonders of God's love in your daily family life.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 136,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 273

Read aloud the first and second paragraphs.

Ask your child what he or she already knows about parables. Remind your child of some parables they have already heard, for example, the Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 137,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 275

Read the paragraph about Saint Catherine of Sienna.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how receiving Holy Communion can help you love your family and friends.

Turn to Page 139,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 279

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.