

The Teaching Church

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 173,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 347

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Relate Jesus' dialogue with Peter in Matthew 16 to the authority of the Apostles' successors—the bishops and the Pope
- Express the Church's mission to faithfully pass on what God has revealed through his Son, Jesus
- Describe the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church, including all the bishops in union with the Pope
- Recognize that the Pope and the bishops, guided by the Holy Spirit, protect and explain the Word of God

Turn to Page 165,
The Teaching Church
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Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *As parents, you understand the need and take responsibility for the education of your children. Whether the learning focuses on schoolwork or simply manners, children need teachers. Jesus understood that the Apostles were going to need help in understanding his words and actions. He promised the assistance of the Holy Spirit. This promise was inherited by the Apostles' chosen successors, the college of bishops, headed by the bishop of Rome, the Pope. The Church continues to teach, guided by the Holy Spirit. God understands our need to learn his will, so has given us the Church.*

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 chapter.
- *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.

- Lead Me, Lord
- Center of My Life

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: Today's reading will help us appreciate how Jesus, the great Teacher, handed on his teaching to his closest followers, the Apostles, and then called them to teach others.



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 entrusted his teaching to the Apostles. From among the Apostles, Jesus chose Peter to be the leader. And today, the Church continues to carry on Jesus’ teaching ministry.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about teachers in the Church.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 166,
The Church on Earth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 333

Ask: Who is your favorite teacher? Why? Recall your favorite teacher and tell your child what they helped you to learn.

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Discuss the importance of always being open to learning. Name some things you enjoy learning about as an adult. Perhaps you may mention you are learning how to be a good parent. Point out that the ability to learn is a gift from God.



Have your child silently read the Scripture passage.

Explain that in Greek, the original language of the Gospels, the name Peter (Petros) is almost the same as the word for rock (petra). By giving Simon the name Peter, Jesus implies that Peter will be the foundation of his Church, the “rock” on which it will be built. You may want to review the song, “Upon This Rock,” from the *Songs of Scripture* album and/or discuss the lyrics, available at aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Ask: How would you answer Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?”

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Turn to Page 167,
The Apostles’ Mission
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Ask: To whom did Jesus send the Apostles to tell the Good News? (everyone throughout the world) What were the Apostles supposed to teach? (everything that Jesus had commanded)

Summarize the text under “Faithful to the Truth.”

Ask your child to underline what truths the Church teaches. (what God has revealed through his Son, Jesus)

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity. On a separate sheet of paper, have your child compose a letter that he/she can send to one of the people he/she chose, thanking them for teaching the faith.

Parents, Consider This: *Humility is a word that can hold many meanings. One dimension of humility allows us to understand our limited natures. We do not know everything. To seek a teacher, whether it is to improve a golf game or to learn more about our faith, requires an acknowledgement of our need to grow in knowledge and understanding. It is from this very place that we look to the teaching authority of the Church to help us understand the Divine Revelation of God. Creating an environment of trust in the authority of the Church will help your child understand the life-long call to grow in knowledge and love of the Lord.*

Turn to Page 168,
The Teaching Office
Vivos en Cristo, Page 337

Using the information on this page, work with your child to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of lined paper: What is the Magisterium? Who is in the Magisterium? What does the Magisterium do for the Church? How does the Holy Spirit interact with the Magisterium?

Find the words **Magisterium** and **infallibility** in the Catholic Faith Words Box. Review their definitions.

Turn to Page 169,
Guidance of the Holy Spirit
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Summarize the text on the page. Point out that, just as the Holy Spirit guides the Pope and the Church, he also guides us, the People of God.

If you have a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in your home, show the *Catechism* to your child. Show him/her that the text is divided into four sections. Ask them to find those sections: Creed (We Believe), Sacraments (We Worship), Morality (We Live), Prayer (We Pray). Ask your child to flip to the Our Catholic Tradition section in the back of the book and match the headings to those of the *Catechism*.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 170,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 341

Read aloud the opening paragraph.

Look at each block in the “Words for Understanding” chart. Complete the two boxes on the right of the page and the bottom box in the left column.

Explain that the Director of Religious Education or Catechetical Leader in your parish is often a layperson that helps others grow in faith. E-mail your leader and ask how she/he became the faith director in your parish.

Turn to Page 171,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 343

Read the paragraph about Blessed Pope John Paul II.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can tell others about God's love.

Activity

Discuss the Live Your Faith activity. Have your child complete the answers. Discuss the teaching she/he does not understand. If you need help answering, admit that to your child and e-mail your faith director or parish priest.

Turn to Page 173,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 347

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week. You may also want to play "Upon This Rock" in your car this week as you travel to and from activities.*



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