

Disciples Serve

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 191,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 383

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand that Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show us how to serve and love one another
- Recognize that Jesus asks us to have a kind, giving heart when we serve and help others
- Identify a disciple as a follower of Jesus who believes in him and lives by his teaching
- Connect serving others with serving God

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

Parents, Consider This: *Children have many needs. When you add to that list the many things they want, you can exhaust yourself in the effort to make them happy. At times, it is difficult to remember that parenting involves the delicate balance of providing children what they need and helping them to learn how to give. The Church reminds us that the purpose of family life is to form disciples. A life of discipleship is a life of service. Involving your family in experiences of serving will help your child understand the truest part of his/her identity. Research tells us that real happiness comes from our relationships and sense of self-efficacy (our belief in our capacity to achieve a goal).*

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.

- Jesus In the Morning
- Jesu, Jesu

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 183,
Disciples Serve
Vivos en Cristo, Page 367

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.

Explain that we should love and serve all of God's People.

Say: Because God made each of us, we should love and serve all of God's People. Listen to the Gospel of Matthew to hear what Jesus said about this.



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 asks us to do something that sometimes might feel hard to do. How do we treat each other with respect?

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about what it means to serve.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 184,
Jesus the Servant
Vivos en Cristo, Page 369

Tell your child that God sent his Son, Jesus, to show people how to love.

Hold up an index card with the Catholic Faith Word **serve** on it. Ask your child to read the definition.

Tell your child to imagine that he/she is a person in the Bible story along with Jesus. Ask them to imagine what their feet would look like after a very long journey.



Proclaim "The Washing of the Disciples' Feet."



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 185,
Serve Like Jesus
Vivos en Cristo, Page 371

Tell your child that good helpers serve others.

Read aloud the paragraph. Point out that good helpers serve with love in their hearts.

Ask: Why is it important to serve with love in your hearts? (*that is what Jesus taught us to do, serving others is showing God's love to others*)

Discuss some ways that people your child's age can serve others.

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity. Ask your child to share her/his drawing with you. Together, think about some other things your family might do to serve others.

Parents, Consider This: Unfortunately, we sometimes lump the word *service* with *project*. The thought of another project to do might seem to be the straw that breaks your sanity. For a disciple, service is not a project; it is a disposition. As disciples, we understand ourselves as servants of God's Kingdom. We look at the world through the lens of bringing Christ to the world. You don't have to look far to see the many places where others are longing for Christ's presence—the elderly dying for attention, the co-worker who needs a little help. Help your child develop the eyes of a disciple—always on the look-out for a way to serve.

Turn to Page 186,
Disciples of Jesus
Vivos en Cristo, Page 373

Ask: How can you be a follower of Jesus?

Read aloud both paragraphs.

Hold up an index card with the Catholic Faith Word **disciple** on it. Have your child say *disciple*. Read aloud the definition.

Activity

Draw a gift box on a piece of paper. Tell your child that serving others is like giving someone a gift. Ask her/him to suggest “gifts” that she/he can give by serving. Write the suggestions in the box. Think of something your child has done to help someone—things you have witnessed. Affirm his/her good choice and say how proud you are of her/him for these choices.

Turn to Page 187,
Serve God and Others
Vivos en Cristo, Page 375

★ **Have** your child draw one way someone has helped her/him.

Tell your child to make their best grumpy face, and then ask, “Is that the way your face should look when you help someone? What is your face telling that person?”

Read aloud both paragraphs.

Ask your child to show you what their faces should look like when they are serving others in a loving way.

Discuss with your child certain times when it might be hard to serve others with a smile.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Read the words in the Word Bank that your child is to search for. Offer help if needed.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 188,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 377

Ask: How can you follow Jesus and serve others?

Invite your child to retell the story of Jesus washing the feet of his friends.

Have your child listen as you read aloud the first two paragraphs.

 **Point** out the list of ways to follow Jesus and serve others.
Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 189,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 379

Read the paragraph about Venerable Solanus Casey.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- What can you do to help someone in your family today?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 191,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Vivos en Cristo, Page 383

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 318), 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.