

Evil in the World

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 197,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 395

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

Parents, Consider This: *Love is so precious. When you become parents, love takes on a whole new meaning. As your child grows, you want to protect him/her from the harm that comes when he/she chooses unwisely. At some point, you realize he/she will have to make choices on his/her own. Imagine God as he beholds us, his children. Because love is a decision, God creates us with the freedom to choose. He does so knowing that we will make harmful choices as well as loving ones. His deepest desire is for us to love him in return. Yet, he will not force us and he always stands ready to forgive our contrite hearts.*

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.

- God of Mercy
- Through My Fault

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: The Bible tells us that evil entered our world because of the sinful choice of our first parents, Adam and Eve (see Genesis 3). Evil continues when we choose to do what is wrong. Still, God cares for us and loves us. Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven and can grow in goodness.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand Original Holiness as the state of goodness before our first parents chose to sin against God
- Recognize that the disobedience of our first parents and its effect for all humans is called Original Sin
- Understand that Jesus' Death and Resurrection was God's plan for the Redemption he promised his Chosen People
- Differentiate between mortal and venial sin
- Examine the relationship between sin and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Turn to Page 189,
Family Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 379



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: God is good and wants only good things for us; he sent his only Son to save his People from the power of sin and death.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about sin and evil.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 190,
The Source of Sorrow
Vivos en Cristo, Page 381

Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph.

Discuss the difference between a natural disaster, such as a flood, and the hunger and disease in a country plagued by poverty.

Say: In times of sorrow, you can always trust that God truly loves and cares for you.

Read aloud the second paragraph.

Call your child’s attention to the definition of **Original Holiness** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Complete the gold-star activity.



Proclaim the Scripture passage.

Turn to Page 191,
The Sacrifice of Jesus
Vivos en Cristo, Page 383

Ask: What does this passage tell you about Jesus’ care for you?

Have your child locate Genesis 3:1–6 and read the passage aloud.

Share with your child, as a parent, what it would feel like to watch him/her make a really bad decision that would have terrible consequences. Now ask your child how important it is to trust that you are guiding him/her in the decisions that will make him/her happy.

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity together.

Turn to Page 192,
Turning from God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 385

Read the first three paragraphs to find out why Christians remain hopeful in spite of the presence of evil in the world.

Continue to emphasize the delicate balance of God allowing for people's choices and his desire for us to be with him forever in eternity.

Ask your child to read aloud the text on "Mortal Sin."

Explain the characteristics of mortal sin. Give examples of a mortal sin. (murder, willful neglect of another person's basic needs)

Ask: What helps a person avoid mortal sin? (growing in faith and holiness; the closer I am to God, the less likely I will turn away from him)

Turn to Page 193,
Venial Sin
Vivos en Cristo, Page 387

Invite your child to silently read the text.

Ask her/him to explain how venial sins differ from mortal sins.

Emphasize that repeated sins give rise to habits called *vices*.

Ask: How might a person develop a vice?

Discuss what might be happening in the photograph.

Give your child a lined sheet of paper and ask her/him to make a list of venial sins that a fifth grade person might commit by taking an action.

(sending a bullying text, cheating on a test, wasting food) Make another list of venial sins that a fifth grader might commit by not taking action.

(not being responsible for her/his possessions, not helping a sibling or friend because he/she doesn't feel like it)

Parents, Consider This: *Make no mistake, there is such a thing as sin! We live in a world that excuses willful harm, as lessons to be learned, or just a mistake. When this happens, the reality of sin has been diminished. Accountability for our actions and being responsible for the consequences are difficult lessons to learn—lessons that are taught first and best in your home. It may help to regularly read the story of Adam and Eve's fall to remind ourselves that God, who loves perfectly, does not consider their action a "mistake." He allows the consequences in love. One of the most loving things you can do for your child is to help him/her understand sin, but always in the context of God's unfathomable desire to forgive a truly sorrowful heart.*

Discuss the list of sins with your child. Talk about the kind of person you want him/her to become.

Read aloud the definitions of **sin**, **mortal sin**, and **venial sin**, in the Catholic Faith Words box, without providing the actual term. Ask your child to tell you the term that goes with each definition.

Read aloud the text "The Forgiveness of Sins."

Ask your child to describe their feelings about God’s forgiveness.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 194,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 389

Direct your child’s reading by pointing out to him/her how you see him/her usually express pain and sorrow.

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child silently read Psalm 55 from your family Bible. Invite him/her to paraphrase the Psalm for you.

Using the “Prayer of Lamentation” chart, introduce the steps for praying a lament.

Read the steps and find them in Psalm 55.

Ask: Why is it so important to trust God when you are hurting? What makes it hard to express feelings honestly?

★ **Place** a check mark by the steps he/she may have trouble expressing.

Remind your child that following this process will help her/him bring difficult emotions to God in prayer.

Turn to Page 195,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 391

Read the paragraph about Saint Gemma Galgani.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How can you remember to pray to Jesus and Mary when making a decision?

Turn to Page 197,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.

Vivos en Cristo, Page 395

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Love (see Page 323), 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.