

# Listen to God's Word

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 241,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 483

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *We are called to dwell in the Word of God, to find shelter and sustenance in the Scriptures, and to grow closer to the living Word of God, Jesus. Our lives are full of distractions that cause us to stray and wander from our true place in God's love. But if we take time to dwell in God's Word, we will always find our way home. Make a home for God's Word in your family and it will grow in your child's heart.*

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize Jesus' use of stories as a way to help us understand more about God and his Kingdom
- Examine the components of the Liturgy of the Word, including readings from both the Old Testament and New Testament
- Understand that the deacon or priest proclaims the Gospel reading and gives a homily to help us understand and apply God's Word to our lives
- Identify that the Liturgy of the Word ends with the Creed and the Prayer of the Faithful

**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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- Gospel Acclamation/Alleluia
- Jesus' Stories

## 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.

**Explain** that in the Bible, God tells us so much about himself. We learn how God wants to be with us.

**Say:** Let's hear one parable Jesus told to help us understand life with God.



**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 told his disciples many parables. The stories he told are God’s living Word. We read them today in the Bible.

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

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 234,**  
God’s Word Proclaimed  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 469

**Read** aloud the text and have your child circle the word parables.



**Proclaim** the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box.

**Direct** your child’s attention to the illustration. Have your child locate the mustard seeds, the large tree, and the bird coming to nest.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** Show your child a jar of mustard (if possible). Tell your child that mustard is made from the fruit of a spice bush. In the Palestine of Jesus’ day, a tiny mustard seed might grow into a sprawling desert bush large enough for birds to nest in. The phrase “the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches” is an old Jewish proverb (or saying) used by the prophets to describe God’s role over all people. This Scripture story of the tiny seed that grows to many times its size reminds us that if we have a little faith, God will help us grow.

**Turn to Page 235,**  
The Scripture Readings Begin  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 471

**Invite** your child to think of ways in which Jesus continues to teach us using stories today.

**Read** aloud the first paragraph and summarize the bullet points.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Read** aloud the last sentence.

**Explain** that the reader says the same thing at the end of each reading, the acclamation, “The word of the Lord.”

*Ask:* What do you respond? (“Thanks be to God.”)

## Activity

**Have** your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Jesus used stories as a way to help us understand the Kingdom. Make Bible stories a regular part of your bedtime reading to your child.*

**Turn to Page 236,**  
Jesus' Good News  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 473

**Read** aloud the opening question and the text. Have your child point to and read the highlighted words **homily**, **creed**, and **Prayer of the Faithful**. Read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Turn to Page 237,**  
The People Speak  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 475

**Read** aloud the text. Have your child say, “Lord, hear our prayer” after each of the three bullets.

## Activity

**Have** your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Praying for others is an important aspect of practicing our faith. Intercessory prayer is an ancient practice in Jewish and Christian tradition. We are called to feel such solidarity with all humans that we ask God's blessing without limits, including even our enemies and those who persecute us. How is praying for others integrated into your family's prayer? Find a regular time to do this, perhaps at dinner prayer or bedtime prayer.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 238,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 477

**Read** aloud the opening question and the first paragraph.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Jesus used parables, stories that used everyday situations that were familiar to the people, but in a way that they could learn about God and the Kingdom. The parables such as the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son have practical lessons for families.*

**Turn to Page 239,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 479

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Paul.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what you would write if you were writing about Jesus.

**Turn to Page 241,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 483

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).