

# Liturgy of the 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:** *How do you observe God's Word in your family? The Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition of the Church together reveal God's Word to believers. The Liturgy of the Word is the first great part of the Mass, and it centers on the readings from Scripture. In the midst of God's assembled people, the written word of the Bible, by the power of the Holy Spirit, comes alive. To those who hear the word with faith, the Spirit gives the power to understand and respond with faith and conversion of heart. Hopefully this Word nurtures and guides your family.*

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize the Bible as the written Word of God, which we must read, reflect on, and use in our prayers
- Identify the type of content available to us in the Old Testament and New Testament
- Understand that even though Sacred Scripture was written long ago, with the help of the Church's interpretation, it continues to reveal God's truth to us
- Describe the elements of the Liturgy of the Word, an integral part of the Mass and all sacramental celebrations

**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).

- Malo! Malo! Thanks Be to God
- Speak to Us, Jesus

## 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:** In today's Scripture passage, Jesus makes a powerful comparison. We know how much Jesus loves his mother and how the angel declared Mary to be "blessed" among women. Listen to what Jesus said about how we are just as blessed.

**Turn to Page 233,**  
Liturgy of the Word  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 467



**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:** The Church interprets Scripture in light of the Church’s living Tradition. The Liturgy of the Word is the first of the two main parts of the Mass.

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

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 234,**  
The Power of  
God’s Message  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 469

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

**Point** out Spain on a map of the world to prepare your child for the biography.

**Have** your child silently read the biography of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 235,**  
Saint Ignatius of Loyola  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 471

**Have** your child finish reading the story. Ask your child to tell you what he or she learned about Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Tell your child that the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) started with only a few men, but has since grown into a successful order. Discuss what that indicates about Ignatius and his followers.

**Read** aloud the last two paragraphs.

## Activity

**Do** the Share Your Faith activity. Share what the passage means to each of you and have your child complete the activity in the book.

**Parents, Consider This:** Include, as a prayer practice, a modified version of holy reading, an ancient way of praying with Scripture. Have your child listen closely as you slowly proclaim a Gospel story used at Mass. Briefly discuss the meaning of the story and help your child connect the story to people and events in their lives. You may want to include all family members in this exercise. Allow time for everyone to sit quietly and prayerfully in God's presence.

**Turn to Page 236,**  
God Speaks to Us  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 473

**Ask** your child why the Liturgy of the Word is important.

**Summarize** the two paragraphs.



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

**Ask:** How do you express your gratitude to God during the Liturgy of the Word?

**Have** your child silently read the text on this page and the top of page 237.

**Turn to Page 237,**  
Proclaimed and Preached  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 475

**Read** aloud the text under “Proclaimed and Preached.” Explain that different types of Bible readings are used during Mass.

**Encourage** your child to tell you what he or she knows about the highlighted words in the text. Look back at the Catholic Faith Words box on page 236 and silently read the definitions for **Book of Gospels**, **psalms**, and **Creed**.

**Read** aloud the definitions in the chart, “The Liturgy of the Word.” Encourage your child to memorize the parts of the Liturgy of the Word. Ask them to describe what is happening in the photo on this page.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** The readings on most Sundays and important feasts include an Old Testament reading, a psalm, a reading from one of the New Testaments letters, and the Gospel of the day. The Gospel is usually followed by the priest or deacon's homily. Discuss how the homily is meant to help us put the Word of God into practice. Make it a habit to ask a simple question after Mass, such as: “What is one thing you heard in the homily that you want to remember?” or “What is a message you heard in the homily?”

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the opening question and two paragraphs.

**Read** to your child the steps in the “Reflect on the Word” chart.

**Ask:** What kind of help do you need in order to hear God’s Word?  
(the Holy Spirit to open our hearts)



**Do** the gold-star activity.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Jerome.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you know about the Bible.

## Activity

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

**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 322), 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).