

The Call to Serve

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 265,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 531

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify vocation as a particular way to answer God's call
- Describe the various vocations we are called to
- Begin to understand the need to listen for God's call
- Examine the Sacraments at the Service of Communion—Holy Orders and Matrimony—and how they help build up the People of God

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

Parents, Consider This: *Some days it may be difficult to remember that your family started out as a couple. With the constant energy you expend on the needs of your child or children, the relationship with your spouse can oftentimes be put on the “back burner.” While therapists remind us that we need to pay attention to our relationship with our spouse in order for it to remain healthy, for Christians, it is more than a matter of mental health; it is a matter of understanding our source. We see family life through this lens: God’s love is made visible in the love of husband and wife. That love continues to flow into the lives of their children and of the entire family. If the married couple does not give attention and care to their love, the love that begins in God, then all of their other relationships will be disordered. Keep order in your household by maintaining a healthy relationship with your spouse.*

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.

- Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ
- Act Justly

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 257,
The Call to Serve
Vivos en Cristo, Page 515

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 verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Today's Scripture makes it very clear that being a disciple of Jesus means being a servant. Jesus is calling us to serve, never to "lord it over" others. If Jesus served, so must we.



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 celebrates Matrimony and Holy Orders as the two Sacraments at the Service of Communion. Each one of us is called to a vocation to serve God and others.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about being a servant leader.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 258,
Responding to God's Call
Vivos en Cristo, Page 517

Have your child silently read the two paragraphs. Read the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, **vocation**.

Discuss what a vocation enables a person to do. Explain that a vocation is a particular way of serving God and others.

Share with your child how you chose the work that you do. Connect your work to your gifts, talents, and/or passions. If you are currently not working, you can either talk about the work you used to do or how you use the gifts God gave you to create a nurturing home.



Ask your child to find Matthew 9:35-38 in your Bible. Read aloud the Scripture to him/ her.

Ask: What is the mission of all baptized followers of Jesus?

Look at the picture on the page and ask how this young woman could use her talent to serve God and others?

Read the last paragraph.

Alternate reading the text aloud.

Say: Saints Isidore and Maria offered their daily work to God.

Turn to Page 259,
Saints Isidore and Maria
Vivos en Cristo, Page 519

Clarify what it means to “offer” one’s work to God, and what this might look like for young people. (They should do their best for God—at school, at home, etc. They can think of God when they do their chores and do them willingly and to the best of their ability.)

Ask: What activities can you offer to God? How would doing this help you?

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity. Discuss your child’s answer. Then, share with your child about a person that you admire because of their service.

Turn to Page 260,
Building Up the
Body of Christ
Vivos en Cristo, Page 521

Encourage your child to think about how people live the Sacraments at the Service of Communion as you cover the next two pages. (They give to others and, in their giving, become one with God’s Body on Earth.)

Ask your child what he/she already knows about these Sacraments.

Take turns reading aloud the text. When you get to the highlighted words, **laity**, **consecrated religious life**, and **vows**, go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read their definitions. You may want to create vocabulary cards for these words to use for review later.

Turn to Page 261,
Sacraments at the
Service of Communion
Vivos en Cristo, Page 523

Call your child’s attention to the chart at the top of the page. Discuss the elements of the chart.

Alternate reading aloud the paragraphs.

Activity

Give your child a separate sheet of paper and direct them to fold it in half width-wise. In one column, write “Matrimony,” in the other, “Holy Orders.” Have your child write the answers to the following questions in their respective columns. Matrimony: What do the bride and groom promise? What will help them to live faithfully? How do the married couple share God’s word? Holy Orders: How does a priest share God’s love in the world? What does a priest promise? What will help him to live faithfully?

Parents, Consider This: In Baptism, each person is called to participate in the ministry of Jesus. Some men and women receive a particular call to serve the Lord through vowed religious life of the ordained ministry. These men and women seek to listen for God's voice as they discern where and how to serve God's People. It is important to "fire" the imagination of your child with the possibility that God may be calling her/him to religious life. Build relationships with priests and sisters in your community. Include short visits to monasteries and abbeys during any vacations that you take. Through prayer and encouragement, they may find that their journey to Heaven will be walked through this type of vocation.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 262,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 525

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Explain to your child the meaning and concept of charism. (a spiritual talent) Give examples of charisms. (wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy)

★ **Tell** your child that she/he will be using the "Many Ways to Serve" chart to learn about ways to serve in the Catholic community. Help your child find a Catholic community that interests them and have them answer the questions in the chart.

Ask: What does a religious vocation require?

Turn to Page 263,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 527

Read the paragraph about Saint Francis Xavier.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family share the Good News with others?

Turn to Page 265,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 531

Parents, Consider This: It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning Prayer (see Page 323), during your morning prayer this week.



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