

Life in Christ

Preparation for the Session

This session has parts that will take place at different times. You will gather with your child for Part 1: Invite. Your child will then work independently on Part 2: Discover, and you will read that section of the chapter on your own as well. Finally, you will come together again later in the week for Part 3 to review and complete the In Summary & Live section.

In this chapter, your child will cover the following objectives:

- Describe what the Gospels tell us about Jesus' love for us
- Express ways to live out the teachings of Jesus
- Examine justification as the forgiveness of sins and the return to the goodness for which humans were first created
- Discover that Baptism helps us live in "right" relationship with God because of the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit
- Discuss the role of conversion in spiritual renewal in discipleship
- Explore how the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is an experience of conversion

Parents, Consider This: *Who among us has not wrestled at some point with the need to change? It might have been something as simple as adapting to a new cell phone or as difficult as giving up a life-threatening habit, like smoking. Change challenges us. Jesus challenges us to give up our life of sin. These words may lose meaning in the world today where we sometimes prefer to use the word mistake instead of sin. Sin is real. It is a failure to live in right relationship with God and others. Emphasize, to your child, the importance of living out that which we believe and coming back to Jesus in a spirit of repentance when we recognize we have sinned. Helping your daughter/son to know this truth and accept the consequences of the choices she/he makes will help her/him to grow in holiness.*

Children at This Age: *At this age your child may grapple with impulse control. His/her behavior is largely governed by how he/she feels at any given moment, and it may change several times in one day. You are not imagining all those mood swings! At this time in your daughter/son's development, she/he needs to learn the connection between personal values and behavior. Your child will learn best when she/he has consistent moral behavior modeled by you. Your daughter/son needs to see that you are authentic and that your faith in Jesus guides your life.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 143,
Life in Christ

Make sure you have a Bible, writing tools for both of you, and some paper.

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 Together make the Sign of the Cross. Have your child take the role of leader and read aloud the prayer. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Explain that having Jesus Christ as a part of our lives makes a difference; we can make life-giving choices to bring the light of Christ into the world and to continue Christ’s mission.

Say: Jesus understands us and knows our needs. Today we will focus on the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word ritual you learned in the Introduction Session.

- Proclaim the Scripture 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.

Say: Jesus is the Vine, the Bread of Life, and the Light of the World who offers eternal life to those who believe. Our God wants so much for us to live in his life that he gives us many ways to connect with him.

Now, look at the *Have you ever thought...* box.

Invite your child to respond to the questions found in the box in the Student Book, also listed here:

- What does Jesus’ mission mean to you? (Jesus’ mission is to bring all people into right relationship with his Father. Your child may have various thoughts on how this affects him/her.)
- What difference can believing in Jesus make in how you live? (It should make ALL the difference because he is the center of our lives.)

Ask what else your son/daughter might wonder about God’s Word and what it means to us today.

Turn to Page 144,
Getting Started

Ask your child to read the first paragraph. Work with him/her to review the directions and complete the chart on page 144. (The missing words in the first part of the chart are as follows: Good, Vine, Light, Life.)

Turn to Page 145

Preview the Catholic Faith Words at the top of the page. Ask your child what she/he thinks the words mean. The definitions can be found in the glossary at the end of the Student Book.

Direct your child to complete the Write activity in the book while you complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, discuss your responses.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 146–151. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

Be sure to read these pages as well. Doing so will give you insight into chapter topics and will help you engage your child in later discussions.

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 151,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Ask your son/daughter to read aloud the bullet points. Discuss ways we can be renewed by our faith in Jesus.

Turn to Page 152

Ask your child to silently read the Our Catholic Life text.

Parents, Consider This: *One of the great obstacles to taking responsibility for our words and actions is the seemingly inborn need to blame others. There is always a “laundry list” of reasons why we do what we do, and most of those reasons have to do with circumstances and/or people who “made” us behave that way. It is a good spiritual practice to claim the freedom that Christ died to give us. The freedom and the grace to make our own choices despite other’s words and actions. Helping your child to understand the gift that has been given us by Christ’s saving sacrifice on the Cross will set her/him on a lifetime journey of responsibility and true freedom.*

Review the steps that can help someone deepen his/her relationship with God. Each of you should choose one of these steps you can commit to doing more regularly in the month ahead. Tell each other what that is and then check back in a month to see how faithful you have been and what a difference it has made. Reinforce the truth that the stronger our connection to Christ, the stronger our capacity to act in freedom.

Read aloud the story of Blessed Victoria Rosoamanarivo. Stress that she was not a nun, but a lay person who lived out the call of her Baptism.

Point out the Consider activity. Since our life of sin is a personal journey, your child will probably not be comfortable sharing his/her answers to this activity with you. Instead, discuss how never admitting you need to change or to turn away from sin prevents you from growing into the person God created you to be.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Love on Page 386.



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