

From Age to Age

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.

Parents, Consider This: *What are you willing to die for? That is a difficult question. The old saying, “Life isn’t worth living unless you find something worth dying for,” helps us to name what we value most. We have been given the treasure of our Catholic faith because thousands of people throughout the centuries decided that the name of Jesus was worth dying for. Today, the persecution of Christians continues to take place. We stand on the sacrifices of those who have gone before us, as we are asked to stand for our faith each day. As your family continues to stand against the values of the culture that challenge the Gospel, pray for the courage to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Children at This Age: *When your daughter/son reads the stories of the martyrs, she/he may tend to think of religious persecution as something that happened long ago, or at least something that happens in other places, far away. Your child will need help in understanding that persecution comes in a number of different forms, from peers and popular culture to oppressive governments. Knowing the stories of the Saints who have endured such hardships can inspire her/him to live a life of faith. You can help your child develop a spirit of commitment within the Church community by encouraging actual involvement in the many ways the Church exercises and carries out her mission.*

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

- Describe the general life situation of the early Christians before Constantine
- Examine how the Edict of Milan changed the development of Christianity
- Explain how the use of indulgences was one of the factors that led to the Reformation
- Examine how the Council of Trent worked to make Church teachings clearer and reform abuses

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 315,
From Age to Age

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. Pray the first part of the leader prayer. Have your child read aloud the Psalm verse. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Say: This week we are going to learn about the persecution that the earliest Christians experienced. They faced insults, ridicule, and challenges, and risked their lives for believing in Christ and living their beliefs. Yet, God called them and us to be his Church and continue to be his voice in the world. Let’s prepare to hear his voice in our own lives.



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: God cares about every day of your life. He wants you to be happy, but knows that there will be suffering and pain because of evil and sin.

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:

- How does God give you the strength you need to face the challenges in life? (*He walks through difficult times with you.*)
- How can you accept the call of serving God? (*By first listening for the ways he communicates his plan for you.*)

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

Turn to Page 316,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph. Ask your child to complete the chart. After discussing his/her thoughts, talk about any of the challenges you might add.

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.

Turn to Page 317

Ask your child to read aloud the activity instructions. While he/she completes the activity on the page, answer the same questions yourself on a separate piece of paper. Your child will learn much about you and those who helped you from the answers that you give.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 318–323. 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 323,
In Summary

When you return, alternate reading the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” bullets with your child. Have them rephrase each summary point in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 324

Direct your daughter/son to silently read Our Catholic Life.

Parents, Consider This: *You have walked quite a faith journey with your child this year. The time you have spent in sacred conversation has helped you to grow in your relationship with Christ and your relationship with each other. You have ended each of these sessions by focusing on the lives of Saints, our role models. Remember that research tells us that you are still the most significant role model in your child's life. The decisions you make each day to live or not live your faith in word and action are being observed and reflected upon by your child. In the Gospels, Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me.” May God continue to bless all of the members of your family as you lead your children to him.*

Reflect on the story of Saint Marianne. Discuss what she believed was worth dying for.

Read the instructions for the Identify and Describe activity. Think about the changes you have experienced in the Church during your lifetime. Share this information with your child.

Conclude the session by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit on Page 384.



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