

# Created By God

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 55,**  
 the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 111

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify the Bible as God's Word written by humans
- Appreciate that God made everything and all of creation is good
- Understand that God made humans to be his friends, to know him and love him

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *This first chapter begins at the beginning, explaining that all human beings are created in the image of God. We possess dignity because we are mirrors that reflect God's splendor and his goodness. It's easy to see, then, how you are your child's best teacher of faith. You see him/her with the eyes of God. You truly know how unique and good he/she is. When you teach your child this truth of our faith he/she will be able to recognize the preciousness of their own life as well as the value of the lives of others.*

**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 lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you 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).

- God Is a Part of My Life
- Wonderfully Made Parade

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 47,**  
 Created By God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 95

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 God created the world and everything in it, including people.

**Say:** Each one of us is different and special because God made us that way. Now, let's hear how wonderful God is to us.



**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:** God made each of us. Each one of us is created by God to be who we are. God lives in us and asks us to do things that only we can do. Tell your child the things you think are special about her/him.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 48,**  
God’s Creation  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 97

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Show** your child a Bible and explain that it is a holy book. It is God’s book. Review the word Bible on the page and have your child find it on the cover or front page of the Bible itself.

**Read** the second paragraph.



**Proclaim** “The Garden of Eden.”

- Invite your child to find the names of the first humans in the text.
- *Ask:* What else did God create?



Work on the gold-star activity. Provide time for your child to draw themselves into the picture of creation.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Do you recall the wonder and awe you experienced when you first held your child? For those first months everything he/she did was a marvel; smiling, burping, turning over. You must have regularly reflected upon the intricacies of this creature. In these past several years you have had the opportunity to help your child know that he/she is God’s beloved creation. You are not the only one who calls this child son or daughter. The Creator of the stars, the sun, and the moon has created your child to forever be in relationship with him.*

**Turn to Page 49,**  
God Gives Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 99

**Share** the information in the paragraph.

**Ask:** “Who made you?”

**Tell** your child that you are going to write the word “Creator” on an index card and explain that this is a name for God. Have your child point to the word in the book and call out the letters to you as you print on the index card.

**Explain** that we recognize our belief in God the Creator when we pray the Apostle’s Creed at Mass. Turn to page 299 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book. Using the index card, ask your child to find the word “Creator” in the Apostle’s Creed.

## Activity

**Read** aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Help your child spell out the word “creation.” When she/he is finished tell them what your favorite thing that God created is and why.

**Turn to Page 50,**  
God Loves You  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 101

**Read** aloud “God Loves You.”

**Explain** that humans cannot see God, but they know what he is like from the things that he has made and from the Bible. Explain that God is greater and more wonderful than anything people can imagine about him.

**Point** out the picture of creation. Encourage your child to name what she/he sees.

**Ask:** Who is the fastest, the tallest, the loudest, the most funny, etc.?

★ Work on the gold-star activity. Invite your child to circle two of her/his favorite things that God made in the picture.

**Turn to Page 51,**  
God’s World  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 103

**Ask** the children to stand to celebrate God’s wonderful world.

**Read** “God’s World.” Work together with your child to invent gestures to go with each line of the poem. Read aloud the poem a second time while your child does the gestures. You may need to remind him/her of what they need to do as you go.

## Activity

**Work** on the Connect Your Faith activity with your child. Have them trace the letters to write the word.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 52,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 105

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Say:** Name some of God’s gifts that you can see. (Answers may include people, animals, trees, rain, lakes, mountains, and so on.)

**Ask:** How do we use some of the things God created? (Answers may include we use trees to build homes, we use people to care for us, we use plants and animals for food.)



Read the directions to the gold-star activity aloud. Work with your child to complete the activity.

**Turn to Page 53,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 107

### Activity

**Discuss** the first part of the Live Your Faith activity. Ask your child to color the picture. When finished, invite your child to tell you about her/his picture.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Young children sometimes define a “gift” as something extravagant or costly, given on special occasions. Make the effort to help your child see that his/her everyday life is full of simple gifts—the wonders of nature, the joys of time shared with friends, the love shown by family members. This week get out some old sunglasses and for a minute or so each day invite your child to put on the “gift finders” and have them name a few simple gifts from the day. Then you do the same. After you’ve both had time to find some gifts, be sure to tell your child, “We are so thankful for these gifts.”*

**Read** the paragraph about Fra Angelico.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Look at a picture of Jesus or Mary in your house or talk about where you have seen one.

**Turn to Page 55,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let’s Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 111

**Parents, Consider This:** *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Our Father (see Page 317) 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).

# God's Gift For Us

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 65,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 131

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Discover that God created the world to show his love
- Appreciate that all of creation is God's gift to us, and his Son, Jesus, is his greatest gift
- Describe ways that people use God's gifts in the world to make things we need
- Understand that thanksgiving is showing God we are grateful for all that he's given us

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Genesis actually begins with two creation accounts (Genesis 1:1–2:4/ Genesis 2:4–25). Common to both stories is the idea that all the wonders of creation are gifts from God to humanity, gifts that humans have a responsibility to cherish. Belief in the goodness of creation was one of the most important convictions that the people of ancient Israel passed on to the Catholic Church. In the course of a challenge in someone's day, you might hear them say "It's all good," as they try to make the best of it. When you grow in the awareness that all creation reflects God's goodness, it gives new meaning to "It's all good!"*

**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 lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you 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).

- And It Was Good
- The Tiny Seed

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 57,**  
God's Gifts for Us  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 115

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 God created the world and everything in it.

**Say:** God has created so many wonderful gifts for us to enjoy. Let's listen to a reading from the Book of Genesis.



**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:** God gives us many different kinds of gifts for us to see and to enjoy as well as to give us life.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about God’s creation and how God thought of so many different things.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 58,**  
Gifts from God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 117

**Point** to the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to find the word that begins with the letter “J.” Write the name “Jesus” on an index card. Have your child look at and say his name. Ask him/her to listen for the word Jesus when you read. Tell him/her to stand at the name of Jesus.

**Read** “Gifts from God” to your child.

**Ask:** What is the greatest gift God gave us? What are some of the other gifts God gave us?

**Share** that God gives us the gift of the world and all that is good in it.

**Using** an index card, review the Catholic Faith Word **Jesus** and teach the word **praise**.



Point out the directions to the gold-star activity and read them. Have your child work to complete the activity.

**Turn to Page 59,**  
God Made the World  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 119

**Summarize** the paragraph to prepare for the Scripture story.



**Proclaim** “The Story of Creation.”

**Tell** your child you are going to play a game. He or she should think of something good in God’s world that they can act out for you. After you guess what their gift is, then you can act out something God has made. Do this several times.

**Emphasize** that the whole world and everything in it is God’s gift to us.

**Turn to Page 60,**  
Made to Help Us  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 121

Read aloud “Made to Help Us.”

**Emphasize** that God gave us everything we need to live and be happy.

★ Read aloud the directions to the gold-star activity. Then read the chart aloud together. Share with your child several people in your life that make you happy. Tell the reasons why. Include people your child knows but some he/she does not know. Ask him/her to share some with you.

**Remind** your child that God gives us people to love and care for us and to be our friends.

**Turn to Page 61,**  
Thank God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 123

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Introduce** the word **thanksgiving** from the Catholic Faith Word box.

**Read** through the list of ways we can tell God thank you. After each sentence, discuss ways in which your family can remember to live these simple steps to holiness.

**Turn** to Grace After Meals on page 318 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book for an example of a prayer of thanksgiving.

## Activity

**Read** aloud the directions to the activity. Direct your child to do the activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Sharing food with others is not only a function of survival but a way we connect with one another. Food feeds our bodies and our souls. Food can be a daily reminder that everything in our lives is a gift—the food we eat, the people that surround us. One of the most basic forms of thanksgiving is the prayer before meals. This prayer is a simple practice to help us become aware of God’s gracious gifts. Make a family commitment to pray before you eat no matter where you are.*

**Turn to Page 52,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 105

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Ask:** How do people use the things God made? (Answers may include we use trees to build homes, we use people to care for us, we use plants and animals for food.)

**Read** the second paragraph aloud. Then read the caption under each picture. Pause after each caption to make sure your child understands the sequence of changing natural substances into prepared food.

**Ask:** What other things can you make from God's gifts?

**Turn to Page 62,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 125

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Nicholas.

Share your reactions to the information.

Talk about some ways your family can share your gifts with each other.

## Activity

**Read** aloud the directions for the Live Your Faith activity. Talk through the activity together.

**Turn to Page 65,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 131

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Our Father (see Page 317) during your night prayer this week.*



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# Made to Care

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 75,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 151

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define image of God as the likeness of God that is in all humans because we are all created by him
- Recognize that humans are the most special part of creation. God gave us the ability to think and make choices
- Understand that God gave Adam and Eve the responsibility to be care-takers of his creation
- Appreciate that each of us is responsible for treating all of creation with care and respect

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Only after God had given care of the Earth over to the man and woman in the Book of Genesis was he able to rest “from all the work he had done in creation” (Genesis 2:3). God gives humans the responsibility and stewardship of his creation. Called to share in God’s power, humans have the ability and responsibility to care for other creatures. Forming your children to understand that we are stewards of creation is important. We show love for God by loving the earth. Lead by example. Pick up the paper that litters sidewalks and streets. Take a long walk or hike on a Sunday afternoon. Praise God for flowers, trees, and plants.*

**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 lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you 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).

- All Things Bright and Beautiful
- Thank You

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 67,**  
Made to Care  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 135

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** to your child that God’s gifts are all around them.

**Say:** God has created so many wonderful gifts for us to enjoy. Now, let’s hear who God put in charge to take care of his creation.



**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:** God asks us to take care of everyone and everything that was created.

**Ask:** What else she/he might wonder about God’s creation and how we can take care of everything God made.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 68,**  
In God’s Image  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 137

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Hold** up an index card with the phrase **image of God** written on it. With the help of the Catholic Faith Words box, explain the meaning of the phrase, “People are made to be like God.”

Look at the picture on the page. Ask your child to tell you what the people might be doing. Do these people know each other?

**Read** aloud the story which continues on page 69.

**Turn to Page 69,**  
Gifts in Creation  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 139

**Ask:** What did Josh make? What can people do that cookies cannot do? What is your favorite thing that we do together?

**Read** the first paragraph aloud.

**Ask:** Why are people the most special part of creation?

**Read** the second paragraph aloud.

**Invite** your child to name some of the gifts from God in the world that she/he learned about from the last lesson.

**Ask:** How are you a part of God’s creation? (Answers may include God created me, or I can care for creation.)

**Discuss** how people should share their gifts from God.



Read the directions for the gold-star activity. Direct the children to underline two gifts that are inside each person.

## Activity

**Ask** your child to explain how a person is different than a tree. Explain how a person is different than a bird. Now, ask your child to draw themselves choosing to be a sign of God's love. (sharing a toy, taking care of a pet, etc.)

**Parents, Consider This:** The next several pages will reinforce God's command that we take care of all that he has given us. That command includes the personal care of our bodies, minds, and spirit. Taking your child to the doctor, caring for scrapes and bruises, providing health foods and "nagging" him/her to brush teeth, are some of the ways you help your child learn to honor his/her body as a gift from God. The gift of health and well-being is of such incredible value. We praise God when we take care of that invaluable gift.

**Turn to Page 70,**  
God's Command  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 141

**Read** aloud the introduction.

**Explain** that in the following Scripture story, God tells humans how to show him love and thanks for creation.



**Proclaim** "Take Care of What I've Given You."

★ Read the directions for the gold-star activity. Direct your child to circle in the text what God asked Adam and Eve to do. Talk with her/him about practical ways they can be a partner with God. Make a list of three things that you will do and three things that she/he will do to be good stewards. (Walk the dog without complaining. Use less paper towels, or both sides of a piece of paper.) Perhaps she/he could play detective for a week and discover the ways your family might be wasting water, food, or other resources.

**Point** out the stained glass window. Ask your child to share some of the gifts of creation that they see in the window. Open the discussion to include things that are gifts from God that she/he has seen in nature.

**Turn to Page 71,**  
Show Love  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 143

**Read** aloud "Show Love."

**Ask:** How can you show your love for God? (I can care for living things.) How can you thank God for all that he has given you? (I can be a caretaker.)

**Hold** up an index card of the word **caretaker**. Invite your child to name some habits a good caretaker should have.

## Activity

**Have** your child trace the letters to complete the sentence. Read the statement together and ask your child, "Who said those words?"

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 72,**  
Our Catholic Life  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 145

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Ask:** How do you help take care of yourself? (bathing, eating healthy foods, getting plenty of rest, exercising)

**Point** out the lists of ways to care for the body and mind. Have your child follow along as you read the lists aloud.

**Direct** attention to the pictures and ask how the children depicted are taking care of themselves.

**Say:** Place a check mark next to the things you like to do best.

**Ask:** What other things can you do to take care of yourself? (read books, dance, play sports, play a musical instrument)

**Turn to Page 73,**  
People of Faith  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 147

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Albert the Great.

Share your reactions to the information.

Talk about some ways your family can see creation as God's gift.

### Activity

**Discuss** the Live Your Faith activity. Each of you choose one way you will take better care of yourself this week.

**Turn to Page 75,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 151

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Our Father (see Page 317) during your night prayer this week.*



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# The Holy Trinity

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 89,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 179

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand that God asks us to be friends with one another, to be nice and to help each other when in need
- Identify Jesus as the Son of God who shows us the way to his Father
- Appreciate that God the Father loves us so much he sent his only Son to be with us
- Describe the Holy Trinity as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, the one God in three Divine Persons

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Recall the first moment of meeting your child through adoption or at birth. This is a valuable source of prayerful meditation to appreciate God's love. If we can recognize how deeply we love our child, then we have a hint of God's love for us. The next time you pray together with your child, express out loud your love for your child.*

**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 lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This helps you understand how your child processes and learns chapter concepts 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).

- The Sign of the Cross
- Glory Be to the Father

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 81,**  
The Holy Trinity  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 163

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 when we pray the Sign of the Cross, we are marking ourselves and showing that we belong to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**Say:** When we were baptized we were called by name. God calls us by name to show his love in this world. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.



**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:** Each of us was given a special name by which we are called.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what your child might wonder about the importance of his or her name.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 82,**  
Helping Others  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 165

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Ask** your child to listen to how the lion and the mouse solve their problem.

**Read** the story, “The Lion and the Mouse.” Cue your child to roar when the lion roars.

**Ask:** Why did the lion think that the mouse could never repay him? (because the mouse was too small to help a big lion) What did the lion learn? (even though you are smaller than someone else, it doesn’t mean you can’t help them)



**Do** the gold-star activity with your child.

### Activity

**Do** the Share Your Faith activity. Discuss the second part of the activity with your child.

**Turn to Page 83,**  
The Lion and the Mouse  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 167

**Parents, Consider This:** Learning to find joy in helping others is a value that is cultivated when children grow up in a family who happily serve others often and don’t expect a reward. Know that each time you encourage your child to join you in helping others, your child learns that service is a wonderful way to live

**Invite** your child to quietly think of someone who is a good friend to him or her and have them reflect on why they think that person is a good friend.

**Turn to Page 84,**  
God is Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 169

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs.

**Tell** your child that we can know God's love by seeing how wonderfully we are made. Say that we can recognize God's love in the things he created.

**Have** your child read over the Catholic Faith Words definitions **God the Father** and **Son of God**.

**Read** the last paragraph.

**Tell** your child that Jesus likes to talk about his Father just the way we like to talk about our family.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story, "The Way to the Father."

**Ask:** How does Jesus show you God the Father's love? (he cares about me; he wants me to know more about him; he makes me strong)

**Turn to Page 85,**  
The Holy Trinity  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 171

**Read** aloud the information on the this page.

**Direct** your child to the Catholic Faith Word **Holy Trinity** and read the definition to your child.

## Activity

**Read** the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity to your child. Have your child complete the activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Jesus Christ, God's Son, reveals the Father's true nature to humans in a way that no mere prophet or teacher, however good and wise, could have done. Jesus came bearing God the Father's love. He sends his Church in mission to share this divine love with others. A family is where we learn to share that love with others. No act of kindness or forgiveness or compassion in your family is ever too small to reveal God's love.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 86,**  
Our Catholic Life  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 173

**Ask:** What do we know about God? (God loves everyone; God cares for us; God the Father sent Jesus to the world to teach us how to love)

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Invite** your child to follow along as you read the bulleted text.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Though your child cannot see God, your child can experience God's presence whenever he or she is loved or loves. Point out a time when you've seen your child showing or receiving love. Remind your child that we can recognize God's presence in these loving moments.*

**Read** aloud the rest of the page.

**Turn to Page 87,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 175

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Patrick.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about ways your family can show your faith in the Trinity.

## Activity

**Read** the directions for the Live Your Faith activity. Help your child complete the activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *God's love is greater than any love that we can show our children. The most important way you can show your love for your child is to pass on your faith to them. In your prayer this week, thank God for all those who helped you grow and taught you about God so that you have a faith to share with your child.*

**Turn to Page 89,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 179

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be (see Page 316), during your night prayer this week.*



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# The Holy Family

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 99,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 199

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Identify signs of love expressed in families
- Recognize Jesus as the Son of God and a human being
- Define the Holy Family as the human family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus
- Appreciate that Jesus grew up with Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, praying and learning

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *We all learn from the behaviors and the values we see lived out in others, often from those who are older or come before us. When we observe virtues we admire lived in other families, we may be inspired to cultivate them in our own family. Who has been a model for you and your family? Who do you see as a model of love in family life? The Holy Family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are a model for Catholic families. They lived unselfish love and a faithful observance of faith in family life. The virtues lived in the Holy Family are something to reflect upon and remember.*

**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 lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This helps you 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).

- Joseph was a Good Man
- Family of God

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 91,**  
The Holy Family  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 183

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 our families are a gift from God.

**Say:** Jesus had a family like we do and lived with his family in Nazareth. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.



**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:** Our families are all different. Some families may have many brothers and sisters or none. Some may live in a big city or in the country on a farm.

**Share** the observation of the size of your family and what environment you live in.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about what it was like for Jesus to grow up in Nazareth.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 92,**  
Family Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 185

**Talk** to your child about families. Remind your child that some families are large and some are small. Some children live with their parents and some live with their grandparents. Tell your child that God loves all families.

**Ask:** How can families show love?

**Read** aloud the text.

**Turn to Page 93,**  
Family Love (cont’d)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 187

**Read** the last section on “David’s Family.”

**Ask:** How are these families different? (*Tyler’s dad doesn’t live with him. Laine’s grandmother is coming to visit. David’s family has a dog.*)

**Ask:** How is each family showing love? (*Tyler’s uncle is talking with him. Laine’s dad is reading a letter from her grandmother. David’s family is having a picnic in the park.*)

### Activity

**Do** the Share Your Faith activity. Discuss the second part of the activity with your child.

**Parents, Consider This:** *There is no greater sign of our faith than when we show love. A dimension of love is an ability to be tolerant, to be non-judgmental, and to appreciate diversity. There may be diversity in the kinds of families in our neighborhoods and extended family. It is important that we show care in our conversations and actions towards others so that our children can learn respect for many different kinds of families. God loves all families, and, in doing so, invites us to act with love toward all families.*

**Turn to Page 94,**  
Jesus' Family  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 189

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Ask:** What was Jesus family like? (He grew up in family. He lived with Mary his mother and Joseph, his foster father.)

**Read** the next paragraph on this page. Point out the Catholic Faith Words **Mary** and **Holy Family**. Move to the Catholic Faith Words box and review what it says about those words.

**Tell** your child that Jesus' family shared God's love with each other, just like your family does.

**Turn to Page 95,**  
A Day in Nazareth  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 191

**Read** the introductory paragraph on this page.

**Ask** how Jesus is different from other humans. (He is God's Son. He is God. He is divine.)



**Proclaim** the Scripture story, "The Boy Jesus."



**Do** the gold-star activity. Help your child to complete this activity as needed.

**Parents, Consider This:** *In the busyness of daily life, we can forget how sacred the simple and everyday tasks of life could be if we did them with care for others in mind. Prayerfully think of them as ways to show your love. Think about this the next time you cook a meal, fold clothes, or drive the car pool. Each occasion is an opportunity to make our daily tasks a prayer.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 96,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 193

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Ask:** What are the names of the members of Jesus' human family?

**Discuss** the question, "What was it like for Jesus when he was growing up?"



**Do** the gold star activity. Read the actions on the left aloud. Talk together about which pictures are the best match for each action. Have your child connect the action with its matching picture.

**Turn to Page 97,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 195

**Read** the paragraph about Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how your child is filled with the Holy Spirit.

## Activity

**Do** the Live Your Faith activity. Talk with your child about what they chose to draw.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Children use their religious imagination when they project themselves into the past to learn about Jesus' life. Some ways to foster that skill include asking your child to put him or herself into the story when hearing or reading Scripture. Or, invite your child to draw their ideas about abstract religious concepts such as God or Heaven.*

**Turn to Page 99,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 199

**Parents, Consider This:** *It is important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be (see Page 316), 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).

# About the Bible

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 109,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 219

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Recognize that Jesus told stories like the Lost Sheep to show us how God watches over and guides us, always welcoming us back
- Describe a parable as a short story Jesus told about everyday life to teach something about God
- Identify the Bible as the Church's holy book
- Name two parts of the Bible as the Old Testament and the New Testament

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Family stories that are passed down to us are our way of learning about life and how to be a family. We learn little lessons such as home-making skills from grandparent's stories about baking or gardening. We learn larger lessons about such things as courage and the quest for freedom from hearing stories about how our ancestors immigrated to this country. Scripture is a book of family stories. It is a resource that informs and inspires us to know about our family in faith. It is a holy book that has stories about God and about God's love for us. It is a resource that contains nothing less than God's Word to guide us in life.*

**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 lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This helps you 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).

- The Good Shepherd
- Jesus' Stories

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 101,**  
About the Bible  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 203

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 Jesus told stories to teach about God's love.

**Say:** Jesus loved to tell stories about God the Father and his Kingdom. He used stories to teach us. Let's listen to the Gospel of Matthew to learn more about this.



**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.

**Say:** The stories of Jesus help us to learn how to follow him. Your life tells a story about another person who follows Jesus—you.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Jesus and the stories he told.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 102,**  
We Learn from Stories  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 205

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Tell** your child that Jesus used stories about everyday life to teach lessons about God and his love for people.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story. Have your child recall a time when he or she lost something and how it felt when the lost item was found.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *The work of a shepherd involves watchfulness, caring, and courage. In the Old Testament, the image of the shepherd defending his flock was used as a symbol both for God and for Israel’s king. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd, ready to lay down his life for his sheep. The Church refers to herself as God’s flock. There is much in the role of the shepherd that a mother or father can identify with in the way parents care for their family. The stories of Scripture can inspire us in our roles of protector and caretaker of our family.*

**Turn to Page 103,**  
Our Shepherd  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 207

**Ask** your child what lesson Jesus is teaching about God’s love in the story of the Lost Sheep. (Everyone is important to God. God wants us to come back to him even if we get lost.)

**Read** the section, “Our Shepherd” to your child.

**Tell** your child that God’s love is great and he is happy when people come back to him.

## Activity

**Do** the Share Your Faith activity. Then discuss the second part of the activity with your child.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Forgiveness is a learned process. While teaching responsibility and accountability, Scripture also reminds us to temper that with understanding and forgiveness. As we experience this balance of responsibility and understanding in family life, we are better prepared to live as a Christian outside of our home.*

**Turn to Page 104,**  
Stories about God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 209

**Tell** your child that a parable is a short story that teaches us something. Jesus told parable stories about everyday life to teach others about God.

**Read** aloud both paragraphs. Explain that the story that Jesus told about the lost sheep is an example of a parable.



**Proclaim** the Scripture. Explain that Jesus is the shepherd in the stained glass window and that when Jesus says, "I will lay down my life for the sheep," he means he will do anything for us.

**Turn to Page 105,**  
The Holy Book  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 211

**Read** aloud all three paragraphs.

**Point** out the Catholic Faith Word box and have your child read the definitions of **Old Testament** and **New Testament**. Explain that these are what we call the two main parts of the Bible.

**Show** your child a Bible. Tell your child that the Bible contains many smaller books. Explain that the Bible is different from every other book in the world. It is the Church's holy book. Have your child hold the Bible. Show your child some of the different books of the Bible and what they are called.

**Say:** God speaks to us through the words in the Bible.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Old Testament used by Catholics contains forty-six books consisting of many literary forms. There are stories, legends, poems, proverbs, laws, and histories. The New Testament contains twenty-seven books, including the four Gospels, which recount the public life of Jesus. When reading the Bible to your child, point out that passage's literary form, such as, this is a poem or this is a historical book.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 106,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 213

**Read** the first two paragraphs.

**Review** the section, “Two Parts of the Bible.” Summarize the information for your child.

**Ask:** What are some of your favorite Bible stories?

**Turn to Page 107,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 215

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Paul of the Cross.

- Share your reaction to the information.
- Talk about what makes your child follow Jesus.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *When sharing Bible stories with your child, make a point of asking the following questions: What does the story mean to you? What can you learn from the story? How can you live the message of the story in your own life?*

**Turn to Page 109,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let’s Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 219

**Parents, Consider This:** *It is important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be (see Page 316), during your night prayer this week.*



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# Jesus the Healer

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 123,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 247

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify Blessed Mother Teresa as an example of how we are to share God's love by caring for the sick
- Recognize that Jesus' healings showed God the Father's power and love
- Understand faith as the gift of believing and trusting in God so much that we do what he asks us to do

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Like Jesus, disciples who follow in his footsteps can become signs of God's loving compassion. But in order to do this, Christians must learn to see Jesus in those who suffer. In our society, young children may be sheltered from suffering. But by cultivating empathy in our children, they can start to follow in Jesus' example at any age. As a family, read Bible stories that show Jesus' care and concern for others. Share with your family that Jesus was showing us how we are to be with others.*

**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 lesson.
- *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).

- Heal Us, Lord
- Loving Others

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 115,**  
Jesus the Healer  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 231

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 when we are sick, we want to feel better. We want to be healed.

**Say:** When people are sick and need to be healed, we look for doctors and medicines to help them get better. We also ask God for his help. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew to learn more.



**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 helps people when they are sick. He cares for and makes himself very close to those who are suffering. We are comforted when we have faith that Jesus is with us when we are sick.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about their faith in Jesus and Jesus healing people.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 116,**  
Share God's Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 233

**Show** your child the picture of Blessed Mother Teresa.

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs.

**Tell** your child that the story of Mother Teresa takes place in Calcutta, India, where many poor people live in the streets.

**Read** the story of Blessed Mother Teresa on this page and the next page.

**Have** your child circle the loving actions of Mother Teresa. (*she smiled, held people's hands, prayed with them and for them*)

**Read** aloud the paragraph under "God's Goodness."

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Blessed Mother Teresa became a sign of God's presence for the people of Calcutta because she saw the face of Jesus in the faces of the poor. We can be a sign of God for others, too. Help your child see the opportunity for loving service in the needs of the world.*

**Turn to Page 118,**  
Jesus Heals  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 237

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



**Proclaim** the Scripture story.

**Pause** between the second and third paragraph and ask what he or she thinks Jesus will do next.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Read** the definition of **faith** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Read** the paragraph.

**Explain** to your child how Jesus' acts of healing brought about bigger results than simply restoring people to bodily health. When Jesus, as the Son of God, healed people, they felt God's power and love.

**This** is a wonderful opportunity to refer to page 305 in the Our Catholic Tradition section and read together how the Church brings God's healing to people through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The healing of Jairus' daughter is especially significant when we consider that Jairus was an important man in the community. He was the ruler of the synagogue near Capernaum. Even though he was a leader in the community he had to come to Jesus with faith and trust in God's power to heal. We have to do the same today. In your family prayers, remember to pray for the sick and the suffering. Teach and encourage your child to put their concerns in the hands of God.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Ask:** How can you help people feel better?



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Louise de Marillac.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Ask: How do you share God's love with others? (*care for the sick, donate food, etc.*)

**Turn to Page 119,**  
Jesus Healing Actions  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 239

**Turn to Page 120,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 241

**Turn to Page 121,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 243

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Your child might not know the meaning of the word empathy, but they can use their imaginations to put themselves in another's place. Reinforce an understanding of empathy by asking your child to ask themselves, "How would you feel if this were happening to you?" Remind your child of the Golden Rule: Treat others as you want to be treated.*

**Turn to Page 123,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 247

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 317), during your night prayer this week.*



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# Jesus Teaches Love

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 133,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 267

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify words and actions that are signs of love
- Understand that a Commandment is a law that God made for people to obey
- Recognize that in the Great Commandment, Jesus taught to love God above all else and to love others the way you love yourself

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Great Commandment is not difficult to comprehend, but it is challenging to live. We are to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. But we must be open to who our neighbor is. Jesus died for all people out of love. He died even for those who were his enemies. The Lord asks us to love as he does, loving even those who are most difficult to love. We learn how to love and who to love within the context of family life. Discuss, as a family, if there is someone you know who is difficult to love and ask for God's grace to grow in tolerance to be kind and to love that person.*

**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 lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



**Let's Sing:** This song connects the session topics and can be downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- Loving God

## 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 God gave us laws to help us live together.

**Say:** Jesus came to show and teach us about God's love. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Mark to find out more.

**Turn to Page 125,**  
Jesus Teaches Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 251



**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:** Love is very important in each of our lives. God loves us as we are and asks us to love others as much as we love ourselves.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about God’s love and how we share with others.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 126,**  
Show Your Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 253

**Read** aloud “The Gift” (on pages 126–127).



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Ask:** What do you think Brooke will give her grandpa?

**Turn to Page 127,**  
Show Your Love (cont’d)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 253

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** Discuss with your child how doing one’s chores joyfully can be seen as gifts to the whole family. Have your child ask family members about what they do to help the family. Ask your child how he or she helps the family. Have a conversation about attitude and intention and how we can approach chores out of love for each other.

**Turn to Page 128,**  
Love God and Others  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 257

**Read** aloud the question and paragraph.

**Explain** to your child that people have always argued about the best way to please God.

**Tell** your child that one man asked Jesus if his answer is correct.



**Read** the Scripture.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 129,**  
The Great Commandment  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 259

**Read** aloud the paragraphs.

**Find** the words **Commandments** and **Great Commandment** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Read the words and their definitions.

**Refer** to page 314–315 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of your child’s book to learn more about the Great Commandment and the Ten Commandments.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The concrete way of thinking that is characteristic for a child at this age may sometimes make it difficult for them to know how to love God, whom they cannot see, above all things. However, as a parent, you can make this practical for your child by helping them to understand that we show our love for God by talking to him in prayer and making choices he would have us make. We also show love to God when we are kind and loving towards others.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 130,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 261

**Read** aloud the first sentence. Then draw attention to the chart by reading the second sentence.

**Read** aloud the “Love God” side and then the “Love Others” side of the chart.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *People have different ways of expressing affection, often related to family history and cultural customs. Help your child see that love, affection, and friendship can be expressed in a variety of ways, from kind words to comforting gestures. Remind your child that expressions of affection may be appropriate or inappropriate depending on the people and circumstances involved. Assure your child that she or he can come to you anytime they have a question about this.*

**Turn to Page 131,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 263

**Read** the paragraph about St Thomas Villanova.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Saint Thomas Villanova gave food to anyone who came to his door. He did not judge them. Discuss a time when your family has given food to the poor.

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 133,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 267

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 317), 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).

# Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 143,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 287

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define prayer as talking and listening to God
- Become more aware of the need to pray to get close to God
- Learn that the Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus taught his followers to pray to God the Father

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Memorization, or learning by heart, is one of the first prayer skills children learn. Committing short traditional prayers and liturgical responses to memory helps children feel part of the worshipping community, and gives them models for their own spontaneous or self-composed prayers. Your child's comprehension of memorized prayers will mature as your child matures. This is a wonderful age to help your child memorize some prayers.*

**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 lesson.
- *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).

- The Lord's Prayer
- Jesus, Please Hear Our Prayer

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 135,**  
Jesus Teaches Us to Pray  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 271

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 God hears all of our prayers.

**Say:** Sometimes we might think that God does not hear us because our prayer is not answered the way we would like it to be. But God does hear us. Let's listen to what Jesus says about praying.



**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:** When we pray, we are talking with God about what we think we want or need, but sometimes God has a different answer for us.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about God answering our prayers or the importance of prayer.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 136,**  
Stay Close to God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 273

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

**Ask** your child to think about how happy they are when talking with family and friends. Tell your child that talking with God helps to keep you close to God.

**Explain** that prayer is the way to have a friendship with God.

**Direct** your child to the Catholic Faith Words box and read the word **prayer** and its definition.



**Do** the gold–star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *To help your child understand what a blessing is, teach your child the words of this traditional blessing at meals: “Bless us O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your goodness through Christ our Lord. Amen.” It is a wonderful practice to say this prayer before meals. Explain that, in this blessing, we thank God for the food he has given us from the generous store of gifts he gives us.*

**Turn to Page 137,**  
Pray Anywhere  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 275

**Read** aloud the text.

**Have** your child make an index card with the word “yes” on one side and “no” on the other side. Call out places, such as, “in church,” “on you bike,” “on a bus,” or “at a playground.” Tell your child to hold up the side with the word “yes” if the place is a place to pray, and the side with the word “no” if it isn’t. (The “yes” side should be held toward you each time. This reinforces the concept that prayer can take place anywhere.)

## Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

**Turn to Page 138,**  
Learn to Pray  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 277

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

**Explain** that every generation of Catholics learns certain prayers. We also learn certain songs that are sung in church on Sundays.



**Read** the Scripture to your child.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *This part of the letter to the Ephesians instructs Christian converts on how to live as followers of Christ. The writer stresses that convert's lives should be filled with prayer. They should pray together and sing as a group, but they should pray individually, in their hearts. Remind your child that Jesus called on God the Father, and asked us to do so, too.*

**Turn to Page 139,**  
The Lord's Prayer  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 279

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph and then read the definition for the Catholic Faith Word, **Lord's Prayer**.

**Ask:** Have you heard of the Lord's Prayer?

**Explain** that the Lord, Jesus, taught the first Christians this prayer.

**Read** aloud the Lord's Prayer. Tell your child that since he or she is a friend of Jesus, the Lord's Prayer is for them. Explain that, at every Mass, the Church family stands and prays this prayer aloud. Help your child understand the words by suggesting synonyms for any words they don't understand.

## Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Explain to your child the difficult words in the first part of the prayer: "who art" means you who are (addressed to God), "hallowed" means called or treated as holy, "thy kingdom" means God's rule on Earth, "thy will" means what God wants people to do.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 140,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 281

**Read** aloud the first paragraph and the chart as your child follows along.

**Turn to Page 141,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 283

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Ephrem the Hymnist.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways you can tell others how much God loves you.

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 143,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 287

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 317), 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).

# Responding to God

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 157,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 315

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Connect that Noah said “yes” to God, and God promised to always keep him safe. The rainbow is a sign of that promise
- Understand that Jesus invites everyone to God’s Kingdom—the world of love, peace, and justice that is in Heaven and is still being built on Earth
- Appreciate that the Church shares Jesus’ message about God’s love
- Identify the Church as the community of baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Open up the newspaper and you may feel like burying your head in the sand. The world isn’t exactly a picture of God’s Kingdom. Facing the challenges and difficulties of this world alone can be overwhelming. However, God does not ask you to wade through troubled times by yourself. Instead, he invites you to be a part of a community that says “yes”—yes to faith and yes to sharing his love with one another. With the support of the faith community, you can live in the peace of the Kingdom of God.*

**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 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).

- Saying Yes
- Get On the Boat

## 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 we are invited to say “yes” to God.

**Say:** Each one of us is invited in faith to say “yes” to what God asks of us. This Bible story tells us how Noah said “yes” to God.

**Turn to Page 149,**  
Responding to God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 299



**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:** Noah listened to God and said, “Yes.” Every day, we are invited by God to say “yes” to him.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about faithfulness to God and how God speaks to us.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 150,**  
Trust in God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 301

**Say:** We are going to read a story about a special man named Noah. God will ask Noah a big question. Listen for Noah’s answer.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story. Tell your child to say “Yes, I will!” during the reading whenever you point at him/her. Read the Scripture aloud with enthusiasm. Pause at the end of the third and fourth paragraphs and point.



**Have** your child underline what God told Noah to do.



**Proclaim** the rest of the Scripture story.

**Turn to Page 151,**  
Noah Says “Yes” (cont’d)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 303

**Ask:** Why were Noah, his family, and the animals safe? (**They were in the ark; God was taking care of them.**)

**Ask** your child to remember a time when she/he has seen a rainbow. Tell them that the next time you see a rainbow you will pray, “Thank you God for protecting me.”

### Activity

**Read** aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child trace the letters.

**Turn to Page 152,**  
All Are Invited  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 305

**Tell** your child it is important to say “yes” to God. Share with them some of the ways you say “yes.” (**taking care of your family, helping your neighbors, using the gifts of the Earth carefully**)

**Invite** your child to read aloud the definition of Kingdom of God. Have your child write “Kingdom of God” on an index card. You can use these cards to review vocabulary throughout the year.



**Proclaim** “The Parable of the Great Feast.” Ask your child to guess who the rich man is and what the big party is. Explain that God invites everyone to join him and be happy with him forever.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 153,**  
The Church  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 307

**Tell** your child that she/he is the servant, or helper, in the story Jesus told. Reinforce that the rich man asked the servants to go gather everyone in.

**Explain** that the members of the Church are like the servants in the story. God sends out the people who make up the Church to invite everyone to his Kingdom.

**Read** aloud the text.

**Create** an index card for **Church**.

## Activity

**Ask** your child to complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Have you ever been deeply hurt when you watched your child reach out to another child or group of children and be rejected? The cry in the heart of both you and your child is simply to be accepted. It is in that yearning that we encounter the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the source of communion, of oneness. In the communion of the Church, we are nourished and sent to spread the Good News of God’s love.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 154,**  
Our Catholic Life  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 309

**Ask:** How did Mary answer God’s question?

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Help** your child recall that Mary is the Mother of Jesus.

**Review** the pictures and words in the yellow box marked “Key.”

**Read** aloud the picture story. Pause at each picture and let your child supply the appropriate word.

**Ask:** How can you say “yes” to God?

**Turn to Page 155,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 311

**Read** the paragraph about Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family listens for God's voice.

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 157,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 315

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit during your night prayer this week.*

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.  
Let us pray.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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# The Church's Guide

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 167,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 335

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Learn that a guide helps us and shows us the way
- Recognize the Holy Spirit as the Third Divine Person of the Holy Trinity
- Discover Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit to guide the Church
- Appreciate that Saint Thérèse loved God very much and worked for him through her little jobs. She called this "The Little Way"

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Holy Spirit, the third Divine Person of the Holy Trinity, was promised to us by Jesus. Today he remains with us as our helper and guide. In the depths of anxiety and worry, the Holy Spirit can guide you to the light. Think about a time you were in need of God's love and guidance. Dealing with a difficult child, facing a hostile person, or living with ambiguity can present challenges. The Holy Spirit was at work in the kind words, or loving actions, that helped get you through this tough period. Helping your child to learn to trust in the presence of the Holy Spirit will give them both peace and security.*

**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).

- The Holy Spirit
- Spirit Be With Us

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 159,**  
The Church's Guide  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 319

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 the Holy Spirit guides us every day.

**Say:** The Holy Spirit guides us on our daily journey. Let's listen to a reading from the Bible to learn more.



**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 Holy Spirit is given to us to guide us and he lives within us. Give your child an example of a time when you felt you were guided by the Holy Spirit.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about the Holy Spirit.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 160,**  
God the Holy Spirit  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 321

**Ask** your child to recall a time when they or your family had a guide. (*on a vacation, at a park, on a field trip*) Emphasize that guides lead us and teach us. Read aloud the first paragraph.

**Ask** your child to read aloud the definition of the word **Holy Spirit**.

**Remind** him/her that the Holy Trinity is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**Read** the second paragraph.

**Ask:** Who is the guide that helps you stay close to God the Father and Jesus?

**Refer** to page 316 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book. Point out that the Glory Be is a prayer to the Holy Trinity.

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Tell** your child that Jesus knew he would leave his followers one day and return to God his Father. He promised his followers a guide to be with them always.



**Proclaim** “Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit.”

**Discuss** how Jesus’ followers would have felt after hearing Jesus’ words. How would you feel if you knew that you had someone that would always be there to help you?

**Turn to Page 161,**  
The Work of the Holy Spirit  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 323

**Read** the last paragraph.

★ **Complete** the gold-star activity.

## Activity

**Read** aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity and complete the activity.

**Turn to Page 162,**  
Ways to God  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 325

**Tell** your child about a person in your life that showed you the way to God. Ask them if they have any examples.

**Say:** You are going to learn about a person who helped others find God.

**Read** aloud “The Little Way” (continued on page 163).

★ **Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Ask** your child what Saint Thérèse’s little way was. Then have your child name examples of things he/she can do every day to follow the little way.

**Teach** your child to sing the following words to the tune of “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush.”

*Thérèse, Thérèse, your little way,  
your little way, your little way.  
Thérèse, Thérèse, your little way,  
can guide us all to God.*

**Turn to Page 163,**  
The Little Way (cont’d)  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 327

**Read** aloud the content on the page.

**Emphasize** that both the Holy Spirit and the Saints can keep us close to God.

## Activity

**Point** out the Connect Your Faith activity. Have your child solve the puzzle.

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Holy Spirit is the source of all that we need to live in right relationship with God and with each other. In other words, it is the presence of the Holy Spirit that will make your home happy and peaceful. Asking the Holy Spirit’s help should be a regular part of your family life. Drawing attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in the words and actions of love in your family will help everyone become more aware of God’s presence.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 164,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 329

**Ask:** How does the Holy Spirit help you?

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Now**, read aloud the words in the first column. Invite your child to join you in reading aloud the second column.

**Return** to the first column and ask your child to help you think of people in your family, including your extended family, who show these gifts. Write their name in the box for the gift that they show.

**Turn to Page 165,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 331

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Rose of Lima.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

### Activity

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

**Turn to Page 167,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 335

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit during your night prayer this week.*

#### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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# Friends of God

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 177,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 355

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize a Saint as someone who loved God very much, did his work on Earth, and is with him in Heaven
- Define the word *holy* as unique and pure; set apart for God and his purposes
- Appreciate that we are part of the family of Saints, connected to the Saints who lived before us and to those who believe in Jesus now

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Along your journey of life, certain people have been your guides. In the same way, the Saints of the Church inspire loving faith and perseverance in all of the members of the Church. Their lives are a living testimony to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Reflect on how you can be a living testimony and an inspiration of faith to others. As a baptized Catholic, you are a part of a holy People, the Communion of Saints. You are called to nourish and sustain faith—your own and that of others.*

**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).

- Oh, When the Saints
- We Gather Around Your Throne

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 169,**  
Friends of God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 339

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 holy people trust God.

**Say:** Holy people have always trusted in God. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew to find out what Jesus says about how we should treat others.



**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:** To live as holy people, we need to trust in God and love everyone.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about trusting God and loving others.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 170,**  
Holy People  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 341

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.



**Have** your child underline what the Saints did more than anything.

**Take** out index cards and write the Catholic Faith Words **Saint** and **angel** on them.

**Read** aloud the definitions (on the following page) for both words.

**Emphasize** that everyone is called to be a Saint by loving God and loving others.

**Tell** your child you are about to listen to a story from the Gospel of Luke about Jesus and his friends. Ask her/him to listen for things that Martha and Mary did that showed that they were God’s friends.



**Proclaim** “Martha and Mary” (continued on page 171).

**Turn to Page 171,**  
Family of Saints  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 343

**Read** the first paragraph of “Family of Saints.”

**Use** an index card and write the Catholic Faith Word **holy**. Explain what it means.

**Tell** your child that Catholic artists often point out which of the figures in their pictures are Saints by painting halos (circles) above their heads. Point out the halos in the mosaic of Saint Anthony and Jesus.

**Read** aloud the second paragraph and emphasize that all baptized people are part of the family of Saints.

## Activity

**Look** at the Share Your Faith activity. Tell your child to think about someone you know who serves God. Help him/her write their name in the space provided.

**Turn to Page 172,**  
All Kinds of Saints  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 345

**Ask:** How do Saints show their love?

**Tell** your child that stories about the Saints help him/her learn how to be holy.

**Ask** your child to place a finger next to each Saint as you read aloud “All Kinds of Saints.”

**Have** your child circle a word or words that tell how the Saint showed love for God. (*Mary loves and cares for us as she did for Jesus; Saint Juan Diego went to Mass and shared his story with others; Saint Louis cared for the sick and less fortunate; Saint Kateri devoted her life to prayer, penance, and those who were sick.*)

**Turn to Page 173,**  
All Kinds of Saints (cont’d)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 347

**Ask:** Which of these people would you want to be like? How can you be a holy person?

**Explain** to your child that the Church prays with the Saints. Refer to page 320 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book for more about praying with the Saints.

## Activity

**Work** on the Connect Your Faith activity with your child. Direct your child to the boxes found at the top of each Saint’s picture.

- Tell him/her that they are going to write a number in each box.
- Read each numbered phrase.
- Place the number in the box that best describes the Saint.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 174,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 349

**Ask:** How can you be a Saint?

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.



**Have** your child place an “X” next to what they already do to be God’s friend.

**Ask:** What is one way that you can show that you are a Saint today?

**Turn to Page 175,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 351

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Dominic.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some good actions that are part of your family life.

## Activity

**Direct** your child to complete the Live Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *This session focused on the Saints as friends of God. Remind your child that being a good friend, as well as choosing good friends, can help them grow in friendship with God. Our choice of companions can contribute to or distract from our ability to show love for God and others. What a valuable lesson to learn at this young age—that every relationship we have flows in and through our relationship with Jesus. A good friend helps you to become all that God created you to be.*

**Turn to Page 177,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 355

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit during your night prayer this week.*

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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# Disciples Serve

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 191,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 383

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand that Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show us how to serve and love one another
- Recognize that Jesus asks us to have a kind, giving heart when we serve and help others
- Identify a disciple as a follower of Jesus who believes in him and lives by his teaching
- Connect serving others with serving God

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Children have many needs. When you add to that list the many things they want, you can exhaust yourself in the effort to make them happy. At times, it is difficult to remember that parenting involves the delicate balance of providing children what they need and helping them to learn how to give. The Church reminds us that the purpose of family life is to form disciples. A life of discipleship is a life of service. Involving your family in experiences of serving will help your child understand the truest part of his/her identity. Research tells us that real happiness comes from our relationships and sense of self-efficacy (our belief in our capacity to achieve a goal).*

**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 lesson.
- *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).

- Jesus In the Morning
- Jesu, Jesu

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 183,**  
Disciples Serve  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 367

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 we should love and serve all of God's People.

**Say:** Because God made each of us, we should love and serve all of God's People. Listen to the Gospel of Matthew to hear what Jesus said about this.



**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 asks us to do something that sometimes might feel hard to do. How do we treat each other with respect?

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about what it means to serve.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 184,**  
Jesus the Servant  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 369

**Tell** your child that God sent his Son, Jesus, to show people how to love.

**Hold** up an index card with the Catholic Faith Word **serve** on it. Ask your child to read the definition.

**Tell** your child to imagine that he/she is a person in the Bible story along with Jesus. Ask them to imagine what their feet would look like after a very long journey.



**Proclaim** "The Washing of the Disciples' Feet."



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 185,**  
Serve Like Jesus  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 371

**Tell** your child that good helpers serve others.

**Read** aloud the paragraph. Point out that good helpers serve with love in their hearts.

**Ask:** Why is it important to serve with love in your hearts? (*that is what Jesus taught us to do, serving others is showing God's love to others*)

**Discuss** some ways that people your child's age can serve others.

## Activity

**Complete** the Share Your Faith activity. Ask your child to share her/his drawing with you. Together, think about some other things your family might do to serve others.

**Parents, Consider This:** Unfortunately, we sometimes lump the word *service* with *project*. The thought of another project to do might seem to be the straw that breaks your sanity. For a disciple, service is not a project; it is a disposition. As disciples, we understand ourselves as servants of God's Kingdom. We look at the world through the lens of bringing Christ to the world. You don't have to look far to see the many places where others are longing for Christ's presence—the elderly dying for attention, the co-worker who needs a little help. Help your child develop the eyes of a disciple—always on the look-out for a way to serve.

**Turn to Page 186,**  
Disciples of Jesus  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 373

**Ask:** How can you be a follower of Jesus?

**Read** aloud both paragraphs.

**Hold** up an index card with the Catholic Faith Word **disciple** on it. Have your child say *disciple*. Read aloud the definition.

## Activity

**Draw** a gift box on a piece of paper. Tell your child that serving others is like giving someone a gift. Ask her/him to suggest "gifts" that she/he can give by serving. Write the suggestions in the box. Think of something your child has done to help someone—things you have witnessed. Affirm his/her good choice and say how proud you are of her/him for these choices.

**Turn to Page 187,**  
Serve God and Others  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 375

★ **Have** your child draw one way someone has helped her/him.

**Tell** your child to make their best grumpy face, and then ask, "Is that the way your face should look when you help someone? What is your face telling that person?"

**Read** aloud both paragraphs.

**Ask** your child to show you what their faces should look like when they are serving others in a loving way.

**Discuss** with your child certain times when it might be hard to serve others with a smile.

## Activity

**Read** aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Read the words in the Word Bank that your child is to search for. Offer help if needed.

### LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 188,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 377

*Ask:* How can you follow Jesus and serve others?

**Invite** your child to retell the story of Jesus washing the feet of his friends.

**Have** your child listen as you read aloud the first two paragraphs.



**Point** out the list of ways to follow Jesus and serve others.  
Complete the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 189,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 379

**Read** the paragraph about Venerable Solanus Casey.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- What can you do to help someone in your family today?

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 191,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 383

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 318), 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).

# Making Choices

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 201,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 403

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize the Ten Commandments as God's laws that tell us how to love God and others
- Define free will as the ability to choose whether to obey God or disobey God
- Appreciate that God created us with free will because he wants us to make good choices
- Examine consequences as a significant part of a decision making process

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *With so much information coming at us all the time, it can be difficult to process what has value or meaning for us and/or our families. We need help in trying to determine truth. How blessed are we that God has given us a community of faith to help us better understand his plan for us. The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, reveals God's truth, cuts through the noise of all that is around us, and tells us God's truth. As you teach your child the Ten Commandments in this session, you will help her/him to understand that following these rules will help her/him live a life of love.*

**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 lesson.
- *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).

- C-H-O-I-C-E-S
- God's Good Rules

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 193,**  
Making Choices  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 387

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:** Jesus teaches us how to make good choices. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Luke. In this reading, Jesus tells us how we can make good and loving choices.



**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 gives us the answer of how to make good choices: love God, your neighbor, and yourself.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about Jesus the teacher and making good choices.

### DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 194,**  
Types of Choices  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 389

**Tell** your child that some choices are easy to make because they don't require you to do something that you don't want to. Give examples of choices that are easy: a pizza with octopus or a pizza with cheese, a day at an amusement park or a day of sitting in an empty room with nothing to do, etc.

**Invite** your child to think of other choices, such as which of two games to play or which of two television shows to watch.

**Read** aloud both paragraphs. Remind your child that choices between right and wrong are sometimes hard to make.

**Ask:** What are some choices children your age make? Have them share some examples from his/her experience at home. (giving the remote to a sibling, respecting the property of a sibling by not taking without asking)

**Turn to Page 195,**  
A Gift from God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 391

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Ask** your child to share a rule you have at home.

**Explain** that the Ten Commandments are a gift from God that help people make good choices.

**Say:** The Ten Commandments were given to a leader named Moses.



**Proclaim** “God’s Commandments.”

**Review** the definition for the **Ten Commandments** in the Catholic Faith Words Box.

**Ask** your child to tell you how she/he knows what is a loving thing to do.

**Read** aloud all three paragraphs.

**Show** your child index cards with the words **obey** and **free will** on them. Read aloud and explain their definitions.

**Fold** a separate sheet of blank paper turned sideways in half. On the left half, write in large print, “What is the loving thing to do?” On the second half, write in large print, “What God tells us.” Explain to your child that God teaches us what is the good and loving thing to do by giving us the Ten Commandments.

**Ask** your child to draw an equal sign in the middle of the page, across the fold.

**Say:** Disciples of Jesus choose to love by following the Ten Commandments.

**Review** the steps to good choices. You may want to cut this chart out and place it on your refrigerator. Refer to it when your child has made a good or bad choice. Let it become the basis for all her/his decisions.

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Explain** that the word “consequence” means the results of a choice.

**Point** out the photo. Ask your child to describe what they see in the picture. Discuss what kinds of choices this child made that lead to the consequences he/she sees in the picture.

## Activity

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

**Listen** to the song, “His Laws Make Us Free” on the *Songs of Scripture* Album, Track 8. The lyrics can be downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com). Pay particular attention to the line, “Those who love you will help it grow.” Play the song in your car this week.

**Ask** your child to name all the people in their life that want them to grow into a person who knows and loves God. Be sure to emphasize how important that is to you.

**Turn to Page 196,**  
Good Choices  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 393

**Turn to Page 197,**  
Consequences  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 395

**Parents, Consider This:** Learning about choices and consequences is an invaluable life lesson. We have all met people who cannot take responsibility for their choices. They are not people we want to interact with on a regular basis, as it gets tiring just watching how they shift blame and dodge consequences. Truth be told, this behavior began as a child. It is a blessing to your child that you are teaching him/her that choices have consequences. It's an even greater blessing to not try to soften or eradicate the consequences of your child's choices. God has given you the responsibility to guide their choices, to pray for them to make the right choices, and to love them enough to help them accept the consequences of their choices.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 198,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 397

**Read** the first paragraph aloud.

**Refer** to page 314 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book for more information about the Ten Commandments and what they mean.

**Read** each Commandment and its meaning slowly. Ask your child to tell you in his/her own words what the Commandment means.

★ **Return** to page 198 and complete the gold-star activity. You may want to cut out this box and place it somewhere in your child's room at eye level as a way of reminding them of the importance of the Ten Commandments.

**Turn to Page 199,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 399

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Frances Cabrini.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share with each other a hard choice each of you had to make.

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 201,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 403

**Parents, Consider This:** It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 318), during your night prayer this week.



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# Showing Sorrow

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 211,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 423

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define sin as the choice to disobey God on purpose and do what you know is wrong. It is not an accident or a mistake
- Describe the consequences of sin as hurting our friendship with God and others
- Understand that Jesus wants us to be sorry for our sins and turn to God our forgiving Father
- Realize that God wants us to be close to him and will always forgive us when we say we are sorry

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *What would you give to hear your child say the words, “I did it” or, “I should not have done that.” So much of your energy goes into helping your child admit his/her faults—even his/her sin. Be assured that this energy is not wasted! The path to forgiveness begins with the capacity to admit that what you have done is wrong. And for Christians, the harm is not just the damage we have done to the relationship with another human being, but the damage that we do to the relationship we have with our God. We give glory to God by loving our neighbor. The sin we commit damages both relationships.*

**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 lesson.
- *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).

- Children of God
- I’m Sorry

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 203,**  
Showing Sorrow  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 407

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 Jesus teaches us to forgive and to ask for forgiveness.

**Say:** Jesus teaches us how important it is to forgive and to say “I’m sorry.” Listen to how many times Jesus says we need to forgive someone.



**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 taught us that forgiveness is what we need to do all the time. We should not count how often we forgive others.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about asking for forgiveness and forgiving others.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 204,**  
Obeying God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 409

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Hold** up an index card with the Catholic Faith Word **sin** on it. Read the definition. Tell your child that every time you sin, you disobey God.

**Read** aloud the last two paragraphs.



**Have** your child complete the gold-star activity.

**Ask:** When can it feel hard to obey God? How can you make right choices?

**Give** an example of a time when your child did something wrong that was truly an accident. Ask him/her to give you an example of something he/she did that was an accident, as well.

**Reassure** your child that God forgives us when we are sorry and promise to do better.



**Proclaim** “The Forgiving Father.”

**Ask** your child to retell the story in their own words by asking him/her what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

**Turn to Page 205,**  
Being Sorry  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 411

**Ask:** Who asks for forgiveness in the story? (the younger brother) How does the father react? (he forgives his son, he throws a party for his son, he hugs his son)

**Explain** that when we sin, God wants us to ask for forgiveness like the younger son in the story. When we are sorry and ask for forgiveness, God will always forgive us, just like the father in the story.

**Tell** your child a story about something you did wrong as a child and the forgiveness that someone offered you. Forgiveness is a great sign of someone's love for you.

**Turn to Page 206,**  
Ask for Forgiveness  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 413

**Read** aloud the text.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Explain** to your child that to forgive someone is to let go of our anger about what someone has done.

**Ask:** How does it feel when you say, "I'm sorry," and are forgiven?

**Tell** your child that saying "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you" go together like two pieces of a puzzle—they mend a friendship, whether the friendship is between two people or between a person and God.

**Ask:** How does God know if you are sorry for not obeying him?

**Point** out the picture. Ask your child to tell you what she/he sees in the picture. Discuss what might be happening in the picture.

**Turn to Page 207,**  
Make Things Better  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 415

**Read** aloud the first and second paragraphs.

## Activity

**Read** aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Direct your child to complete the task.

**Parents, Consider This:** *God's forgiveness is an overwhelming gift. It is a humbling experience to stand guilty and yet trust in a love so unconditional that it will offer you pardon and peace. Here is the problem: we can cross the line and start to think that we can do whatever we want because we will always be forgiven. In a human relationship, we would call that taking advantage of someone, or more accurately, abusive. When you authentically love someone, you want to respond lovingly. God's love is so perfect that he cannot love you more tomorrow than he does today. Our choices are always held in the light of that perfect love.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 208,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 417

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Draw** attention to the numbered steps and the pictures. Ask your child to read aloud the numbered steps.

**Discuss** the sentences after reading each one.

**Ask:** Why should you ask for the Holy Spirit's help when you do something wrong?

**Turn to Page 209,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 419

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Dismas.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share the ways you show you are sorry in your family.

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 211,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 423

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 318), during your night prayer this week.*



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# Jesus the Savior

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 225,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 451

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize Adam and Eve's choice to bring sin into the world
- Reflect on God's love for people, even when they sin
- Describe Jesus as our Savior, whom God sent to bring us back to him
- Explain that Jesus died for all people to save them, giving his life so that people could have new life with God

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Do not be afraid. Don't let your hearts be troubled. Do not fear. God the Father continually assures his People that there is no reason to fear, because he is with them. Yet it is human nature to be afraid—of the unknown situation, of being alone, of what is to come. Think about this the next time someone in your family is fearful. At these times, we can ask for help. Remind your child to turn to God in prayer in times of fear. Those who believe in him have no reason to fear. Jesus is the Savior whose loving gift of himself saved people.*

**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).

- Savior of the World
- Gospel Acclamation

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 217,**  
Jesus the Savior  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 435

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:** Jesus came to teach and save us. He shows us the way. Let's listen now to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.



**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:** Because Jesus’ friends saw him after he was raised from the dead, we know he lives. Jesus is with us, too, even though we cannot see him like they did.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about talking with Jesus.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 218,**  
Adam and Eve  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 437

**Read** aloud the opening question and paragraph. Point out the highlighted word, **Original Sin**, and its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Read** aloud the paragraph under “God Loves.”

**Ask:** How did God react to Adam and Eve’s sin? (He continued to love them.)



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Ask:** How do you show love for God?

**Turn to Page 219,**  
God’s Promise  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 439

**Write** on a separate piece of paper: “First Adam and Eve sinned.”

**Explain** that God was unhappy that the first people had broken their friendship with him. Tell your child that God wanted the children and grandchildren of Adam and Eve to be his friends again.

**Read** aloud the paragraph. Then, on the same piece of paper, under the previous sentence, write: “Then God sent people a Savior.” Explain that this is what he did to rescue people. Direct your child to look at the picture and talk about what Jesus is doing.

### Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** Use the word “Savior” in your family discussions about Jesus. In your family prayer, thank God for saving us. Jesus is the Savior because he saved people from sin which broke their friendship with God the Father. Jesus brought people back to him.

**Turn to Page 220,**  
New Life with God  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 441

**Ask:** What did Jesus do to save everyone?

**Read** the introductory paragraph. Have your child circle the word Savior.



**Proclaim** the first paragraph of the Scripture story in the Parchment Paper box. Point to a crucifix in your home and remind your child that this is how Jesus died. Ask your child to listen to what happened after Jesus died. Point to the artwork on the page and proclaim the second paragraph of the Scripture story.

**Ask:** What would you have thought about the empty cave if you had been there with the women?



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** The word Resurrection means “the act of rising from the dead.” In the Gospel, an angel said to the women looking for Jesus after his death, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus who is crucified. He is not there, for he has been raised as he said” (Matthew 28:5-6). Jesus’ Resurrection shows that all who love God will have new life in Heaven with him. This should be a source of hope for even the darkest times we may face. Remind your family of this in times of loss. We are invited into this relationship of love—not fear—with God.

**Turn to Page 221,**  
Jesus Saves  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 443

**Read** aloud the first and second paragraph. Have your child point to the word **Resurrection** and review its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** Talk about how your family celebrates Easter. Connect your family traditions with the liturgical traditions of celebrating this most holy feast of the Resurrection.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 222,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 445

**Read** aloud the text.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 223,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 447

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Josephine Bakhita.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you can let someone know more about Jesus.

**Turn to Page 225,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 451

**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 during your night prayer this week.*

### **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



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# Holy Signs

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 235,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 471

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify the Seven Sacraments as special signs and celebrations that Jesus gave his Church
- Appreciate that the Sacraments celebrate that Jesus is still with us, sharing his life and love
- Recognize that every Sacrament has words and actions we do and things God does that we can't see that bring us life

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Seven Sacraments engage the senses. God uses words, actions, and material elements from the created world to celebrate the mystery of salvation and convey his grace. The celebration of the Sacraments gives glory to God and they are also for our sanctification. They make people holy. Yet, the Sacraments are not magic. We must have the proper inner attitude in order for the Sacraments to be fruitful. As a parent, you can cultivate that inner attitude in your child. Do your best to do this, but also remember in the end all is gift. All is grace.*

**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:** This song connects the session topics and can be downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- The Seven Sacraments

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 227,**  
Holy Signs  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 455

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:** Jesus wants us to be close to him. Listen to what he tells us.



**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 loves us so much he wants our hearts to be one with his. Jesus gives us signs that we are one with him.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what they might wonder about being close to Jesus.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 228,**  
Signs of Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 457

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph. Emphasize God’s love for children.



**Proclaim** “The Advocate” in the Parchment Paper box.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Signs of God’s love are found throughout the Bible. Noah saw a rainbow in the sky after the great flood as a sign of God’s love. God sent Jesus to show his love. The Holy Spirit came to the Apostles to guide them. Tell these stories in your family. They remind us to look for signs of God’s love for us in our lives.*

**Point** out the picture. Ask what the picture shows. (a family bringing up the gifts at Mass)

**Tell** your child that Jesus is with us in a special way at Mass.

**Turn to Page 229,**  
The Sacraments  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 459

**Ask** your child if he or she can name any of the Seven Sacraments. Prompt the response of Baptism and Eucharist. Tell your child you will be learning the names of the other Sacraments.

**Read** aloud the text on this page.

**Review** the definition of the highlighted word, **Seven Sacraments**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Look** at pages 304–305 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section to review the Seven Sacraments.

## Activity

**Do** the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child share their responses with you.

**Turn to Page 230,**  
Signs and Celebrations  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 461

**Parents, Consider This:** *In most dioceses, the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and Eucharist are celebrated during a child's second grade year. Talk about the anticipation of these special milestones. Encourage your child by telling them that learning about the Sacraments is how we begin to prepare to celebrate them. Share that the word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving."*

**Explain** that things you can see, hear, touch, smell, and taste are used to celebrate the Sacraments. Tell your child that these holy things are signs that tell us that God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is there with you. Point out that the Church has Seven Sacraments. Emphasize that Jesus gave us the Sacraments so that we can always know his love and care.

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

**Turn to Page 231,**  
Signs and Celebrations  
(cont'd)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 463

**Point** out the three boxes. Explain that the Church has Seven Sacraments. The Seven Sacraments fall into one of three categories. As you move to each box say:

- The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. These three Sacraments celebrate membership in to the Catholic Church.
- The Sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and Penance and Anointing of the Sick. They celebrate God's forgiveness and healing.
- The Sacraments at the Service of Communion celebrate people's commitment to serve God and the community.

**Have** your child circle the sacraments that they have seen.

## Activity

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

### LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 232,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 465

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

**Review** the chart together. Read aloud the names of the Sacraments and invite your child to read the names of the signs and what they stand for.

★ **Do** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 233,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 467

**Read** the paragraph about Mary.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what you know about Mary and the ways you can show devotion to her.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *We usually celebrate the Sacraments in the building of the Church. Visit your church building during a time when services are not taking place. Walk around and point out things that relate to the Sacraments like the altar, the baptismal font, and the sanctuary light.*

**Turn to Page 235,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 471

**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 during your night prayer this week.*

### **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



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# We Are Welcomed

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 245,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 491

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify Baptism as the Sacrament that brings new life in God and makes the person a member of the Church
- Name grace as God's gift of sharing in his life and help
- Examine the signs and symbols of Baptism

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Think back to when you first realized that your child would be coming into your family. Remember the anticipation and the preparations you made for the arrival of this wonderful gift from God. Like a family, the Church welcomes new members with open arms and open hearts. We each became a member of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is more than a Rite that confers membership. Through Baptism, a person is incorporated into Christ's death and burial, and is born into a new life by the power of the Resurrection. Reflect with your family about when you have most appreciated your faith community.*

**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).

- Yes, Lord, I Believe
- We Welcome You Into Our Church

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 237,**  
We Are Welcomed  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 475

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 water is an important sign of life.

**Say:** Everything needs water to live. Baptism uses water as a sign off our new life. Listen to a reading from the Gospel of Mark that tells us more about Baptism.



**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:** Baptism is the Sacrament that gives us new life in Christ.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Baptism as a Sacrament or their own Baptism.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 238,**  
Welcome!  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 477

**Read** aloud the three paragraphs.

**Tell** your child that at Baptism, holy water is poured on a person's head. Get a bowl and a pitcher of water that your child is able to manipulate.

**Have** your child pour a small amount of water from the pitcher into the bowl. Explain that Baptism is a welcoming celebration. Have your child pour more water.

**Tell** your child that through Baptism, a person becomes a member of God's family, the Church. Have your child pour more water into the bowl. Explain that in Baptism, we become children of God. Keep the bowl and water out.

**Discuss** how you welcome people into your home. How do you make people feel welcome?

**Say:** You are going to hear a Bible Story about Baptism.



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

**Explain** that after Jesus died, he sent his Apostles out into the world to share the Good News and baptize people.

**Read** aloud the two paragraphs. Pour the remaining water into the bowl and tell your child that the Holy Spirit comes to us through Baptism and gives us the strength to do Jesus' work.

**Turn to Page 239,**  
Welcome! (cont'd)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 479

**Review** the highlighted words, **Baptism** and **grace**, and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *In Baptism, a person is cleansed of Original Sin and any personal sin. In Baptism, we are welcomed into the Church and we become God's child. We receive grace to lead a holy life. Help your child grasp the multiple meanings of this Sacrament by talking about them. Above all, share that God's life and love are a gift given to us, and we call this gift grace.*

**Turn to Page 240,**  
Becoming Church Members  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 481

**Invite** your child to look at the pictures as you read the captions.

**Ask:** Which person is the one receiving Baptism? (**the baby**) Who else is shown in the photos? (**the baby's parents, godparents, and the priest**) What objects are used in celebrating Baptism? (**holy water, a candle, a white garment, Sacred Chrism**)

**Explain** that the container in which people are baptized is called a font. Tell your child you will show the actions and say the words that are most important in Baptism. Refill the pitcher of water. Using the bowl, pour the water three times, once for each member of the Holy Trinity. Do it again and have your child say the words with you as you pour the water.

**Turn to Page 241,**  
Becoming Church Members  
(cont'd)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 483

**Read** aloud the paragraph. Have your child point to the highlighted word, **godparents**. Review its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Talk** with your child about his or her godparents. Tell your child why you choose them to be godparents.

## Activity

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

### LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 242,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 485

**Read** aloud the first sentence and draw your child's attention to the chart. Have your child follow along as you read aloud each item. Explain that the boxes list ways to answer the call of Baptism.

**Ask:** What are some other ways you can be a sign of God's life and love.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 243,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 487

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Moses the Black.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Ask: Have you been at a Baptism? What did you see?

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 245,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 491

**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 during your night prayer this week.*

### **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



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# We Give Thanks

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 259,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 519

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize the Last Supper as the meal Jesus shared with his disciples the night before he died
- Define the Eucharist as the Sacrament in which Jesus gives himself, and the bread and wine become his Body and Blood
- Describe the Mass as the gathering of Catholics to worship God and celebrate the Eucharist
- Understand that in the Mass we hear God's Word, give thanks for his gifts, and receive Jesus in Holy Communion

**Turn to Page 251,**  
We Give Thanks  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 503

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *As a parent, you help form your child's identity. How she/he comes to define her/himself in this world is deeply influenced by your family story. Your child will also need to connect her/his identity to the family story of the Church. Helping her/him grow with this sense of belonging to both families will shape the way she/he sees her/himself in the world. Research tells us that rituals form identity. Rituals affect our brains in ways that help us to access the places where we experience peace and communion. The Mass is the ritual where Catholics are shaped more deeply into their identity as the Body of Christ. As your family celebrates the Eucharist with your parish, both you and your child are deepening your identity as Catholics.*

**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).

- Come Share this Meal
- Supper of the Lamb

## 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 Jesus gave his life for us.

**Say:** Jesus gave his life for us and shares that life with us every day. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew to hear how.



**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 shared a meal with his friends. He told them that he was giving them a special gift. He gave them himself in Holy Communion.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about this meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 252,**  
The Eucharist  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 505

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Explain** to your child that an important part of the Mass recalls Jesus' last meal with his friends before his Death. Tell him/her this meal is known as the Last Supper.

**Hold** up an index card with the Catholic Faith Word, **Last Supper**, written on it. Have your child read it. Go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read the definition. Ask your child to retell it to you in his/her own words.



**Proclaim** "The Last Supper."



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Ask:** When do you hear these words at Mass? Explain that the priest says these words when God changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Tell** your child that Jesus promised that he would always be with his friends. Explain that Jesus is present in every Sacrament.

**Turn to Page 253,**  
Giving Thanks  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 507

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Show** an index card to introduce your child to the Catholic Faith Word, **Eucharist**. Have your child practice pronouncing the word. Read the definition from the Catholic Faith Words Box. Ask your child to retell it to you in his/her own words.

**Tell** your child that the Eucharist has words and actions that show that Jesus is present.

**Ask** if she/he recalls the words of Jesus that the priest says during Mass. Tell your child that the priest and people at Mass continue to do what Jesus told the disciples to do at the Last Supper.

**Explain** that Jesus' Body and Blood are under the appearances of bread and wine, by saying, "It still looks like bread and wine, but it is really Jesus himself."

**Direct** your child to tell you what they think is happening in the picture on this page.

**Turn to Page 254,**  
During Mass  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 509

**Read** aloud the two paragraphs.

**Show** your child index cards with the Catholic Faith Words, **Mass** and **Holy Communion**, written on them. Read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to retell it to you in his/her own words.

**Point** out the pictures.

**Ask:** What things do Catholics do at Mass?

**Have** your child name key words from each caption of the pictures on this page and on page 255. (*gather, sing, pray, listen to readings, Body and Blood of Jesus, receive Jesus in Holy Communion*)

**Turn to Page 255,**  
During Mass (cont'd)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 511

**Tell** your child that family celebrations and Mass have similarities.

**Talk** about your favorite family celebration and why it's your favorite. (*people are gathered, special food, candles, etc.*)

**Tell** them that Mass is our special meal because bread and wine become Jesus himself. If applicable, explain to the children that next year they will prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

**You** may want to sing "Come Share this Meal" or "Supper of the Lamb" from the *Songs of Scripture* CD. The lyrics are available at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

## Activity

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

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 256,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 513

**Read** aloud the introduction.

**Have** your child follow along in their books as you read aloud the lists. Pause to describe people, items, and actions as necessary, referring to the pictures when appropriate.



**Have** your child complete the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 257,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 515

**Read** the paragraph about Blessed Pope John XXIII.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How can your family show its love for the Mass?

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *God has given your family so many wonderful gifts. The Mass is one of them. It brings the people, who are the Body of Christ, together in unity and worship and sends them out in mission. When you are present at the Eucharist, you provide spiritual support for other members of the Body of Christ. You model faith for your children and all the youth of your parish. Your expression of faith becomes a gift for others. So give praise and thanksgiving for God's loving gift, his Son Jesus! Fervently sing a hymn of praise, listen intently, pray from the heart, and extend Christ's peace.*

**Turn to Page 259,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 519

**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 318), during your morning prayer this week.*



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# Forever With God

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 269,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 539

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe Heaven as living and being happy with God forever
- Identify God's desire for everyone to be happy with him forever
- Recognize that following Jesus and obeying God's laws are how we live in love now and forever

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *When your child is this age it may be hard to imagine that in a blink of an eye he/she will be an adult. An important part of being a Catholic parent is keeping your focus on the fact that while you are teaching your child to take his/her first steps, you are also setting him/her on the path to eternal life. Baptism begins our life long journey of growing in union with the Father, through his Son, Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Helping your child to open his/her heart to receive the fullness of what God wants for him/her—life with him forever—is the very reason God has given him/her to you.*

**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).

- Around Your Throne
- Now Thank We All Our God

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 261,**  
Forever with God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 523

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 Jesus teaches us how to be happy.

**Say:** Jesus teaches us how to be happy and live each day of our lives. Listen to what Jesus told his friends about this.



**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 is telling us that if we live with God every day we will be happy. When we love God and do what he asks, we are helping him to build his Kingdom here on Earth.

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

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 262,**  
Life Forever with God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 525

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Remind** your child that Jesus promised his followers life after death.



**Proclaim** the Scripture.

**Tell** your child to listen for Jesus’ promise.

**Ask:** What do you think God’s house is like?

**Turn to Page 263,**  
Happiness Forever  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 527

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Show** your child an index card with the Catholic Faith Word, **Heaven**, written on it.

**Explain** that Heaven is living in happiness with God and the Saints forever.

**Help** your child understand that the phrase Jesus uses in the Scripture story on the previous page—“my Father’s house”—is a symbol for Heaven.

**Ask** your child why “house” is a good word to describe Heaven. (A house is the setting for family happiness.)

**Reinforce** that people who love God, and show it by their words and actions, will have new life with God forever.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Because children at this age are literal thinkers, we use images of home and family to help them understand eternal life. Children do recognize love. Being held in an embrace when they need comfort and reassurance, or having the need to be cherished are wonderful examples that you can use to help explain to your child what Heaven is like. Assuring your child that God's love for them goes beyond any words of explanation, will allow them to trust that the people they know who have died are happy with God forever.*

**Turn to Page 264,**  
Happy Forever  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 529

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Tell** your child that God's love is so great that he wants all people to be happy with him after they die.

**Point** out the pictures of the Saints. Ask your child to tell you what they recall about each Saint. If they need help remembering, look back in the People of Faith boxes in previous chapters.

**Explain** that the Saints are in Heaven with Jesus.

**Turn to Page 265,**  
The Way to Heaven  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 531

**Read** the paragraph aloud.

**Tell** your child that whenever he/she shows love for others, they get an idea of the happiness that is Heaven.

**Explain** that when he/she lives as a follower of Jesus, he/she is living like the Saints who are in Heaven with Jesus. Everyone who follows Jesus will be in Heaven with God forever.

**Have** your child draw a picture of someone from your family who helped him/her learn more about following Jesus in the empty frame.

### LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 266,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 533

**Read** the introduction.

**Invite** your child to listen carefully as you read aloud the list of ways we can respond when someone dies. Pause after reading each entry, and invite her/him to restate the information in her/his own words.

**Ask:** What kind words can you say to a friend when someone they love dies?



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 267,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 535

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Emily de Vialar.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share with your child what makes you happy. Ask him/her to share what makes them happy. This would be a great topic to discuss with your entire family at your next family meal.

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 269,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 539

**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 318), during your morning prayer this week.*



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# God's Kingdom

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 279,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 559

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

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Appreciate that we can pray for the coming of God's Kingdom, and work with God for the Kingdom
- Connect that through Jesus' action of being forgiving, treating others with respect, and helping those who are hungry and in need, he showed us how to work for the Kingdom
- Recognize that when we are kind, share, play fair, and include others, we are spreading peace

**Parents, Consider This:** *What would you give to raise your child in a world without crime, poverty, and hunger? Think about what the world would be like if it were filled with righteousness, peace, and joy. These qualities mark the Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed. When we hear the news, it is easy to get caught up in the fatalistic, "It is impossible" or "I can't make a difference," yet, Jesus calls his followers to believe in the coming of the Kingdom. Beyond simply asking us to believe, Jesus teaches us that we can work together with him as he builds his Kingdom here on Earth. It is never too early to begin to help your child see the many ways he/she can use his/her heart and hands in the service of God's Kingdom.*

**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).

- Right and Just
- Building God's Kingdom

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 271,**  
God's Kingdom  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 543

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:** God teaches us how to live. He guides us every day to live a good life. Listen to a reading from the Bible to hear what God asks us to do.



**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:** God asks us to do what is right, show love, and to live simply in peace with one another.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about knowing what is right or being a peacemaker.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 272,**  
Love and Peace  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 545

**Read** aloud both paragraphs.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Emphasize** that when we treat others with love, we are working with God as he builds his Kingdom.

**Point** out the bulleted list and read it aloud. Help your child understand that Jesus taught us with his actions. He wants us to do what he did. He wants us to act with peace, love and justice.

**Read** aloud the paragraphs.

**Turn to Page 273,**  
The Kingdom Grows  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 547

**Explain** that the good things we do each day help God’s Kingdom to grow.



**Proclaim** God’s Word.

**Explain** that God’s Kingdom started small. God’s Kingdom has grown over time and continues to grow. Every time we do good things, we help God’s Kingdom to grow.

**Share** with your child a way you have seen her/him help God’s Kingdom grow.

**Remind** your child that we pray for the Kingdom of God when we pray the Lord’s Prayer. To reference the Lord’s Prayer, go to the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the student book, page 317.

## Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

**Turn to Page 274,**  
Living for the Kingdom  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 549

**Read** aloud the two paragraphs.

**Tell** him/her that the world would be so happy if everyone worked to be more peaceful. Have them pretend that they are going to be in charge of the happiness in your home.

**Ask** your child what each family member could do to make your home a happier place.

**Show** them an index card with the Catholic Faith Word **peace** written on it. Ask your child to read aloud the definition of peace.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 275,**  
Living for the Kingdom  
(cont'd)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 551

## Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

**Listen** to the song, “Mustard Seed,” from the *Songs of Scripture* CD. Lyrics can be downloaded at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 276,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 553

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Draw** attention to the text on the puzzle pieces. Alternate, with your child, reading aloud the bulleted items on each puzzle piece.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *You may be thinking that having these conversations about living and dying with your first grade child is somewhat premature. While thoughts of the final journey into eternity may seem far away, the daily dying and risings of each day help prepare us for the ultimate passing into new life. Guiding your child to cope with loss and change by placing those experiences into the bigger picture of God’s promise to bring life from death, will help him/her become a person of hope. They will develop a capacity to trust in God’s goodness no matter how much darkness surrounds them. What a blessing that will be for your child!*

**Turn to Page 277,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 555

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Pedro Calungsod.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about the talents of the members of your family and how they could use them to spread God's love.

**Turn to Page 279,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 559

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