

God's Plan for All Creation

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 61,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 123

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Begin to appreciate all of creation as the gift of God's goodness
- Recognize that God revealed himself in a unique way through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
- Define providence as God's loving care for all things
- Describe stewardship as the way we appreciate and use God's gifts
- Examine the gifts of the Earth used in the Seven Sacraments as signs of God's presence and power

Turn to Page 53,
God's Plan for All Creation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 107

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

Parents, Consider This: *Everything you possess and enjoy is a gift from God. To be a Christian, therefore, means learning to live in thankfulness. The more you discover about the awesome complexity of the universe, the more vivid your awareness of God's wisdom and his loving care will become. As your child learns more about these complexities in science, or as new discoveries are reported, remind your child of the vastness and majesty of God as he is the Creator of all the wonders of this world.*

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.

- Jubilate Deo
- We Sing Your Glory

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: God is so wonderful and so amazing. He deserves our honor and praise. Let's listen to a reading from the Book of Psalms that sings of God's glory and calls us to joyfully worship him.



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: All creation gives glory to God—that includes you. The work you do gives glory to God. When you care for creation, you share in God’s plan.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about his/her role in God’s plan.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 54,
God Reveals Himself
Vivos en Cristo, Page 109

Ask: In what ways does God show himself to us in this world?

Tell your child to read aloud the introductory paragraph. Use the Catholic Faith Words definition to review the meaning of **Divine Revelation**.

Have your child follow along as you read aloud the “Learning About God” section. Pause when you get to **Sacred Scripture** and **Sacred Tradition** and use the Catholic Faith Word’s feature to explain these terms.

Look at the illustrations at the bottom of the page and ask your child to tell you what each of them is saying about Divine Revelation. *(In the first illustration, Jesus is revealing his Father to the people through his teaching. He is the perfect Revelation of God. The Gospels tell his story. The bishops and Pope in the second picture, by the power of the Holy Spirit, guide us to learn God’s truth in the Sacred Scriptures.)*

Turn to Page 55,
In God’s Image
Vivos en Cristo, Page 111

Ask your child to read the four paragraphs out loud. Pause after each paragraph to ask the following questions.

First paragraph: What do you think is God’s most magnificent creation?

Second paragraph: What are some of the marvels in our human bodies?

Third paragraph: How do you show God’s presence in your friendships?

Fourth paragraph: What grade would you give humans in caring for creation? How could we do better?

Turn to Page 56,
Praise God's Work
Vivos en Cristo, Page 113

Review the Catholic Faith Words **providence** and **stewardship**.

Summarize the first paragraph, emphasizing that all of creation was made by God and therefore gives glory to God by simply being. Humanity gives glory to God when we live his will for us.

Ask your child to find Psalm 98 in your Bible. Before reading the Psalm, tell your child that there are many different kinds of psalms, or religious songs, in the Bible.

Explain to them that just as their world is filled with music, music was also a very important part of ancient cultures. Many Psalms were meant to be sung; in fact, they are sometimes described as hymns and references to musical instruments appear within the text.

Share with them that Psalm 98, "The Coming of God," is an enthronement Psalm. It urges listeners and parts of creation to recognize God as their King and to worship him. It proclaims the excitement and joy of the whole Earth over the rule of the Lord in the Kingdom.

Ask your child to read the Psalm with the joy and enthusiasm that is due God!

Activity

Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Ask them to create a simple poem of eight lines that would describe how creation gives glory to God. (i.e. **The thunder claps with a mighty roar/ the clouds get full and the waters pour/ the stream babbles on its merry way/while the fish swim along in the light of day.**)

Parents, Consider This: *You are about to review stewardship. It is important to talk about our responsibility to the environment. At this age, however, it is essential to emphasize your child's responsibility to his/her body. For your child to deepen this understanding, you will need to have on-going conversations. Appreciating her/his body as a gift from God changes the starting point of your conversations about drugs, smoking, exercising, and sexuality as well as a myriad of other topics. Even our relationship to ourselves happens in the context of the relationship that we have with God.*

Turn to Page 57,
Creation and the Sacraments
Vivos en Cristo, Page 115

Have your child silently read the first paragraph. Ask her/him to name some of the gifts from God that are used in the Sacraments. (**water, oil, wheat, grapes**)

Point out that, with the exception of water, all of these substances are gifts from God that have been or can be transformed by human labor. For example, seeds are pressed for oil, wheat is ground for bread, and grapes are fermented for wine.

Read aloud the next two paragraphs.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 58,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 117

Point out the stewardship activity being demonstrated in the artwork on this page. Discuss what is happening.

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph.

Look at the “10 Steps” chart. This chart is so helpful in teaching respect and collaboration that you may want to cut it out and put clear contact paper on it. It would be a wonderful tool to use anytime your family or your children need to work in a group for a common cause.



Read the directions and help your child complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 59,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 119

Read the paragraph about Blessed Hildegard of Bingen.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share some of the places you have been in creation that amazed you.

Turn to Page 61,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 123

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 321) 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.

Made To Be With God

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 70,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 141

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand the sense of longing we all feel as part of the desire God put in our hearts to be truly happy with him
- Examine the search for happiness through the Gospel account of the Woman at the Well
- Recognize grace as a free, loving gift of participation in the life of the Holy Trinity
- Define faith as a belief and trust in God and the things that he has revealed to us
- Describe the Sacrament of Baptism as the beginning of the journey of faith

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

Parents, Consider This: *The human heart longs for God; a longing planted in us by God. Through our longing, we encounter a God who is eager to be revealed, who wants us to know him and to experience his love. Our capacity to know him is, itself, a gift from him. God's gift of faith is first and primarily nurtured in your home. Your lived faith is the essential factor in cultivating your child's understanding of God and the need for faith to be supported in and through the Church. In a very real way, "You've got the power!"*

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.

- Holy Spirit, Come Now
- You Are Near

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 everyone wants to be happy, but our longing for happiness cannot be satisfied by things. It can only be satisfied by God. He wants us to be happy with him forever. In this reading, we see just how much we long for God.

Turn to Page 63,
Made to Be with God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 127



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: There are all kinds of longings, and longing is a gift from God. Only God’s grace can satisfy our longing for him.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about true happiness and our longing for God.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 64,
What We Want
Vivos en Cristo, Page 129

Ask your child to share which of her/his relatives’ homes is her/his favorite to visit and why.

Have him/her silently read the first paragraph.



Ask your child to find the chapter and beginning verse from Luke in your Bible. Read aloud the Scripture.

Invite your child to share what they think it would be like if Jesus came to your house. How would each member of the family react to this visit?

Discuss the questions that follow the Scripture story.

Turn to Page 65,
The Gift of Longing
Vivos en Cristo, Page 131

Activity

Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Have him/her fold it into fours. In each block on each side of the paper (for a total of eight), have him/her write something he/she longs for. You do the same. When you are finished discuss your responses. How many of your responses have to do with things? How many of his/her responses have to do with things? How many have to do with personal issues? How many of them have to do with relationships?

Have your child silently read the text.

Discuss how many of the things mentioned in the paragraph were on your lists.

Ask your child what the word **religion** means to her/him. Now read aloud the definition from the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read the paragraph.

Activity

On another piece of paper, direct your child to write the numbers 1-10 in a vertical column. Now ask her/him to write the ten things that are necessary for happiness, one being the most important and ten being the least important.

Parents, Consider This: *We hear many people today say they are spiritual but not religious. Religion sometimes has a negative connotation. Despite the fact that all religions are flawed because their members are flawed, we profess that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would be with his community—the Church. We need the Church to help us know God’s truth that is revealed in Jesus. We need support to hold firm to our beliefs and we need the strength that the Sacraments provide us with to help us live as disciples.*

Turn to Page 66,
What God Gives
Vivos en Cristo, Page 133

Read aloud the text to your child. Tell your child that as they listen to the Scripture story, they should think about what the Israelites longing for a savior really means.



Tell your child to read the Scripture story aloud, but you will read Jesus’ part.



Have your child read and follow the instructions for the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 67,
God Satisfies You
Vivos en Cristo, Page 135

Read the text silently.

Use the Catholic Faith Word definitions to clarify the meaning of **grace** and **faith**.

Discuss the illustration (on the previous page) of the Woman at the Well. How did the woman change? Remind your child that the word **Messiah** means “God’s Anointed.” Jesus was God’s chosen and beloved Son who brought God’s Kingdom to the world.

Ask your child to read aloud the text.

Activity

Now, read aloud the directions for Connect Your Faith activity and give your child time to complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: Just as your child needs to experience a deep sense of belonging in a family, he/she also needs to experience a deep sense of belonging to a larger community, the Church. Our local experience of the Church is the parish. Studies indicate that children that feel connected to their parish are less likely to become addicted to substances, are less likely to be depressed, and are less likely to attempt suicide. The occurrence of these things you may fear most for your child are decreased when she/he knows where they belong. Being engaged in the life of your parish is a gift your family needs.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 68,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 137

Take turns reading the paragraphs.

Point out the illustrations on the page as they relate to the content.



Encourage your child to draw or write about one of their favorite prayer places.

Remind your child that prayer involves listening, as well as talking, to God.

Ask: What would help you be a better listener when you pray?

Turn to Page 69,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 139

Read the paragraph about Saint Augustine.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Saint Augustine's mother helped him to find his way to God. How can the members of your family help each other grow closer to God?

Activity

Read the directions for the Live Your Faith activity and help your child complete it.

Turn to Page 71,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 143

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 321) 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.

Signs of God's Presence

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 81,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 163

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify a sign as something that points beyond itself to something else
- Develop an understanding of God's signs and the need to be attentive
- Recognize that the Passover meal was a sign of the covenant between God and the People he saved
- Describe the Seven Sacraments as effective signs of the new covenant made through the life and sacrifice of Jesus

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

Parents, Consider This: *Communication often times takes place through signs—physical gestures or material objects that point beyond themselves to invisible realities. A kiss, a handshake, or X's and O's on a card are all signs of relationship. The Bible describes the many signs God employed in ancient times to communicate his will to humans. The image of God's Son hanging on the Cross is an eternal sign of the reconciliation of Heaven and Earth through Jesus' saving Death. Think of some of the signs your family uses to communicate with each other. Help each other to become more conscious of what you are saying.*

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.

- Glory and Praise to Our God
- The Seven Sacraments

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: God is not only in Heaven, but he is also present with us on Earth. We can talk with him anytime—he is always listening. The signs of God are all around us in the things and people he has created. God also speaks to our hearts through his Holy Spirit. Let's listen to God's promise of presence.



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’s power and presence are displayed in the wonders of creation and human life. God uses signs to tell us about his goodness.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about signs of God’s presence.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 74,
Powerful Signs
Vivos en Cristo, Page 149

Tell your child to be thinking about signs.

Direct him/her to read the first paragraph.

Ask: If a sign is something visible that expresses something invisible, what might be a sign of friendship? (a hug, a handshake) What are some signs of married love? (wedding rings, children) What is the most powerful sign of married love? (children, because they are the new life created by God’s love and the love of their parents)

Tell your child that you will be reading a Scripture story about a powerful sign of God’s presence that was shown to Moses.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Direct your child to find the passage in your Bible. Then find the verse where God speaks to Moses. Have her/him read it from the Bible. The artwork on this page shows Moses’ reaction to the burning bush.

Ask your child how he/she would feel if God spoke to them in the way he did to Moses.

Turn to Page 75,
Signs Point the Way
Vivos en Cristo, Page 151

Invite your child to think of other signs of God’s presence in the Bible. (angels, dove, rainbow, bread, water)

Alternate reading the text with your child.

Activity

Give your child a blank piece of paper and ask her/him to fold it in half and in half again. Unfold the paper and in the four squares, ask your child to write a place or time when he/she has felt close to God other than in church. (when they said a prayer for someone else, when they were at the beach, when they saw an incredibly beautiful fish in the aquarium)

Turn to Page 76,
Covenant Signs
Vivos en Cristo, Page 153

Parents, Consider This: *The Old Testament teaches us that God has entered into a sacred relationship with us, a covenant. God initiates that covenant through the promises he makes to Abraham and Moses. He will be our God and his love will bring us to fullness of life. As a sign of that covenant, the Israelites are freed from slavery. But the pinnacle of freedom is yet to come. It comes in Jesus—in a love so great that it frees us from the slavery of sin.*

Ask your child to read the definition of a **covenant**.

Discuss with him/her how sacred a promise is. Share a promise that you have made to someone and kept.

Ask your child to recall a promise that was made to them and was broken. How did it make her/him feel?

Read the Catholic Faith Word definition of the **Seven Sacraments**.

Ask your child what “effective signs of God’s life” means.

Say: These signs are sources of grace; God is present through these words and actions.

Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs.

Discuss the signs of God’s covenant with the Israelites.

Read aloud the text from “The New Covenant.”



Complete the gold-star Activity.

Ask the question at the bottom of the page.

Share with your child what difference having the knowledge that God loves you has made in your life. Speak honestly and from your heart about your gratitude for the gift of Jesus. Tell him/her about a time of great joy or sadness when you were aware of God’s grace.

Turn to Page 77,
Effective Signs
Vivos en Cristo, Page 155

Have your child silently review the chart to identify the signs of the Seven Sacraments and the form that God’s presence takes in each one.

Review the information with him/her, emphasizing that the Seven Sacraments are gifts that have come from God the Father through Jesus, the perfect sign of God's presence to us through the Church. In the Sacraments we experience God's life and love.

Parents, Consider This: *While God initiates this relationship with us, we must accept that gift of salvation. That requires a conscious effort to live in response to God's love. How wonderful it would be if each day you and your children awoke with the joy that comes from knowing that we live in the new covenant—the love made visible in the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our hearts hunger for the Seven Sacraments when we understand that they offer us an experience of God's life and love. Regularly receiving the Sacraments is so important to our spiritual life that it is one of the Precepts of the Church.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 78,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 157

Ask: How do you see the signs God sends to you?

Explain that becoming more aware of God's presence—like any other exercise—becomes easier with practice.

Read aloud Steps 1 and 2 of the “Become More Aware” chart. Share with your child the importance of becoming more aware of God's presence in your life.

Make a promise that you and your child will both use this tool during the week. You may want to invite other family members to do the same.

Turn to Page 79,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 159

Read the paragraph about Saint Benedict.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about the rules in your family that help you to live in right relationship with each other.

Turn to Page 81,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 163

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 321) 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.

The Mystery of the Trinity

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 95,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 191

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Appreciate the hardships our ancestors endured to help us to know about the mystery of the one God in three Divine Persons
- Recognize that Jesus invites us into a deeper understanding of the mystery of God, whom we cannot see except through him
- Recall that those who are baptized enter into the very life of the Holy Trinity, who is love
- Understand that the Theological Virtues help us obey the First Commandment and live in relationship with the Trinity

Turn to Page 87,
The Mystery of the Trinity
Vivos en Cristo, Page 175

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

Parents, Consider This: *No one analogy or visual image can convey the fullness of the mystery of the Trinity, but some common visual symbols, such as a shamrock, a triangle, and a pretzel with three loops, are used to initiate some understanding. God, by his very nature, is a communion of persons, and he wants to be in communion with us. The regular practice of making the Sign of the Cross in your family prayer is a reminder of this central mystery of our faith.*

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.

- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Love Which Never Ends

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 verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God created human beings with a great gift. Unlike all the rest of creation, we have the ability to know God. We can use our minds and our hearts to think about him.

Say: God is a mystery. But this doesn't mean we can't know him. God makes himself known to us. God tells us that he lives in a community of love called the Holy Trinity.



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 baptism that John offered was a sign of a person’s desire to change their ways and return to God. But it did not bring about the forgiveness that the Seven Sacraments do. All the Sacraments offer us a share in God’s life and invite us into the mystery of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else your child might wonder about Jesus Baptism and the mystery of God.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 88,
More Than Can Be Known
Vivos en Cristo, Page 177

Turn to Page 89,
The Mystery Unfolds
Vivos en Cristo, Page 179

Read aloud the three paragraphs.

Discuss the purple question.

Have your child silently read the paragraphs on this page.

Ask: What does the word *mystery* mean to you? (Many children probably have a secular understanding of the word.)

Have your child find the word **mystery** and then move to the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to read the definition there.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Many legends about the life of Saint Patrick abound, but few can be verified. His missionary activity seems to have been in the north of Ireland. He may have founded the first Irish bishopric. Saint Patrick’s autobiography shows him to be a modest and devout man with an engaging personality. His story and attempt to teach such a profound mystery as the Trinity with the most common of symbols is a reminder of how we can reveal God’s love in the ordinary events, objects, and experiences of our daily lives.*

Turn to Page 90,
One God in Three Divine Persons
Vivos en Cristo, Page 181

Have your child silently read the first and second paragraph. Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Words box and review the definition of the **Holy Trinity**.

Read aloud the rest of the paragraphs on this page.



Proclaim the Scripture story.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 91,
Living Your Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 183

Have your child read aloud the paragraphs on this page, including the “Theological Virtues” chart. Point out the highlighted word **virtue** and go over its definition.

Discuss with your child the value of developing virtues in our lives. Share a virtue you especially value.

Invite your child to write a paragraph about how he or she would describe each of the Theological Virtues in their own words. Have them identify someone in his or her life who exemplifies each virtue.

Parents, Consider This: *The Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity (love) are gifts from God to help us live in kinder and more loving ways with one another. When we do this, we become closer to God. Be aware of the tone of conversations in your family. Do they reflect these virtues? Encourage everyone in your family to reflect these virtues in the way we talk and live with each other.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 92,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 185

Read the opening question and opening paragraph.



Do the gold-star activity. Have your child do this activity by him or herself. Once they’ve completed it, have them share their responses with you.

Parents, Consider This: *Who in your immediate or extended family has exemplified the Theological Virtues for you? In your conversations with your child, share some stories about these people. As we remember how they lived virtues, we are more mindful to do so ourselves.*

Turn to Page 93,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 187

Read the paragraph about Saint Athanasius.

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

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The love among Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is so intense that the human mind cannot conceive it. It is, nevertheless, the very love which, by virtue of our Baptism, we are invited to share. Write a letter to your child reflecting on his or her Baptism and the love you have for your child. Express what your faith means to you and your hope for your child to have faith in God. Save the letter in a special place and give it to your child at some point in the future when you feel they need to be encouraged in their faith.*

Turn to Page 95,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 191

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 320), during your night prayer this week.*



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Pray and Worship

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 105,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 211

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Discover ways to show thankfulness and reverence to God and respond to his goodness and love
- Examine worship as a natural response to God, as we adore and praise him, especially in prayer and in the liturgy of the Church
- Recognize that in the liturgy, we participate in the saving work accomplished through Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- Identify the ways in which we experience the Holy Trinity in the celebration of the liturgy

Turn to Page 97,
Prayer and Worship
Vivos en Cristo, Page 195

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

Parents, Consider This: *In past generations of Catholic families, regular worship, especially of Sunday liturgy, was a non-negotiable part of family life. There appears to be a shift in the percentage of Catholics who attend Sunday Mass and observe Holy Days of Obligation. Studies of faith development clearly show that consistent faithfulness to these religious practices are very effective and powerful in helping our children become resilient and hopeful persons in life. Cultivating such faith is a gift that lasts a lifetime.*

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.

- Praise the Lord
- For the Fruits of this Creation

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Prayer is more than talking to God. It is listening to God and responding to him when he speaks to us. The following ritual reminds us that God loves us and hears us when we pray.



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: We make our requests known to God when we pray. Liturgy is the Church’s official public communal prayer. Liturgy celebrates the love that the Holy Trinity has poured out on the world.

Share a memory of your childhood participation in liturgy.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about worship, prayer, and the liturgy.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 98,
God with Us
Vivos en Cristo, Page 197

Have your child silently read the opening question and paragraph.

Explain that the Ark of the Covenant was a lavishly decorated portable chest that contained the Ten Commandments.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Ask: What do you think was in David’s heart as he danced before the ark? Have you ever felt so happy that you wanted to dance? Listen to your child’s responses and discuss them.

Turn to Page 99,
Responding to God’s Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 199

Have your child silently read the first paragraph.



Proclaim “The Early Church Gathers.”

Summarize the rest of the paragraphs and discuss them with your child. Inquire as to how he or she thinks the early Christians resembled or differed from the Christians of today.

Point out the Catholic Faith Words box and review the definition of **reverence** with your child.

Activity

On a separate piece of paper have your child make a list of what words and actions during the Mass show reverence for God.

Parents, Consider This: Help your child understand that there is a difference between formality and reverence. While the liturgy has a formality to its form that we respect, reverence comes from a deeper place of love and gratitude in our hearts. As we are formed internally in our awareness for all God has done for us and given us, our reverence is an expression of that love and gratitude.

Turn to Page 100,
The Work of God and His People
Vivos en Cristo, Page 201

Review the words **worship** and **liturgy** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Have your child silently read the text and complete the gold-star activity.

Review the material in “The Catholic Church’s Liturgy” chart. For extended review, turn to page 322 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your child’s book and read a couple of prayers from the liturgy.

Turn to Page 101,
The Role of the Trinity
Vivos en Cristo, Page 203

Read aloud the text.

Say: From the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of Mass until the final blessing, the entire liturgy is a celebration of the saving love of the Holy Trinity.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a blessing comes from God and gives life. The proper Christian response to God’s innumerable blessings is to “bless” God in return—to offer him adoration, praise, and thanksgiving primarily through the liturgy of the Church. The next time you attend Mass as a family, invite your family to spend some time thanking God, especially for the blessings most taken for granted, such as a safe home, nourishing food, and our friends.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 102,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 205

Read together the opening question and the first paragraph.

Discuss the question, “How do you pray with your whole self?”



Do the gold-star activity together.

Turn to Page 103,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 207

Read the paragraph about Saint Cecilia.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how we praise God with music and song.

Activity

Do the Live Your Faith activity if it is something that interests your child.

Turn to Page 105,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 211

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 320), 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.

A Life of Virtue

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 115,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 231

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Discern that showing love for God and neighbor is an act of worship
- Recognize that the Cardinal Virtues help us honor God and live as his children
- Appreciate how virtues strengthen our ability to know right from wrong and help us become the person God made us to be
- Realize that living a morally good life is a way to praise God

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

Parents, Consider This: *There, perhaps, is no more helpful or beautifully simple passage in the Bible than Micah 6:8, "You have been told... what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God." The next time family life seems to be overwhelming, take a moment to sit quietly and read or recite from memory this verse and allow yourself to become centered in its clear direction for our lives.*

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.

- May God Bless and Keep You
- Choices

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 107,
A Life of Virtue
Vivos en Cristo, Page 215

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Ask: How is the right way to live? Today's reading helps us answer the question. It tells us to be fair, always try to do what we believe is right, and do it with a humble heart, trusting in God.



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 teaches us that following God’s Commandments is a matter of loving God and neighbor through a life of doing good. By loving God and neighbor, you become the person God made you to be.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about ways to walk humbly with God and better follow the Great Commandment.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 108,
The Way to Goodness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 217

Have your child read silently the opening question and paragraph.

Ask: To whom do you turn when you need advice about doing the right thing? (If your child is unsure of whom those people are, offer some suggestions.)



Proclaim “The Greatest Commandment.”

Discuss how we can keep these two Great Commandments in our everyday life.

Turn to Page 109,
Worship That Pleases God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 219

Have your child read aloud the text.

Point out the highlighted word. Review the definition of **Cardinal Virtues** in the Catholic Faith Words box on the previous page.

Ask your child if he or she has ever heard of these virtues and/or seen them in action.

Share some examples of times when you have seen someone your child knows live out these virtues.



Do the gold-star activity. Review the chart “The Cardinal Virtues” together.

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity. Help your child decide who they want to draw and what Cardinal virtue they will be practicing. Then have them draw in the space provided.

Parents, Consider This: *Virtues are developed when we become conscious of them and practice them. Social scientists tell us that it takes at least thirty days of consistent practice for something to become a habit. As a family, choose a virtue you would like to cultivate and put a written reminder of the virtue in a visible place in your home, like the kitchen table or on a refrigerator magnet. Periodically check in with each other as to your faithfulness to the practice of that virtue.*

Turn to Page 110,
Living the Cardinal Virtues
Vivos en Cristo, Page 221

Summarize the two introductory paragraphs.

Ask your child to respond to the opening question.

Have your child describe some different ways to pray.

Read the scenarios on this page and the next page. Take turns having one of you read the scenario and the other person responding to the question posed after each scenario. Alternate your roles.

Turn to Page 111,
Living the Cardinal Virtues
(cont'd)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 223

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Invite your child to create the short story. Have them write it in the space provided and share it with you.

Parents, Consider This: *The Cardinal Virtues are habits acquired by human effort in cooperation with grace that helps us honor God and live as his children. In your personal prayer, consider what virtue would be a gift for each person (including yourself) in your family. Pray for that person to develop that virtue. Make a sincere effort to notice if your family members show any signs of that virtue in his or her life and affirm that when you see it.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 112,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 225

Read the introductory paragraph. Give your child examples of behavioral decisions. Have your child suggest one.

★ **Do** the gold-star activity together. Review and discuss the decision-making tips.

Say: Think of a bad decision you have made. Can you find the reason it was bad by recognizing that you missed one of these steps?

Think of a good decision you have made. Can you see that you followed some of these steps?

Turn to Page 113,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 227

Read the paragraph about Saint Thomas More.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about following your conscience, even when it is difficult to do so.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Your child is at an age when they might be at a loss to explain their motivations for their actions. A motive is something that causes (or moves) a person to act. Help your child understand that he or she can be moved by emotions, peer pressure, or by the example of others. Your child may have heard the word motive used in the legal sense, as the reason for a crime. Remind them that there is such a thing as good motives, too, and they can act upon good motives. Help your child learn to trust his or her good heart.*

Turn to Page 115,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 231

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 320), 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.

Living Image of Christ

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 129,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 259

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize Jesus as King and note that wise people still seek him
- Define the mystery that the Son of God took on a human nature in order to save all people as the Incarnation
- Recognize Jesus as the fullness of God's Revelation
- Explore how we are created in the image of God and how we can be a living image of Christ every day

Turn to Page 121,
Living Image of Christ
Vivos en Cristo, Page 243

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

Parents, Consider This: *How can you show your child that he or she is made in the image of God? Do you regularly tell your child what is wonderful and unique about him or her? The scriptural creation story points out that God created humans "in his image" (Genesis 1:27). What a wonderful message that is! This message should be foundational to our self-worth and self-esteem. Make sure you share this important truth with 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 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.

- You Are God
- Jesus Is Our Friend

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Today's reading tells us that we are made in the image of God. Think what that says about the way we are to treat others and ourselves. Think about the importance of our actions. What do you tell others about who God is?



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 created you and all people in his image and likeness. When you care for others, you reflect God’s image.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about being made in God’s image.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 122,
Honoring God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 245

Tell your child that they are going to read a Scripture story about the three Magi, or wise men, who visited the newborn Jesus.

Read aloud the first sentence on this page.



Proclaim the Scripture, alternating paragraphs with your child.

Turn to Page 123,
The Visit of the Magi
Vivos en Cristo, Page 247

Discuss the questions at the end of the Scripture story.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The word magus (plural: magi) once specified a member of a hereditary clan of priests in ancient Iran. By Gospel times, the term was applied to “wise men” of every sort, including astrologers. The writer of the Gospel of Matthew may have had astrologers in mind when he used the word magi. Later, Christian tradition focused only on three magi—Caspar, Balthasar, and Melchior—all of whom were revered as both seers and kings. The feast of the Epiphany that tells this story is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. Share this Scripture background with your child so he or she brings more understanding to this feast. Remind your child of the gifts that they have received from God. They should share these gifts unselfishly with others in order to give honor to God.*

Turn to Page 124,
In His Image and Likeness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 249

Have your child silently read and identify for you the most important ideas in the text. (Jesus came for all people. Incarnation means “coming into flesh.” Jesus is both fully divine and fully human. Jesus means “God saves.”) Help your child with any ideas he or she missed.

Review the highlighted words **Incarnation** and **Savior** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Turn to Page 125,
God’s Image in You
Vivos en Cristo, Page 251

Have your child silently read this section and discuss together the question following the text.

Invite your child to continue reading silently “Signs of God’s Love.” Review the highlighted words **free will** and **soul** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Who has shown your family that he or she is following Jesus? Perhaps a relative, a neighbor, a person in the news, or someone from our Catholic Faith Tradition has been a living sign of God’s love. Our faith grows by paying attention to this. Talk about this as a family. Thank this person if that is appropriate. God works through our ordinary lives to teach us about his extraordinary love.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 126,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 253

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Activity

On a separate piece of paper, list the titles, “Lamb of God,” “Good Shepherd,” and “Son of Man.” Invite your child to write a sentence or explain to you what each title tells us about Jesus. Help your child if this is difficult for them to do independently.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Your child is at the age when he or she is ready to think more figuratively about how they are made in the “image of God.” While this is still somewhat of an abstract concept for a child of this age, they can be challenged to see Jesus as a perfect model of God’s image in human form, because he himself is God. Talk with your child about this concept and how it relates to his or her dignity and worth as a human person and child of God.*

Turn to Page 127,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 255

Read the paragraph about Blessed Maria Vicenta Rosal Vásquez.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you reflect the image of God in your life.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 129,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 259

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 321), 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.

Proclaim the Kingdom

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 139,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 279

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe the Kingdom of God as God's rule of peace, justice, and love that exists in Heaven, but has not yet come in its fullness on Earth
- Apply the parables to images of the Kingdom of God
- Recognize that Jesus performed miracles that showed God's Kingdom was being established
- Realize, through Jesus' words and actions, the need for conversion in our lives

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

Parents, Consider This: *The Kingdom of God is an abstract concept that may be difficult for someone your child's age to grasp. At this age, a child is probably only beginning to have the capacity to think figuratively, so a paradox we traditionally hold by faith, such as the Kingdom of God, can be challenging. The Kingdom is now and is also yet to be. It is on Earth and also in Heaven. The parables of the Kingdom are useful images to help your child begin to understand and continue to draw new meaning from these stories over time, as he or she is ready.*

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.

- I Will Sing
- Raise Your Voice for Justice

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Jesus' mission on Earth was to announce in words and deeds the presence and coming in fullness of God's Kingdom. Jesus called people to change their lives and to believe in the Good News of God's great love. This reading announces the beginning of Jesus' Kingdom mission.

Turn to Page 131,
Proclaim the Kingdom
Vivos en Cristo, Page 263



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 used parables to teach people about God’s Kingdom. He also cured the sick, forgave sinners, and welcomed outcasts in order to show that God’s Kingdom was being established and is open to everyone.

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

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 132,
The Power of Stories
Vivos en Cristo, Page 265

Ask your child to define the Kingdom of God in his or her own words.

Review the definition of **Kingdom of God** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Read aloud the opening question and the two paragraphs.

Discuss why Jesus used stories and what people did after they had heard Jesus speak. Ask how retelling Jesus stories helps your faith grow stronger. *(We learn the meaning of the stories by listening again and again.)*

Turn to Page 133,
Parables as Examples
Vivos en Cristo, Page 267

Have your child silently read the text.

Review the word **parable** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Ask: In this parable, who is the sower? What do the seeds represent?

Discuss how the responses relate to the artwork on pages 132-133.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: A parable conveys a message about God’s Kingdom using everyday images that we can relate to. Share the Scripture parable that means the most to you.

Turn to Page 134,
Signs and Wonders
Vivos en Cristo, Page 269

Read aloud the opening question and the text.

Ask: How can you help the Kingdom of God become more present in the world? (*loving others, behaving justly, being peacemakers*)



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *To encourage your child to apply the Scripture to his or her life, ask your child these questions about the parable or any other Scripture reading: What does this mean to me? What are these words asking me to do? How can I put this message into practice today?*

To delve deeper into how the Kingdom of God will come in fullness at the end of time, turn to page 310 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your child's book and read "Everlasting Life."

Have your child silently read the text.

Ask your child to circle the words that explain how Jesus continues to perform signs and wonders today. (*through the Church, the Sacraments, the community, and the Holy Spirit*)

Review the words **miracle** and **conversion** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Word box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Christians call the wonders that Jesus performed "miracles." The Gospels usually call them signs. The earliest Christians considered these significant, not because they defied ordinary laws of nature, but because they showed God's love for humans and Jesus' divine commission. God is continually showing signs of love in our everyday family life. Have an open heart to see the signs and wonders of God's love in your daily family life.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 136,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 273

Read aloud the first and second paragraphs.

Ask your child what he or she already knows about parables. Remind your child of some parables they have already heard, for example, the Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 137,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 275

Read the paragraph about Saint Catherine of Sienna.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how receiving Holy Communion can help you love your family and friends.

Turn to Page 139,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 279

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 321), 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.

Celebrating the Paschal Mystery

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 149,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 299

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Examine the ways Blessed Mother Teresa joined her life to Christ in the Paschal Mystery
- Identify Jesus as Redeemer—bringing us back from the slavery of sin and death
- Describe the Paschal Mystery as Christ's work of redemption through his suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- Relate the Paschal Mystery to the experience of the Seven Sacraments

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

Parents, Consider This: *At our Baptism, we were baptized into Jesus' Death and reborn as sons and daughters of God. Because of this, we may be able to see our own lives as a series of endings and new beginnings. Your child, at his or her age, due to limited life experience and a concrete stage of development of thinking, may not be able to make this abstract connection. As you continue to frame the lived experience in your family, reflecting on this mystery, you lay the foundation for finding the greater meaning in the endings and beginnings of 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 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.

- Alle, Alle, Alleluia
- The 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.

Say: Jesus Resurrection changed everything. In Jesus' rising, we have the promise of new life, life beyond death. Let's listen to what the New Testament says about the new life Jesus brings.

Turn to Page 141,
Celebrating the
Paschal Mystery
Vivos en Cristo, Page 283



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 Paschal Mystery is how Christ saved us through his suffering (also known as the Passion), Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Sacraments celebrate the Paschal Mystery by inviting you and all believers to die to a new life of love.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about the Paschal Mystery and how all things can be made new.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 142,
A Witness to God’s Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 285

Read aloud the introductory paragraph and Mother Teresa’s biography.

Explain that a religious vocation is often referred to as a “calling from God.” Discuss what a “call within a call would be.”

Point out the photos on page 142-143 and discuss what they show about Mother Teresa.

Turn to Page 143,
The Mission Expands
Vivos en Cristo, Page 287

Have your child silently read this section and, on a separate piece of paper, have him or her outline the different ways that Mother Teresa and her sisters helped people.

Ask your child why Mother Teresa became so famous. (because of her dedicated work with the poor, because of her Christ-like love, because she was inspiring to others)

Discuss Mother Teresa’s reason for accepting awards.

Have your child write a short explanation of how mother Teresa’s work lives on today.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: In your home, include images of Jesus' death (such as a crucifix) and images that relate to the Resurrection. As Saint Paul teaches, the Death of Jesus only makes sense in light of the Resurrection. Children learn from visual images.

Turn to Page 144,
Work of Redemption
Vivos en Cristo, Page 289

Have your child read silently the opening question and text.

Review the words **sacrifice**, **Paschal Mystery**, and **liturgical year** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask: What has Jesus' Death done for all people? (It broke the power of evil.)



Proclaim the Scripture.

Turn to Page 145,

The Celebration of the Mystery
Vivos en Cristo, Page 291

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Together, review the chart, "Participating in the Paschal Mystery." Allow your child an opportunity to ask questions about any of the Sacraments.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 146,

Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 293

Read aloud the introductory question and paragraph.

Explain how images help people understand religious concepts or teachings. Discuss some visuals that you have experienced at Church or at home.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: The Sacraments incorporate Catholics into Christ's own body; therefore, those celebrating the Sacraments experience both the Death that Christ endured and his Resurrection to new life. Trusting in God, Christians endure disappointments, trials, and the death of those they love. They also experience new life when they help those in need or reconcile with those whom they have been estranged. Finally, they experience the physical death that completes their incorporation into Christ and makes possible their own resurrection to eternal blessedness. As a parent you will experience all of these things and you have the opportunity to demonstrate the hope that is possible in the faith of a Christian life.

Turn to Page 147,

People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 295

Read the paragraph about Saint Paul Miki.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how offering up something you don't like to do helps you share in the Paschal Mystery.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Hope is the gift of embracing the Paschal Mystery. Point out hopeful things when your family experiences them. Virtues, such as hope, are born out of the habits of our life.*

Turn to Page 149,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Vivos en Cristo, Page 299

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 321), 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.

The Church's Message

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 163,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 327

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize the Church's mission to bring Christ to the world
- Identify the four Marks of the Church, which distinguish Christ's Church and her mission to bring Christ to the world
- Recognize the Church as an assembly, a gathering of the People of God, the Body of Christ
- Appreciate that the Church is one because the power of the Holy Spirit unites all the members in one faith, in the celebration of the Sacraments, and under the authority of the Pope

Turn to Page 153,
The Church's Message
Vivos en Cristo, Page 307

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

Parents, Consider This: *What are the visible signs of the invisible love you have for your children? It may be the braces on their teeth, a scream of encouragement at a sports meet, or a hug after a disappointment. Those signs signal to anyone who can hear or see that love is present. The Church is the visible sign of Christ's presence here on Earth. As the Body of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we signal to anyone who can hear or see that God's love is present in the world. Your family is the domestic Church; your home is the most fundamental microcosm of the Church.*

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.

- Loving God
- Yes, Lord I Believe

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: The first Mark of the Church is unity. As the People of God, we are called to be one with one another. The reading from Ephesians tells us about this unity.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

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

Say: The Church and all her members have Good News to share with everyone on Earth. Jesus entrusted us, the Church, with his mission.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about being a sign of unity to the world.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 156,
A Time of Renewal
Vivos en Cristo, Page 313

Before you begin reading, ask your child to pay attention to the importance of the Council. Point to the name Blessed Pope John XXIII. Explain that Popes choose a new name when they become Pope. Pope John was the 23rd Pope to choose the name John.

Direct your child to read the first paragraph.

Read aloud the two paragraphs under “Pope XXIII Opens Vatican Council.”

Tell your child to underline the three goals of the Council. Discuss why they were important.

Turn to Page 157,
Observers at the Council
Vivos en Cristo, Page 315

Read the information on this page to your child.

Together, identify the main idea in each paragraph. (There were observers from many different groups at the council; the council had a worldwide audience.)

Activity

For the Share Your Faith activity, act as a team and think of three questions you would have asked Pope John XXIII about the Council.

Give your child a separate sheet of lined paper. Ask her/him to imagine that there is going to be another Council. Think of the five greatest problems in the world today that the Church would need to speak about.

Parents, Consider This: *In the life of your family, there are moments when you must respond to the events happening in your community. It may be a decision to join some neighbors in asking for a speed bump on your street, or collecting clothing and toys for a local disaster. At various crucial moments in history, the Church has responded to the needs of the world by clarifying the beliefs of our Catholic faith. She calls an ecumenical (from a Greek word meaning “the entire inhabited world”) council. An ecumenical council is a meeting of many of the world’s bishops. Vatican II was the twenty-first ecumenical council.*

Turn to Page 158,
Essential Characteristics
Vivos en Cristo, Page 317

Have your child silently read the first paragraph.

Ask how he/she is a sign of God’s Kingdom.

Summarize the next paragraph.

Point out the two names in the last paragraph that can be applied to the Church. (**People of God and Body of Christ**)

Ask your child to read the definitions for **Marks of the Church** and **Body of Christ** in the Catholic Faith Words Box.

Explain that, like a human body, the Church is made up of diverse members or parts. The members serve different functions, but all are important.



Proclaim the Scripture passage.

Create a vocabulary card for the Catholic Faith Word, **laity**.

Ask: What qualities does a person need to have to become a “living stone,” or sturdy part of the Church? (**faith, love, and forgiveness**)

Turn to Page 159,
Signs of Unity
Vivos en Cristo, Page 319

Read the text silently together.

Review the three main ways in which the unity of the Church is visible.

Ask: In what ways do you show others at home and in school that you are “one” (united) with the Church—the Body of Christ? (**compassion, courage to speak for the weak, being aware of what others may need**)

Go to the “Marks of the Church” chart at the top of the page and review the Marks of the Church.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 160,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 321

Read aloud the first paragraph. This section will help you focus on images associated with the Church.

Introduce the four images in the “The Church in the Bible” chart that describe the Church.

Read aloud each of the descriptions.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Share with your child which image of the Church speaks to you most deeply. For more information on the Church, you can turn to page 309 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your child’s book.

Turn to Page 161,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 323

Read the paragraph about Saint Robert Bellarmine.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can respectfully share the Catholic Faith with others.

Activity

Discuss the illustration in the Live Your Faith activity. Ask your child to illustrate an example of how she/he can be a sign of Christ’s love in the world.

Turn to Page 163,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 327

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 (see Page 321), 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.

The Teaching Church

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 173,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 347

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Relate Jesus' dialogue with Peter in Matthew 16 to the authority of the Apostles' successors—the bishops and the Pope
- Express the Church's mission to faithfully pass on what God has revealed through his Son, Jesus
- Describe the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church, including all the bishops in union with the Pope
- Recognize that the Pope and the bishops, guided by the Holy Spirit, protect and explain the Word of God

Turn to Page 165,
The Teaching Church
Vivos en Cristo, Page 331

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

Parents, Consider This: *As parents, you understand the need and take responsibility for the education of your children. Whether the learning focuses on schoolwork or simply manners, children need teachers. Jesus understood that the Apostles were going to need help in understanding his words and actions. He promised the assistance of the Holy Spirit. This promise was inherited by the Apostles' chosen successors, the college of bishops, headed by the bishop of Rome, the Pope. The Church continues to teach, guided by the Holy Spirit. God understands our need to learn his will, so has given us the Church.*

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.

- Lead Me, Lord
- Center of My Life

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Today's reading will help us appreciate how Jesus, the great Teacher, handed on his teaching to his closest followers, the Apostles, and then called them to teach 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: Jesus entrusted his teaching to the Apostles. From among the Apostles, Jesus chose Peter to be the leader. And today, the Church continues to carry on Jesus’ teaching ministry.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about teachers in the Church.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 166,
The Church on Earth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 333

Ask: Who is your favorite teacher? Why? Recall your favorite teacher and tell your child what they helped you to learn.

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Discuss the importance of always being open to learning. Name some things you enjoy learning about as an adult. Perhaps you may mention you are learning how to be a good parent. Point out that the ability to learn is a gift from God.



Have your child silently read the Scripture passage.

Explain that in Greek, the original language of the Gospels, the name Peter (Petros) is almost the same as the word for rock (petra). By giving Simon the name Peter, Jesus implies that Peter will be the foundation of his Church, the “rock” on which it will be built. You may want to review the song, “Upon This Rock,” from the *Songs of Scripture* album and/or discuss the lyrics, available at aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Ask: How would you answer Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?”

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Turn to Page 167,
The Apostles’ Mission
Vivos en Cristo, Page 335

Ask: To whom did Jesus send the Apostles to tell the Good News? (everyone throughout the world) What were the Apostles supposed to teach? (everything that Jesus had commanded)

Summarize the text under “Faithful to the Truth.”

Ask your child to underline what truths the Church teaches. (what God has revealed through his Son, Jesus)

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity. On a separate sheet of paper, have your child compose a letter that he/she can send to one of the people he/she chose, thanking them for teaching the faith.

Parents, Consider This: *Humility is a word that can hold many meanings. One dimension of humility allows us to understand our limited natures. We do not know everything. To seek a teacher, whether it is to improve a golf game or to learn more about our faith, requires an acknowledgement of our need to grow in knowledge and understanding. It is from this very place that we look to the teaching authority of the Church to help us understand the Divine Revelation of God. Creating an environment of trust in the authority of the Church will help your child understand the life-long call to grow in knowledge and love of the Lord.*

Turn to Page 168,
The Teaching Office
Vivos en Cristo, Page 337

Using the information on this page, work with your child to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of lined paper: What is the Magisterium? Who is in the Magisterium? What does the Magisterium do for the Church? How does the Holy Spirit interact with the Magisterium?

Find the words **Magisterium** and **infallibility** in the Catholic Faith Words Box. Review their definitions.

Turn to Page 169,
Guidance of the Holy Spirit
Vivos en Cristo, Page 339

Summarize the text on the page. Point out that, just as the Holy Spirit guides the Pope and the Church, he also guides us, the People of God.

If you have a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in your home, show the *Catechism* to your child. Show him/her that the text is divided into four sections. Ask them to find those sections: Creed (We Believe), Sacraments (We Worship), Morality (We Live), Prayer (We Pray). Ask your child to flip to the Our Catholic Tradition section in the back of the book and match the headings to those of the *Catechism*.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 170,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 341

Read aloud the opening paragraph.

Look at each block in the “Words for Understanding” chart. Complete the two boxes on the right of the page and the bottom box in the left column.

Explain that the Director of Religious Education or Catechetical Leader in your parish is often a layperson that helps others grow in faith. E-mail your leader and ask how she/he became the faith director in your parish.

Turn to Page 171,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 343

Read the paragraph about Blessed Pope John Paul II.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can tell others about God's love.

Activity

Discuss the Live Your Faith activity. Have your child complete the answers. Discuss the teaching she/he does not understand. If you need help answering, admit that to your child and e-mail your faith director or parish priest.

Turn to Page 173,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 347

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 (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week. You may also want to play "Upon This Rock" in your car this week as you travel to and from activities.*



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

Live of Holiness

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 183,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 367

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe personal holiness as being unique and pure, set apart for God and his purposes
- Identify Saints as models of heroic virtue who listened and responded to the Holy Spirit's call
- Recognize that the Church honors Mary, the Mother of God, as the Queen of Saints, and an example of obedience of faith
- Understand canonization declaration by the Pope naming a person as a Saint who can serve as a model for all Christians

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

Parents, Consider This: *What parent would not want their children to live the fullness of their potential? You give countless hours of your time and energy in helping your children become all they are capable of being. God creates each of us with incredible potential. He creates us to be holy. If holiness were a quality that people had to acquire on their own, no one would become holy; however, holiness means saying "yes" to God, and then allowing his grace to work in us so that we can know and do his will.*

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.

- Mary, a Woman of Faith
- For All the Saints

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 175,
Lives of Holiness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 351

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Our Scripture reading reminds us that, because Jesus is our brother, we are the adopted children of God. When we became one with Christ in Baptism, we were set on a journey to holiness, as were the Saints.



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: All Catholics are called by the Holy Spirit to grow in holiness. Saints are models for us because they have listened and responded to the Holy Spirit’s call.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about growing in holiness.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 176,
Models of Virtue
Vivos en Cristo, Page 353

Ask: Why is it important to know about the Saints?

Have your child read the first paragraph aloud.

Alternate reading the short biographies of each Saint to discover what each is known for. If possible, research the Saint’s name online and find a historical photo of the Saint. This will help your child situate that person in recent history.

Turn to Page 177,
Respond to the Holy Spirit
Vivos en Cristo, Page 355

Read aloud the text. When you get to the words **salvation, holy,** and **Fruits of the Holy Spirit,** ask your child to go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read their definitions.

Activity

On a separate sheet of lined paper, ask your child to write three sentences using one of the vocabulary words in each sentence.

Turn to Page 178,
Mary, Queen of Saints
Vivos en Cristo, Page 357

Tell your child you are going to learn about Mary, the Mother of Jesus. This part of the lesson will talk about Mary’s special place in the Communion of Saints.

Share a story with your child about your mother, a story that illustrates what kind of person she is (was).

Ask your child to give you an example of how they know that they are loved by their mother/father.

Read the first paragraph.



Invite your child to proclaim the Scripture passage from Luke.

Ask: Which Catholic Faith Word applies to this Scripture?

Explain the dogmas of the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption.

In many depictions of the Annunciation, there is a lily visible. Why do you think the artist placed that flower in the scene? (White is a sign of purity. The flower's bloom is open, like Mary's heart.)

Read the last paragraph.

Direct your child to silently read the text to find out how people are recognized by the Church as Saints. Not all Saints are canonized by the Church. Tell your child about someone you have met in your life that you consider a Saint. Talk with them about why you consider this person a Saint.

Direct your child to write a three sentence prayer asking God to help them grow in the areas of her/his life that will help them be more like the Saints. (God, please help me grow in patience. I get so frustrated when...)

Parents, Consider This: How many times have you heard someone getting an award say, "This is great, but our project was a group effort"? It is a comforting thought that, while God calls each of us to be holy, we do not have to do it alone. Our holiness is a group effort. Those around us, both living and dead, in the Communion of Saints, continue to help us understand more deeply, and live more fully, lives of holiness and virtue. Remind your child often that she/he has a team helping them grow in holiness. It is truly a group effort that begins in your home and continues until they reach their home in eternity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 180,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 361

Explain to your child that you are going to review how to say the Rosary. If your child has her/his own, you should have it ready. If not, you should be able to get one from your Church.

Explain how to say the rosary using the beads. Ask your child to repeat back what you have said.

Ask: Why do you think praying the Rosary is such a popular devotion?

If time allows, you might also want to review the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Say a decade of the Rosary for your night prayers this week.

Turn to Page 181,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 363

Turn to Page 183,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 367

Read the paragraph about the Queenship of Mary.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can honor Mary.

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 (see Page 321), 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.

Evil in the World

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 197,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 395

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand Original Holiness as the state of goodness before our first parents chose to sin against God
- Recognize that the disobedience of our first parents and its effect for all humans is called Original Sin
- Understand that Jesus' Death and Resurrection was God's plan for the Redemption he promised his Chosen People
- Differentiate between mortal and venial sin
- Examine the relationship between sin and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

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

Parents, Consider This: *Love is so precious. When you become parents, love takes on a whole new meaning. As your child grows, you want to protect him/her from the harm that comes when he/she chooses unwisely. At some point, you realize he/she will have to make choices on his/her own. Imagine God as he beholds us, his children. Because love is a decision, God creates us with the freedom to choose. He does so knowing that we will make harmful choices as well as loving ones. His deepest desire is for us to love him in return. Yet, he will not force us and he always stands ready to forgive our contrite hearts.*

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.

- God of Mercy
- Through My Fault

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 189,
Family Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 379

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: The Bible tells us that evil entered our world because of the sinful choice of our first parents, Adam and Eve (see Genesis 3). Evil continues when we choose to do what is wrong. Still, God cares for us and loves us. Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven and can grow in goodness.



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 is good and wants only good things for us; he sent his only Son to save his People from the power of sin and death.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about sin and evil.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 190,
The Source of Sorrow
Vivos en Cristo, Page 381

Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph.

Discuss the difference between a natural disaster, such as a flood, and the hunger and disease in a country plagued by poverty.

Say: In times of sorrow, you can always trust that God truly loves and cares for you.

Read aloud the second paragraph.

Call your child’s attention to the definition of **Original Holiness** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Complete the gold-star activity.



Proclaim the Scripture passage.

Turn to Page 191,
The Sacrifice of Jesus
Vivos en Cristo, Page 383

Ask: What does this passage tell you about Jesus’ care for you?

Have your child locate Genesis 3:1–6 and read the passage aloud.

Share with your child, as a parent, what it would feel like to watch him/her make a really bad decision that would have terrible consequences. Now ask your child how important it is to trust that you are guiding him/her in the decisions that will make him/her happy.

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity together.

Turn to Page 192,
Turning from God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 385

Read the first three paragraphs to find out why Christians remain hopeful in spite of the presence of evil in the world.

Continue to emphasize the delicate balance of God allowing for people's choices and his desire for us to be with him forever in eternity.

Ask your child to read aloud the text on "Mortal Sin."

Explain the characteristics of mortal sin. Give examples of a mortal sin. (murder, willful neglect of another person's basic needs)

Ask: What helps a person avoid mortal sin? (growing in faith and holiness; the closer I am to God, the less likely I will turn away from him)

Turn to Page 193,
Venial Sin
Vivos en Cristo, Page 387

Invite your child to silently read the text.

Ask her/him to explain how venial sins differ from mortal sins.

Emphasize that repeated sins give rise to habits called *vices*.

Ask: How might a person develop a vice?

Discuss what might be happening in the photograph.

Give your child a lined sheet of paper and ask her/him to make a list of venial sins that a fifth grade person might commit by taking an action.

(sending a bullying text, cheating on a test, wasting food) Make another list of venial sins that a fifth grader might commit by not taking action.

(not being responsible for her/his possessions, not helping a sibling or friend because he/she doesn't feel like it)

Parents, Consider This: *Make no mistake, there is such a thing as sin! We live in a world that excuses willful harm, as lessons to be learned, or just a mistake. When this happens, the reality of sin has been diminished. Accountability for our actions and being responsible for the consequences are difficult lessons to learn—lessons that are taught first and best in your home. It may help to regularly read the story of Adam and Eve's fall to remind ourselves that God, who loves perfectly, does not consider their action a "mistake." He allows the consequences in love. One of the most loving things you can do for your child is to help him/her understand sin, but always in the context of God's unfathomable desire to forgive a truly sorrowful heart.*

Discuss the list of sins with your child. Talk about the kind of person you want him/her to become.

Read aloud the definitions of **sin**, **mortal sin**, and **venial sin**, in the Catholic Faith Words box, without providing the actual term. Ask your child to tell you the term that goes with each definition.

Read aloud the text "The Forgiveness of Sins."

Ask your child to describe their feelings about God’s forgiveness.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 194,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 389

Direct your child’s reading by pointing out to him/her how you see him/her usually express pain and sorrow.

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child silently read Psalm 55 from your family Bible. Invite him/her to paraphrase the Psalm for you.

Using the “Prayer of Lamentation” chart, introduce the steps for praying a lament.

Read the steps and find them in Psalm 55.

Ask: Why is it so important to trust God when you are hurting? What makes it hard to express feelings honestly?

★ **Place** a check mark by the steps he/she may have trouble expressing.

Remind your child that following this process will help her/him bring difficult emotions to God in prayer.

Turn to Page 195,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 391

Read the paragraph about Saint Gemma Galgani.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How can you remember to pray to Jesus and Mary when making a decision?

Turn to Page 197,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.

Vivos en Cristo, Page 395

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Love (see Page 323), 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.

New Life in Christ

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 207,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 415

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify the Sacraments of Initiation
- Describe the Sacrament of Baptism as a participation in the role of Jesus as priest, prophet, and king
- Recognize that through the Seven Sacraments, God shares his divine life with us
- Begin to appreciate the need for conversion
- Understand that the Church welcomes new members (and some children) through the RCIA process

Turn to Page 199,
New Life in Christ
Vivos en Cristo, Page 399

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

Parents, Consider This: *When we hear the phrase, “He had a change of heart,” we generally mean it as a good thing. Someone has been swayed by persuasive conversation, or time for reflection, or perhaps even prayer, to do the opposite of what he/she had originally thought. In some ways, it implies a softening of a person’s heart. Each of us stands before the Lord, sinners. As St. Paul says, we often do the things we should not, and don’t do the things we should. Thank goodness for the Church. She is constantly calling us to a change of heart. Understanding the need to live more deeply connected to the Sacraments will help both you and your child stand before the Lord, ready to allow him to shape your hearts.*

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.

- Yes, Lord, I Believe/ Sí Señor Yo Creo
- If You Believe and I Believe

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 verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Today’s reading from Romans is proclaimed at the Easter Vigil as the Church gets ready to baptize new members. Baptism is the Sacrament that washes us in the waters of salvation and makes us adopted children of God. Through Baptism, we die and rise with Christ.



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 gives you a share in God’s life. God’s grace is a gift, but you must cooperate with grace.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about Baptism.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 200,
Sacraments of Initiation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 401

Tell your child to silently read the text.

Direct her/him to note the three ministries or “offices” of Jesus.

Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Fold the paper in thirds. In the columns, write the words Priest/Prophet/King. Under each column, ask your child to find the sentence in the text that describes how he/she participates in Jesus ministry and write it in the appropriate column.

Parents, Consider This: *When you reflect on the passions in your life—golf, gardening, or perhaps scrapbooking—is there ever enough time to enjoy them? Or is there ever a time when you say, “I don’t want to learn anymore. I know enough”? When the Church speaks of continuing conversion, she is speaking about what should be our primary passion—knowing, loving, and serving Jesus Christ. Living a moral life requires turning away from the things that become obstacles to receiving his grace. Witness to your child a life of continuing conversion. Read the Scriptures and pray with her/him. Attend Mass. Participate in on-going adult faith formation. Let your child see your passion!*

Find the highlighted words, **Confirmation** and **Sacred Chrism**, in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to read their definitions.

Turn to Page 201,
The New Life of Grace
Vivos en Cristo, Page 403

Have your child silently read the text to learn about the effects of Baptism.

Point out how “dying” to sin and “rising” to new life connects us to Christ.



Proclaim the Scripture passage. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, instructs us that we “are living for God.” Share with your child what that Scripture means to you. Perhaps, you can talk about the difficulty of remembering that truth as you wake up to face the challenges of each day. Ask her/him to help you think of ways that will remind you both how to be more conscious of living for God.

Read aloud the “Grace and Conversion” text.

Emphasize that God gives grace to people because he loves them. Conversion results when people accept God’s grace and live a Christian life.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 202,
One Step at a Time
Vivos en Cristo, Page 405

Summarize the first paragraph.

Tell your child that you are going to follow along as a young man named Jeremy takes steps to become a member of the Catholic Church.

Read Jeremy’s story on both pages, alternating paragraphs with your child.

Turn to Page 203,
Becoming and Elect
Vivos en Cristo, Page 407

Stop at the highlighted words, **catechumen**, and **sponsor**, and review their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Discuss the reasons why someone would want to become a member of the Catholic Church. Ask your child to share what he/she would tell someone if they asked, “What’s so great about being Catholic?”

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 204,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 409

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Have your child silently read “The Tools” chart on tools for growing in faith. Invite him/her to share practical examples of using these tools.

Ask your child to add his/her own ideas in the spaces provided.

Ask: What part of your faith life would you like to improve? What might help you be stronger in faith? Answer these questions as well and discuss your thoughts with your child. Remember that on-going conversion is the process of growing in faith that requires intentional choices.

Turn to Page 205,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 411

Turn to Page 207,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 415

Read the paragraph about Saint Cyril of Jerusalem.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Look at Baptism pictures of a family member and share memories.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Love (see Page 323), 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.

Forgiveness and Healing

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 217,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 435

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Compare the faith journeys of the two brothers in the story of the Prodigal Son, which depicts God’s forgiving love
- Identify the four parts of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
- Connect with Saint Damien who modeled compassion for the sick and outcast
- Develop an understanding of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

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

Parents, Consider This: *Whether you are ten or eighty, there is nothing more difficult than trying to understand pain and suffering and healing. The reality of that experience is even more overwhelming when the person who is in pain or needs healing is someone you love. As you consider the Sacraments of Healing, you will be sure to get questions from your child about suffering and death. Listen carefully. It is important to have these conversations in light of our belief that this world is not our home. We are only on this Earth for a while. God has created us to live forever with him. During our life on Earth, God is present with us in our joys and sorrows, always offering us his healing 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 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.

- Heal Us, Lord
- Through My Fault

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Jesus came to reveal a God who is absolutely loving and forgiving. Jesus came to reveal his Father, especially to those who were sinners. He came to call them home to God. Jesus wants us to know that God is our loving and welcoming Father, constantly calling us to his side.



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’s forgiveness and reconciliation are available through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Through this Sacrament, our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled with God and the Church.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 210,
Reconciliation and Forgiveness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 421

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask your child what Jesus thought about anger. (It can have a negative effect on even close relationships.)



Proclaim the parable.

Ask your child what she/he thinks the older son did. Ask what would she/he do? Share how hard it might be for you to go to the party, but why it would be important to do so.

Listen to the song, “The Prodigal Son,” on the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 14. You will find the lyrics at aliveinchrist.osv.com. Discuss the line in the chorus, “There is nothing you *can* do, that I cannot forgive.” Why does it not say, “There is nothing you can do that I *will* not forgive?” (In order for God to forgive, we must be truly sorry.)

Turn to Page 211,
A Generous Father
Vivos en Cristo, Page 423

Read the text on the page, alternating between you and your child. When you come to the highlighted words, **confession**, **reparation**, **contrition**, and **absolution**, go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read their definitions. Ask your child to repeat the definition in his/her own words before moving on.

Review the Act of Contrition on page 323 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child’s book.

Call your child’s attention to the “Penance and Reconciliation” chart. Explain that this Sacrament is also called Penance. Review the parts, signs, and effects of this Sacrament.

Share with your child an experience of forgiveness that you have had.

Parents, Consider This: *Remind your child that God looks upon our suffering and pain in the way that a loving parent does. We hold this essential belief—because God is all-powerful, he can redeem all evil. Only he can use our pain and suffering to help us live more fully. Suffering and death are the consequence of Original Sin and were not God’s plan for us. God sent his Son, who suffered on the Cross, so that we can join our suffering to his. We do not understand why some people are healed and others are not, but all people die. We trust, however, that whenever anyone dies, God has prepared a place for them to be with him in eternity, as long as they have opened their hearts and accepted his gift of redemption.*

Turn to Page 212,
A Healing Sacrament
Vivos en Cristo, Page 425

Tell your child that you will be discussing the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and why it is called a Sacrament of Healing.

Read aloud the first paragraph. Before beginning the next section, explain to your child that people with Hansen’s disease (leprosy), develop ulcers and scabs on their skin.

Have your child silently read the text.

Ask: What do you think it meant to the people that Father Damien said “we lepers”?

Discuss with your child what it must have been like to be sent to that island and left to die. How did Father Damien bring hope?

Turn to Page 213,
Compassion for Those
Who Are Sick
Vivos en Cristo, Page 427

Read aloud the first paragraph of the text.

Emphasize the categories of people whom the Church invites to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. (people who are seriously ill or at an advanced age)

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

Ask: What is happening in the photo on this page?

Share your experience with your child if you have ever been present during the celebration of this Sacrament.

Read the “Anointing of the Sick” chart on this page. Discuss the similarities and differences between the Penance chart and this one. Emphasize that both Sacraments bring healing.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 214,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 429

Before reading the text, think about how one should prepare to receive forgiveness.

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask your child what it means to examine one's conscience.

Read aloud the steps, pausing after each one. Stress that an examination of conscience is private, between oneself and God.

Ask your child to cut out the "Examine Your Conscience" column. Glue the column to a larger sheet of construction paper or cardboard. Together, place the sheet in your child's room in a place where she/he will be able to use it for his/her evening prayer.

Tell your child that Saint Ignatius of Loyola asked his fellow priests to examine their conscience twice a day. Commit yourselves to practicing this reflection every night for two weeks and notice the difference it makes in the way you live each day.

Turn to Page 215,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 431

Read the paragraph about Saint John Vianney.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family encourage each other to admit their wrongs and ask for forgiveness?

Turn to Page 217,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 435

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Love (see Page 323), 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.

Gathered as One

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 231,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 463

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that the Mass is central to Catholic life because it unites Christ's followers more closely to him and one another
- Describe Christ's presence in the assembly, priest, Word of God, and most especially in the Eucharist
- Appreciate the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist
- Develop an understanding of the Mass as both a duty and a privilege
- Recognize that ordained ministers lead the Mass but other members of the community also serve in the celebration

Turn to Page 223,
Gathered as One
Vivos en Cristo, Page 447

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

Parents, Consider This: *Praying as an assembly is different from praying alone. When we gather as believers, especially in celebrating the Eucharist, we become a liturgical assembly. We are encouraged to be more than observers. Active participation of all the faithful in the Mass is both our right and responsibility. At the same time, we want to be mindful of the essential supernatural character of the Mass. Whenever the liturgical assembly gathers for the Eucharist, Christ is present. Consider how your family participates faithfully in the Eucharist to nourish your spiritual 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 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.

- Savior of the World
- The 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.

Say: We are the people of God, the Body of Christ. We all come together to make the whole, but each part is important. That is why—big and small, old and young—we regularly gather together to offer God thanks. Being Catholic is not something we can be on our own.



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: Gathering to celebrate the Eucharist is the most important thing we can do as Catholics, and we do it together. Through the Holy Spirit, we give the Father praise and thank him for his many gifts, and we are united to Christ and to one another.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Mass and praying as an assembly.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 224,
United in Christ’s Body
Vivos en Cristo, Page 449

Read aloud the opening question and introductory sentence.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box.

Have your child silently read the paragraph at the bottom of the page. Point out the artwork that relates to the text.

For further discussion of the Church as a community of people who come together to worship, turn to page 309 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child’s book.

Turn to Page 225,
In His Name
Vivos en Cristo, Page 451

Have your child silently read the two paragraphs.

Discuss how your experience at Sunday Mass is similar to and how it is different than Sally’s.

Ask: What sights and sounds make you feel welcome at Mass?

Read aloud the two paragraphs under Real Presence. Tell your child to listen for the various ways that Jesus is present in the Eucharist.

Read the definitions of **Real Presence** and **Communion of Saints** in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 224.

Ask your child to name the ways Jesus is present.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: For Catholics, the teaching of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is vital to our understanding of the importance of the Sacraments in the practice of our faith. This doctrine distinguishes the belief of Catholics from that of Protestants, who believe the Communion Rite is only a symbolic commemoration of the Last Supper. While we may not be able to adequately explain this in words, we can demonstrate our reverence and teach our children that it is the most important thing Catholics do, because it unites us with Christ and one another.

Turn to Page 226,
Participation in
the Community
Vivos en Cristo, Page 453

Ask your child to think about why we celebrate the Lord's Day. Have your child silently read the text.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. Have your child explain in his or her own words what St. Paul is calling these Christians to do.

Turn to Page 227,
Sunday Observance
Vivos en Cristo, Page 455

Summarize the text under "Sunday Observance."

Discuss how your family observes Sunday. Consider if there is anything you might do differently to honor this day. Ask your child to name the various roles people take at Mass.

Read aloud the text under "Role and Responsibilities."



Do the gold-star activity.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 228,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 457

Read the opening question and discuss what your child knows about liturgical ministers. Then read aloud the introductory paragraph.



Review the "Roles and Responsibilities" chart and do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: As a family, discuss who makes you feel welcome in your parish during the Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day. Consider ways any members of your family might participate in liturgical roles and responsibilities and contribute to your faith community.

Turn to Page 229,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 459

Turn to Page 231,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 463

Read the paragraph about Saint Louis de Montfort.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what stories you can tell about Jesus.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (see Page 322), during your night prayer this week.*



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

Liturgy of the Word

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 241,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 483

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

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

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.

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

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

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

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

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

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



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

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

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

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

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

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

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

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

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



Do the gold-star activity.

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

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

Read aloud the last two paragraphs.

Activity

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

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

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

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

Summarize the two paragraphs.



Proclaim the Scripture passage in the Parchment Paper box.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

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

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read aloud the opening question and two paragraphs.

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

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



Do the gold-star activity.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Jerome.

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

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 241,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 483

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (see Page 322), during your night prayer this week.*



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

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 251,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 503

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Compare and contrast physical hunger with the hunger for God
- Connect the Bread of the Eucharist with spiritual nourishment
- Discover the meaning of transubstantiation
- Recognize that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ during the consecration
- Identify the Mass as both a meal and a sacrifice

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

Parents, Consider This: *There are three aspects of the Eucharist that are significant to understand: memorial, sacrifice, and shared meal. It is a memorial, when the priest speaks the words of the Eucharistic Prayer that link these gifts with the saving Death of Jesus. It is a sacrifice because the Holy Spirit makes Jesus Death real and present again. It is a sacred meal that foreshadows the Heavenly banquet. As we grow in a deeper understanding of the Eucharist, we are able to participate more deeply in the Body of Christ and share this with our 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 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.

- Blest by Your Sacrifice
- Five Loaves, Two Fish

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: The Scripture that we are about to read reminds us that the meal we share during the Liturgy of the Eucharist is a sharing in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. In our celebration we offer God thanks for Jesus' great sacrifice for 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: In the Eucharist, we share in the sacrifice of Christ. The Eucharist unites Catholics more closely to Christ and to one another.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about the Body of Christ.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 244,
Jesus Feeds Us
Vivos en Cristo, Page 489

Read the opening question and first paragraph. Remind your child that in Jesus’ time, people walked everywhere they went and it was a long walk from one town to another.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box and invite your child to respond to the questions at the end of the Scripture story.

Discuss the artwork in relation to the Scripture.

Turn to Page 245,
Bread of Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 491

Invite your child to silently read the first paragraph and learn how God satisfies the spiritual hunger of humans.

Explain that a spiritual hunger is a longing for something that will result in true happiness.

Ask: What are some of the spiritual hungers of young people today?

Have your child turn to page 305 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of their book. On a separate piece of paper, have them write about what the sacramental symbols mean to them.

Parents, Consider This: *Sharing food with others is a way of affirming a human bond with them. The Eucharist forms a spiritual bond that unites us to Christ and to one another. This happens at family meals. It also happens when we share what we have with those who may need our assistance, such as an elderly person or a friend who is sick and may not be able to make food themselves. This happens in a profound way when we share the mystery of the Eucharist together.*

Read aloud the last paragraph. Tell your child that they will learn more about this on the following pages.

Turn to Page 246,
The Eucharistic Mystery
Vivos en Cristo, Page 493

Ask your child to define the word “sacrifice.” (when a person gives up something that he or she values out of love for someone else or for the common good)

Read aloud the opening question and the first paragraph. Invite your child to suggest examples of sacrifices that people make for others.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box.

Ask: In what part of the Mass do you hear these words? (the Eucharistic Prayer)

Use the illustration to discuss what is special about the Last Supper.

Read aloud the final paragraph.

Have your child silently read the text.

Ask your child to read the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 246 for the highlighted words, **consecration**, **transubstantiation**, and **Blessed Sacrament**, in the text. Write each of the three words on an individual index card. Then, without your child looking at the definitions, read each definition and have your child hold up the card containing the matching word.



Do the gold-star activity.

Activity

Do the Connect Your Faith activity. Have your child write their answers on a piece of paper.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 248,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 497

Read aloud the first paragraph. Explain that the word Mass comes from a Latin verb meaning “to send forth.”

Read aloud the suggestions in the “Share the Gift of Love” chart. Discuss other concrete ways to live the Eucharist.

Ask: How is the Eucharist a gift?



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 249,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 499

Read the paragraph about Saint Clare of Assisi.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you show your devotion to the Eucharist.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Talk as a family about how you will “live the Eucharist.” Identify one way you will share the gift of love given to your family. Commit to one action to bless others.*

Turn to Page 251,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 503

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (see Page 322), during your night prayer this week.*



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

The Call to Serve

Preparation for the Session

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

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

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

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

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

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

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

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

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

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

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



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

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

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

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

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Read the last paragraph.

Alternate reading the text aloud.

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

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

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

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

Activity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alternate reading aloud the paragraphs.

Activity

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

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

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

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

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

Ask: What does a religious vocation require?

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Francis Xavier.

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

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

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



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The Last Things

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 275,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 551

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Discuss Jesus' teaching on the Last Judgment, using Matthew 25
- Understand that at the time of death, each person will be judged and God will decide where he or she will spend eternity
- Identify how Christians prepare for eternal life by serving God and one another right now
- Relate the symbols used at a Mass of Christian Burial with our Baptism and Jesus' Resurrection

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

Parents, Consider This: *Scientists that study the brain tell us that there is evidence that rituals help us to deal with the anxiety and fear we experience in life. Among the greatest anxieties and fears we confront are death and the meaning of life. As Catholics, one of the most beautiful rituals we experience are the Funeral Rites. From the prayers at the funeral home to the prayers at the cemetery, we are reminded that life is not over—it changes. The Mass itself is filled with symbols of hope and resurrection. From the Easter candle that reminds us of Christ, the light who saved us from the darkness of sin, to the incense that surrounds the body as a sign of our being lifted up to God, we repeat over and over again, that this earthly life is not the end.*

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.

- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- A Song of Farewell

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 267,
The Last Things
Vivos en Cristo, Page 535

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: In today's Scripture, Jesus assures us that there is eternal life. We know that life forever in union with God is possible because Jesus died and rose from the dead. Listen to what God wants you to know about eternal life.



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 reminds Moses that he is the God of the living. Even those who have died, live forever. The Church prepares Christians for death by means of last rites. In the funeral liturgy, the Church proclaims the message of eternal life.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about being alive for God.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 268,
Choosing Love and Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 537

Tell your child that you will be discussing what the Church teaches about life after death. They may have many questions. Answer their questions as honestly as you can and say, "I don't know, but I will find out," if you feel as if you do not have adequate knowledge or the ability to put the correct answer into words for your child.

Read aloud the text.

Ask how Christians "choose" eternal life in Heaven.



Direct your child to proclaim the Scripture passage. Have them listen for the acts of kindness that will separate the righteous from the others.

Ask: Based on this Scripture passage, and without reading the caption, can you tell me what is going on in the stained glass artwork on this page?

Help your child to understand that Jesus died to give us the gift of eternal happiness with God. We can have this, but only if we act according to God's will for us, which is always to do the loving thing.

Play the song “Least of my Brothers” from the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 16. The lyrics are available at aliveinchrist.osv.com. Ask your child to take two verses that he/she finds most important and, on a separate sheet of paper, illustrate a way he/she can do that action for others.

Parents, Consider This: *No matter how many times we experience death, we never become skilled at offering words of sympathy, because there simply are no words. Pain and loss leave us speechless. Teaching your child how to speak with actions as early as possible will help her/him know how to do this as an adult. Taking her/him with you to a funeral home to offer your sympathy and say a prayer for the deceased will help her/him learn how important it is to be present for those who are experiencing loss. Bringing food or mentioning weeks after the funeral that you went to visit someone makes visible the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Dying is part of living. How we deal with the loss speaks loudly and clearly regarding our belief about this world and the next.*

This would be a good time to share with your child an experience you’ve had in dealing with the death of a loved one. Be honest about the way that you felt.

Turn to Page 269,
Eternal Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 539

Invite your child to silently read the two paragraphs.

Review the definitions of the terms, **Heaven, Hell, eternal life, Purgatory,** and **Particular Judgment,** in the Catholics Faith Word box. Ask your child to retell the definitions to you in their own words.

Discuss how Christians prepare for eternal life in Heaven. For more information on this topic, have them turn to page 310 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of their books to read “Everlasting Life.” If you do not have an answer for any of their questions, tell them that you will find out and get back to them.

Turn to Page 270,
Establishing Hope
Vivos en Cristo, Page 541

Read aloud the first two paragraphs.

Tell your child to listen for an explanation of why humans experience death. Emphasize that death is the consequence of sin but that, because of Jesus sacrifice, it can also be the start of a new life for us in Heaven with God.

Have your child read aloud the final paragraph. Read the definition of the highlighted word, **viaticum**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask which three Sacraments may be included in the last rites. Discuss the purpose of the rites.

Ask: Why do the last rites sometimes include the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation? *(The person may want to ask forgiveness for all that he/she has done that is sinful.)*

Turn to Page 271,
The Journey Home
Vivos en Cristo, Page 543

Recall a time when you attended a Catholic funeral together. If your child hasn't attended a funeral, share with them what you remember about the funeral liturgy.

Alternate reading the paragraphs on the page.

Point out how the following three objects are used during a funeral Mass: holy water, the Paschal (Easter) Candle, and the white pall that covers the casket.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 272,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 545

Tell your child that this section will give both of you ideas on how to comfort people who are grieving.

Read aloud each of the steps or suggestions. As each step is read, ask your child for practical examples of how to carry it out.

Ask: What do you think is happening in the artwork on this page?



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 273,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 547

Read the paragraph about Saint Stephen.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- What do Christians know about death that gives them hope?

Turn to Page 275,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 551

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



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Bring the Good News

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 285,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Learn how Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini embraced the Church's mission to bring the Good News to all people
- Discern that Jesus, through his words and actions, showed how the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled in him
- Understand what evangelization is and recognize that we are called to be disciples and missionaries
- Connect the celebration of the Sacraments with the grace to become more like Christ
- Recognize the value of the Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy

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

Parents, Consider This: *You may hear the phrase, "I'm on a mission," in the midst of everyday conversation. It is probably not a secret service agent divulging his next assignment. It is usually something more similar to a mother on the hunt for a hard to find Christmas present. To be missioned is to be sent. The mission of the Church is to do as Jesus did, to be Jesus for the human family until he himself returns in glory at the end of time. Jesus sends us on a mission to share the Gospel with all humanity. We must be signs of the Kingdom of God by relieving suffering and promoting human dignity, justice, and peace. That is why the doorway of the Church is so important. We intentionally step in to receive the nourishment we will need. We intentionally step out as we are sent on our mission. With your child, take a giant step in and out of the Church to remind you both of your call to evangelize and serve.*

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.

- Holy Spirit
- Take the Word of God with You

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.

Turn to Page 277,
Bring the Good News
Vivos en Cristo, Page 555

Say: We trust in the promises of Jesus, in the love of God our Father, and in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God's Kingdom is among us, and we promise to work together with God for its completion. The promise, love, and guidance of the Kingdom all give us reason to rejoice.



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: All who are baptized are called to participate in the mission of the Church. We have the responsibility to be Jesus' hands and heart on Earth.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about spreading the Good News.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 278,
Missionaries
Vivos en Cristo, Page 557

Tell your child that this is a story about a woman who was a gifted missionary.

Explain that Saint Frances, or Mother Cabrini, was an influential missionary in the United States.

Read aloud the text, alternating paragraphs.

Point out that Mother Cabrini did not follow her own wishes, but took the direction of the Pope.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 279,
Move Toward the Kingdom
Vivos en Cristo, Page 559

Have your child silently read the two paragraphs. Review the definitions for **missionaries** and **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Have your child retell you the definitions in his/her own words.

Ask: Who and what empowers us to live the Christian life and proclaim the message of Jesus? (*the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit*)



Have your child take the part of narrator and you take the part of Jesus. Proclaim the Scripture passage together. This would have been a very dramatic event, so read with great feeling.

Ask: What did Jesus mean when he said that the Scripture passage had been fulfilled? (Jesus would do all these things because God the Father had sent him and anointed him to be our Savior.)

Say: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you can continue Jesus' work here on Earth.

Activity

On a separate sheet of paper, write the word "courage" vertically. Have your child use the letters as the beginning of a word or phrase to list ways that they can open their heart to the Holy Spirit and grow stronger in their faith.

Parents, Consider This: *The Church cautions us that there is no room for self-centeredness among members of the Church. Parents need to guide their children's gaze away from themselves and their family to look out at the world. The Second Vatican Council insisted that by contributing to the progress and well being of the earthly society to which we belong, Catholics work together with God as he builds his Kingdom on Earth. The council emphasized that the call to mission belongs to every believer. In our daily experiences, we must act courageously in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about justice and peace.*

Read the text to your child.

Tell your child to circle the sentence that describes how someone like her/him can evangelize. (share the good news by word and example and invite others...)

Ask: What is the relationship between the Eucharist and the work of evangelization? (When we celebrate the Eucharist, we are given grace to become more like Christ. When we are nourished in Christ, we are called to be disciples and to share the Good News of Jesus.)

Tell your child to read the definitions of **evangelization**, **Corporal Works of Mercy**, and **Spiritual Works of Mercy** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask: How do the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy differ? (One meets the physical needs of people and the other meets the needs of the heart, mind, and soul.)

Turn to Page 280,
In Word and Action
Vivos en Cristo, Page 561

Turn to Page 281,
Celebration of God's Reign
Vivos en Cristo, Page 563

Ask your child if she/he has any questions about evangelization.

Have your child list the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy that they can remember on a separate sheet of paper in two columns. Give them clues to help them remember the ones they are missing. (Note: Refer to the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy found on page 317 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book if you also need help remembering all of them.)

Read the text aloud, alternating paragraphs.

Have your child circle the sentences about justice and charity. Then discuss the differences between the two with your child. Make up some examples of situations and ask your child if the response would be justice or charity. (i.e. giving money to a missionary who is speaking in your Church would be charity, going to a meeting to make sure the city does not cut bus transportation in the lower income areas of the city would be justice)

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 282,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 565

Tell your child that, in this part of the lesson, you will be discussing how we can all contribute to social justice.

Read aloud the first paragraph.



Tell your child to fill in the blanks with words from the Word List. Once completed, read aloud one of the items in the chart.

After each description is read, invite your child to give examples of how he/she can follow it. Encourage your child to respond concretely. Give an example of what you could do, as an adult, to stand for justice.

Ask: Which principle do you see reflected in the photo on this page? Which of these principles do you feel called to help with?

Turn to Page 283,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 567

Read the paragraph about Saint Vincent De Paul.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Which of the Corporal Works of Mercy will your family choose to focus on in the month ahead?

Turn to Page 285,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

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



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