

# Divine Revelation

## 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:

- Recognize that the Bible presents the story of God's presence and his saving plan for his People
- Define salvation as the loving action of God's forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with him brought by Jesus
- Examine how the Bible writers used different literary forms to tell stories of God's presence and action
- Compare God's faithfulness to Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi
- Recall that God is faithful and wants you to live with him forever

**Turn to Page 53,**  
Divine Revelation  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 107

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *One of your most valuable tools that you have as a parent is sharing with your child the stories of your extended family and the lessons learned from them. In Sacred Scripture, God chose to teach us his truth through stories. Sharing your family stories and the stories of our faith from the Bible will help your child form an identity rooted in God's love and in yours. It will help him/her develop a sense of belonging to you and God.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Your Words Are Spirit and Life
- Open My Eyes

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

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



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

**Explain** that God's words do more than give us information or offer instruction. With His Word, God made the world. We listen to God's Word not just to learn who he is, but to be shaped by it.

**Say:** Listen to how powerful God's words are in this Scripture passage.



**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?

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

**Say:** Imagine if you could say something and it happened. If you said “cat,” the word itself would be a cat. That’s something like what God’s Word is like.

**Have** your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else they might wonder about God’s Word and what it means to us today.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 54,**  
God Makes  
Himself Known  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 109

**Read** aloud the first paragraph. Tell your child your favorite story about someone in your family that they know and love—a story he/she might not know.

**Say:** Jesus was a great storyteller. He taught many lessons by telling stories.

**Read** the rest of the page and discover why stories are so important. When finished reading, ask your child who is the best storyteller in your family. You may want to think about recording that person telling some of your family stories.

**Turn to Page 55,**  
Stories of Our Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 111

**Direct** your child to the Catholic Faith Words box and have them read each word and definition to you one at a time. After each one, ask her/him to tell you what it means in her/his own words.

**Have** your child follow along as you read the first three paragraphs. On a separate sheet of paper, ask your child to write a list of all the Bible stories they can remember. Perhaps offer an incentive, like for every story she/he thinks of, you will give one or two minutes of your time doing something she/he loves to do with you.

**Let** your child silently read the last two paragraphs on this page. Ask them to find the sentence that describes the fullness of God’s plan and underline it.

**Turn to Page 56,**  
Different Types of Writing  
in the Bible  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 113

**Ask** your child to open your Bible to the Table of Contents. Read the first two paragraphs on the page.

Have your child point to the first blue box, read the text, and then find the example in his/her Bible. Continue this process for the rest of the blue boxes. Emphasize that all of the titles in the blue boxes are literary forms.

**Turn to Page 57,**  
God's Message  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 115

## Activity

**Direct** your child to the Connect Your Faith Activity. Remind them how to find the bible references. (Go to the Contents page and find the location of the Book. The first number indicates the chapter. The second set of numbers indicates the verses. Begin reading at the first number and conclude the reading at the end of the second number.) Have her/him complete the activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *You are about to share the story of Ruth and Naomi with your child. It focuses on the theme of faithfulness, God's faithfulness to us and our call to be faithful to him and one another. Your unconditional love for your child is a sign of God's faithfulness to him/her. What are the words and actions you use to help him/her understand that kind of love in your family? This is a message that your child needs to hear at every age.*



**Proclaim** the Scripture. Ask your child to read the part of the narrator and Ruth. You read Naomi's part.

**Invite** your child to respond to the question following the Scripture story.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** the first two paragraphs. Make sure your child understands the practice of *Lectio Divina* and how important it is that we allow God's Word to be part of our lives.

**Point** out that each session will begin with a prayerful reflection on Scripture similar to *Lectio Divina*.

Read "A Simple Reading Plan," together.

**Encourage** your child to choose a time at home to put this plan into practice and to follow the plan for two days. Making Scripture reading a part of your faith life as well would be the most effective way to teach this practice.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Teresa of Ávila.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can make Scripture a part of your family life.

## Activity

**Discuss** the first part of the Live Your Faith activity. Name one truth you live by that is found in the Bible. Invite your child to do the same. Talk about the importance of moving knowledge of the faith from your head to your heart to your hands. Ask your child to name someone they know who they believe lives their faith.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Have you ever heard a song in the morning that you can't get out of your head? Imagine a world where what people heard in their heads all day was God's Word of peace, forgiveness, and compassion. Opening our hearts through the practice of reading and reflection of Scripture does truly form us. Take seriously the material you taught your child today, make it part of your family's daily routine and it will transform your family life.*

**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 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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# The Creation Accounts

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 71,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 143

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recall that the two accounts of creation teach that God alone is the Creator and that humans are his creatures
- Consider what it means to be made in God's image
- Recognize that the first man and woman were created by God in a state of Original Holiness, or grace
- Develop a desire to seek God's truth and share in his life
- Define eternity as time without end and new life beyond death

**Turn to Page 63,**  
The Creation Accounts  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 127

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Book of Genesis begins with two accounts of creation. They give great assurance that no matter how the world evolved scientifically, the author of all creation is God. Giving praise to him is a way of living in your family that recognizes the gifts of creation and leads to a caring, responsible approach to his gift of creation. You need, however, to make it clear to your child that for Catholics, being eco-conscious is rooted in stewardship—living responsibly because all things are a gift from God.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Bless the Lord
- For the Beauty of the Earth

## 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:** Listen to this Scripture about the Lord and where he has placed humans in creation.



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

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

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

**Say:** Everything you see in the natural world comes from God. Pay attention and you’ll see his glory in it all.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about how human beings are unique in God’s creation.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 64,**  
In the Beginning  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 129

Remind your child that Divine Revelation is how God makes himself known to us in Scripture and Tradition. We also come to know about God through his creation.

**Ask:** Which book of the Bible contains the creation accounts? (*Genesis*)

**Have** your child find and read the definition of the **Old Testament** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Remind** her/him that the Genesis passages present religious truths, as opposed to scientific or literal truth.



**Read** the Scripture from the Parchment Paper box.

**Ask** your child if she/he can remember what God created on which of the six days of creation. Have them write them on a piece of paper. Then review Genesis 1:14–25 and see how much of his/her list was correct.



**Direct** your child to complete the gold-star activity as they read the last three paragraphs on page 64.

**Have** your child continue to read the first paragraph on this page.

**Turn to Page 65,**  
A Different Order  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 131



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

- Ask: Are you surprised that there are two different accounts of creation? Why do you think there are two accounts? (*They come from two different groups of Jewish people. As Catholics, we do not ask which one actually happened, but rather, what is God telling us through both of these stories?*)
- Say: These accounts, though different, teach one important truth—that God is the Creator of all things.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Our value and dignity do not come from our achievements, possessions, attractiveness, or status. They find their source in the truth that we are the work of God's hands. At this age your child has probably already begun to measure him/herself against others. Take every opportunity to help your child look at him/herself through God's eyes. If the Creator of the Universe created her/him—what a masterpiece she/he must be.*

**Turn to Page 66,**  
Lessons of Creation  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 133

**Ask** your child to silently read page 66.

**Point** out that God created people to be in relationship with each other.

**Discuss** how people should treat one another, knowing that humans are made in God's image. *(with respect and love)*

**Turn to Page 67,**  
Truths about God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 135

**Direct** your child to the Catholic Faith Words box on the following page. Review the definitions to prepare for the reading.

**Ask** your child to read aloud the three paragraphs on this page.

★ **Complete** the gold-star activity. Discuss what your child underlines.

**Parents, Consider This:** *One of the most basic rights of the human person is to be treated with dignity and respect. At school and at home your child encounters many ways in which people are bullied and hurt. They themselves may have been victims of this abuse. Take the time to discuss the simple ways to respect others found in the answers to the gold-star activity. Why not ask your child to recreate this list on the computer and use it as a constant reminder in your family of the ways you act with respect toward others?*

### LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Ask your child to respond to the question under the heading and then read the first paragraph.

★ Keeping in mind the Consider This section above, use the gold-star activity to begin a conversation with your child about your expectations that he/she uses words and actions that are respectful.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Fiacre.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can be a good steward of creation.

## Activity

**Discuss** and complete the Live Your Faith activity.

**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.*



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# God's Faithfulness

## 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:

- Describe faithfulness as the loyalty and steadfastness that God shows to all humans even when they sin
- Discover that the first man and woman brought sin and death into the world through free choice
- Identify one of the effects of sin as separation from God
- Recognize that Jesus is the "new Adam" because he makes amends for the disobedience of Adam
- Develop a deeper understanding of Jesus as the fulfillment of the new covenant

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Because humans are created in the image of God, they are given the gift of freedom. As Genesis recounts the story of the fall of our first parents, it becomes clear that sin entered the world through humans who turned away from God's love. As a parent, you know what it is like when your child chooses something that you know will do them harm. Your heart is overwhelmed with pain and grief at the thought of what will now befall him/her. Your love always seeks her/his happiness. As you read the story of the fall of creation, imagine what God can see that Adam and Eve cannot.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- You Are Near
- Lord of All Hopefulness

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 73,**  
God's Faithfulness  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 147

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:** Listen to what Saint Paul tells us about faithfulness.



**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?

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

**Say:** If our faith should falter, we can still know that God has faith in us.

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

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 74,**  
Humans Turn From God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 149

Point out that these two pages will address how God responds to human disobedience. Read aloud the first paragraph to introduce the Scripture story.



**Have** your child silently read about what happened in the Garden of Eden. Ask her/him to summarize the story of humankind’s first sin.

**Read** aloud the paragraph at the bottom of the page.



**Have** your child underline what happened as a result of Adam and Eve eating the fruit of the tree. Spend some time discussing responses to the question on “forbidden fruit.” Ask him/her what a 6th grader might be tempted to do. Share what you think an adult might be tempted to do in this world.

**Turn to Page 75,**  
God Makes a Covenant  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 151

**Ask** your child to read aloud the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Direct** your child to read the first two paragraphs silently.

**Parents, Consider This:** *All of the stories before Abraham are considered pre-history. Because it is God’s inspired Word, the Holy Spirit speaking through the Church helps us to know what God wants us to learn in these stories. In all of these accounts the Church emphasizes that despite our sin, our failings, God is always faithful. Even while humans live in the consequences of the harm and unhappiness they have chosen, God is planning to send his Son to save them. Helping your child to understand this now will help him/her to trust God’s providence in the future when life becomes even more challenging.*



**Proclaim** the Scripture passage to your child.

- Ask your child what is important about the Noah story. (God, promising his faithfulness forever, makes a covenant with Noah.)
- Together write a short sentence that you can both repeat that reminds you of your need to be faithful to God. Tell your child that he/she can repeat this one line prayer over and over when they are confronted with temptation or are feeling alone. The sentence should have no more than 14 syllables. (Help me to return the love you have given me.)

**Turn to Page 76,**  
Sin and God's Faithfulness  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 153

Introduce the Scripture story, remembering that this story is in the pre-history part of Genesis.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story.

- Remind your child that this account teaches us that the consequence of sin is people's inability to live in harmony.

**Direct** your child to the Catholic Faith Word box and have him/her read the definition aloud.

**Read** the paragraph under "Free Will," stopping at the highlighted vocabulary words and asking your child to tell you what they mean.

**Turn to Page 77,**  
The New Covenant  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 155

**Have** your child recall the definition of the word covenant. (a solemn agreement or contract between two parties)

**Ask** him/her to silently read the text to find out how God revealed himself through a new covenant.

**Read** aloud the paragraph under "The New Adam."

Discuss with your child why Jesus is called the new Adam. (Jesus "undoes" what Adam did. He restores our relationship with God the Father that was ruptured by Adam.)

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs.

**Explain** the different meanings for the statement "God is faithful."

**Talk** about the importance of being reliable and faithful to others. This applies to both adults and children.

**Have** your child read the bubbles and then add his/her own examples.

**Parents, Consider This:** Often, children this age have not developed skills to express their feelings appropriately. Accusing others (“Marcus took the CD”) or judging how others feel (“Rose doesn’t like me”) leads to further dissatisfaction and arguments. Teach your child to use “I” language (for example, “I saw Marcus pick up the CD,” or “I don’t think Rose likes me very much”) so as not to lead others to act defensively. In using this technique, you can help your child (and you) to develop healthy and faithful relationships.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Blessed Peter To Rot.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about the courage it would take to be faithful to God if you were not free to practice your religion.

## Activity

**Discuss** the last part of the Live Your Faith activity. Write a description of your child’s faithfulness on a sheet of paper and ask her/him to describe yours on another sheet of paper. Talk about what you have learned from each other in this activity.

**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.



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# Journeys of Faith

## 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:

- Compare Abraham's trust in God with our own trust
- Recall the faith stories of Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants
- Identify God's guidance in our journey of faith through prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Church
- Appreciate the need for daily prayer in order to deepen faith

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *One response to the gift of faith is prayer—honest and loving communication with God. As it did with Abraham, faith brings us to prayer and prayer brings us to faith. People of faith become more intimate with God through prayer. Often, the most fervent prayers emerge from situations that test a person's faith. Talk about prayer in your family. Recall a time when you were being tested in life and you turned to prayer. Share that story with your family. That is how they will know what to do in their hour of need.*

**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. This identifies the person of faith, Julian of Norwich, highlighted in this chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



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

- Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- O God, You Search Me

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

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

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 ancestors in faith asked, "Who will be our devoted leader? Who will walk with us on the way of faith?" God answered them. Let's listen to God tell us who he is, through his Word.



**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 all need someone we trust to be a leader for us. We all look for someone to walk with us on our way. God promises to be our leader and companion.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else your child might wonder about the journey of faith.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 88,**  
Abram and Sarai’s Journey  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 177

**Have** your child silently read the opening question and first paragraph.

**Read** the rest of the page and discuss why David was grateful that people had been made in God’s image.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story.

**Point** out that Abram and Sarai were not told in advance where they were to go. God told them to begin the journey, and they had faith that he had a plan for them.

**Discuss** the purple question at the bottom of the page with your child.

**Turn to Page 89,**  
The Journey Continues  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 179

**Have** your child silently read the introductory paragraph.

**Point** out that God changed the names of both Abram and Sarai as a sign of the covenant he made with them.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story.

**Discuss** the purple question at the bottom of the page.

## Activity

**Have** your child do the Share Your Faith activity. Once they complete it, have them share their answers with you.

**Parents, Consider This:** Abram and Sarai left their country of Ur (which is now Iraq), traveling along the Fertile Crescent of the ancient world to the Land of Caanan (which is now Israel). They journeyed through Haran, Scephem, and Hebron to the Negev desert area. They traveled with a large number of followers, flocks, and herds. It is hard to imagine the amount of trust they had in God to make the journey and the courage they had to lead the way for this large group. They were a family, in many ways, just like any family who is willing to be led by God. Consider what your family can learn about radical trust in God in this story.

**Turn to Page 90,**  
God's Plan of Salvation  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 181

**Read** the question and the first paragraph. Together, make a family tree sketch of the names of Abraham's descendants' (mentioned in the text).



**Have** your child silently read the Scripture story of Joseph and retell the story to you.

**Turn to Page 91,**  
God Invites  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 183

**Have** your child silently read the first three paragraphs. Ask your child to underline the words in the text that tell who or what can help them on their journey of faith. (Bible, Seven Sacraments, Church, Jesus, the Holy Spirit)

**Review** the highlighted words. Ask your child to find the definitions in the Catholic Faith Word box on the previous page. Have them explain them to you in his or her own words.

**Summarize** the section "Faith and Prayer" and share that with your child.

**Discuss** the purple questions at the bottom of the page.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Discuss** the question, "What are some ways to develop your prayer life?" (read the Bible, pray different types of prayer, pray memorized prayer, pray in your own words)



**Do** the gold-star activity. Have your child share his or her answers with you. Review the "Forms of Prayer" chart after your child completes the activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** The Book of Psalms includes many different kinds of prayers. Prayers of blessing acknowledge God's gifts; prayers of adoration worship God the Creator; prayers of petition ask God for forgiveness of sin and care of needs; prayers of intercession pray to God for others; prayers of thanksgiving and praise thank God. The journey of faith involves communication with God. The Psalms are a rich source of prayers. Find a Psalm that is appropriate for your family. Share it as part of your family prayer this week.

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

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Monica.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a time when your prayers were answered.

**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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# God's Saving Action

## 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:

- Recognize that God calls ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things
- Compare Moses' courage to our need for courage to choose good
- Describe the Exodus as the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, accomplished and directed by God
- Identify Passover as the Jewish holy day that celebrates God's leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt
- Recognize that we participate in the new covenant every time we take part in the Church's Sacraments or make good choices

**Turn to Page 97,**  
God's Saving Action  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 195

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Have you ever wondered why God calls ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things? Abraham, Sarah, and Moses needed courage just as we need courage to choose good in our own lives. Our journey of faith is no less important or significant to God than theirs was. Encourage your family to be open to how God can work through each of us for good. We can start in our own home by loving each other.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Go Down, Moses
- Blest By Your Sacrifice

## 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:** Passover celebrates a meal of remembrance. It recalls a wondrous saving act of God. The Passover celebrations end with Psalm 118, a great prayer of remembrance, thanks, and praise.

 **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 Eucharist is our great meal of remembrance. We celebrate God’s saving love. We remember and fulfill Jesus’ command, “Do this in memory of me.”

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

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 98,**  
God Delivers His People  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 197

**Summarize** the text to introduce the story.

 **Read** aloud the story of Moses.

**Point out** the artwork on the page that corresponds to God’s call.

**Discuss** with your child why God would work through people.

### Activity

**On** a separate piece of paper, have your child list the qualities a person like Moses would need to have. Review your child’s list together.

**Turn to Page 99,**  
The Exodus  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 199

 **Proclaim** the Scripture story.

**Ask** your child to find the reason for the plagues in the Scripture passage. (Pharaoh refused to grant freedom to the Jewish people.)

### Activity

**Do** the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child share his or her answer with you.

**Parents, Consider This:** *In the hectic pace of life today, we may not often think about God’s saving actions in our lives except in times of challenge or distress. But throughout our lives, through continued faith and the action of grace, we experience salvation. However, there may be areas where we, or someone in our family, are in need of his saving action. These are the concerns to bring to him in prayer, remembering God’s faithfulness and his promise to our ancestors in faith. Bring these requests to God with trust in his saving grace.*

**Turn to Page 100,**  
Memorial Meals  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 201

**Turn to Page 101,**  
Jesus Saves  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 203

**Summarize** the information in the first paragraph.

**Have** your child silently read “The Passover Meal.” Then discuss, together, the two questions at the end of that section.

**Ask** your child to silently read the first paragraph.

**Explain** how we participate in the new covenant. *(by participating in the Seven Sacraments and/or by following Jesus)*

**Read** aloud the second and third paragraphs together. Make sure that your child understands that the Eucharist is the Passover meal for Christians because Jesus replaced the Passover lamb of the Israelites.

**Review** the definitions of the words **Passover** and **Savior** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

## Activity

**Have** your child do the Connect Your Faith activity. Review his or her completed work.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Remember that the feast of Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper in a special and beautiful way. Make an effort to participate in that liturgy as a family. It can be a family tradition to share in this beautiful liturgy together.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Have** your child silently read the first paragraph.



**Do** the gold–star activity.

**Discuss** together some major evils and sources of temptation. Encourage your child to persevere in making good choices.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Teresia Benedicta of the Cross.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what helps you to remain faithful.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Your child might be aware of the persecution of certain groups of people living at the time as Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross' (Edith Stein). Reading this story of her life is a wonderful opportunity to discuss prejudice and intolerance with your child. God would never want us to judge another person by their race or ethnic background. We are all children of God. Cultivate this value in your family.*

**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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Living the Covenant

## 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:

- Recognize that God satisfied the needs of the Israelites by giving them manna, water, and the Ten Commandments
- Describe the Ten Commandments as laws meant to strengthen the relationship between God and his people
- Describe Jesus' New Commandment in relationship to the Ten Commandments
- Identify our place in God's Kingdom as we walk by faith in God through Jesus

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Ten Commandments articulate the most important tenets of the natural moral law. By obeying God's laws, the Chosen People acknowledged that they believed in God and wanted to live in harmony with their Creator. Jesus initiated a New Law. The New Law centered on love. It is called the Greatest Commandment. Jesus asks you to love God with all you are and to love your neighbor as yourself. Think of each person in your family. Which part of the Great Commandment is easier for each person to follow? Support your family in their individual spiritual journey.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Love Has Come
- Moses, Set Them Free

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 107,**  
Living the Covenant  
*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 Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

**Say:** God's Commandments remain essential to living a good and holy life. Jesus knew this. Jesus made this very clear.



**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 Commandments teach us how to love God and our neighbor. The Commandments summon us to faithfulness. They are rules for living that we should know by heart and take to heart.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about following the Commandments.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 108,**  
God’s Faithful Presence  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 217

**Summarize** the first paragraph.



**Have** your child read silently the Scripture story.

**Summarize** the last paragraph for your child.

**Have** your child review the page for three things that God gave the Israelites in addition to the Ten Commandments. (*quail, manna, water*)

**Ask:** Do you think God showed faithfulness? Were his People grateful? (*Yes, God was faithful. The Israelites complained and didn’t show gratefulness.*)

**Turn to Page 109,**  
God’s Laws  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 219

**Read** aloud the final paragraph of this section.

**Have** your child silently read the “God’s Laws” section to find out more about the Ten Commandments.

**Review** the words **Decalogue** and **natural moral law** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Word box.

## Activity

**Have** your child read the directions and think about the Share Your Faith activity. Discuss what he or she believes is most challenging for people their age.

**Turn to Page 110,**  
Jesus' New Law  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 221

**Have** your child read aloud the first two paragraphs.

**Read** the definitions of the words **Kingdom of God** and **New Commandment** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Have** your child silently read the text under “The Teaching of Jesus.” Have them highlight or underline the Great Commandment and the New Commandment (or New Law) as they are reading.

**Turn to Page 111,**  
The Teaching of Jesus  
(cont'd)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 223

**Have** your child continue to read the rest of the text of this section.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Decalogue is a sign of the covenant, the special promise of the relationship between God and humans. Discuss, as a family, why keeping promises is important in their friendship with God, as well as in their human friendships. Together, consider ways to improve faithfulness to the good promises they make. Model faithfulness by keeping the promises that you make to your children.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Have** your child highlight or underline the ways we can respond to God's friendship.

★ **Have** your child do the gold-star activity and discuss the answers. Review the chart together.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Hilda of Whitby.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some of the ways the Commandments have guided you in your life decisions.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Within every person is a desire to seek and to know God. From the beginning of creation, God also gave humans an “original moral sense.” This moral sense of reasoning between good and evil is called the natural moral law. The natural law is present in our hearts and it is a sign of the human dignity we all possess. Humans are born with a natural ability to sense what is moral and just. Encourage your child to learn the moral teachings of our faith and to trust in what he or she learns about right and wrong.*

**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.*



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# Leaders for God's People

## 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:

- Identify some of the past leaders of God's People
- Understand anointing as the use of oil to mark someone as chosen for a special purpose: priest, prophet, or king
- Compare the kingship of David and Jesus
- Recognize that some of the Psalms, poems, and hymns first used in the worship of the Israelites are used in the Church's liturgy today
- Reflect on the gifts we each possess that can be used for the good of the Church

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *In the course of their history, the Hebrew people produced many strong leaders who demonstrated how to live as God's Chosen People. The Hebrew people remembered how Abraham and Sarah showed their faith in God and the way Moses led them out of Egypt. They continued seeking good leaders who would remind them that God was with them through good and bad times. That lesson is as important to us today as it was for them. Help your child find those good leaders in your family and faith community to guide them into a deeper relationship and trust in God.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Give Thanks to the Lord
- I Sing the Mighty Power of God

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

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



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

**Say:** God called many people to serve as leaders of his People. David, the singing shepherd, was the greatest of the Old Testament leaders. He firmly established the kingdom of Israel. See if you recognize this Psalm.

**Turn to Page 121,**  
Leaders for God's People  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 243



**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, Son of David, would establish a new and eternal Kingdom. He, too, would lead God’s People as a shepherd.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about shepherds in the Bible.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 122,**  
A New Leader  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 245

**Read** aloud the text, alternating sections with your child.

**Ask** your child to describe the role of a present day judge. Explain that during the time of the Judges, Israel was ruled by God alone, through a type of government called a *theocracy*. Tell your child that the Greek word *theo* means “God” and that the word part *-cracy* means “rule by.” Your child may be familiar with the term democracy. The word *demos* means “people”; therefore *democracy* means “rule by the people.” This may help them understand this different time of history for our ancestors in faith.

**Ask:** Why do you think the Israelites wanted a human king? **(They wanted to be like other nations.)**

**Turn to Page 123,**  
Israel’s First King  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 247

**Continue** reading alternating sections with your child. Point out the highlighted word **anoint** and review its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box (page 122).

**Review** what happened when Saul was disobedient to God’s will. **(His army was defeated and he became unpopular.)**

**Ask:** What do these results tell us about Saul as a leader? **(Saul was successful as a leader as long as he followed God’s will.)**

**Discuss** with your child why he or she thinks God allowed Israel to have a king. **(Responses will vary, but may include the fact that God gave his people free will.)**

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *In Israel's history, God called many different men and women to lead his People. The material in this chapter is an excellent opportunity to remind your child that leaders in our Church or in our home must always seek out God's will and follow that as a guide in life. Share with your child how you strive to know God's will and follow it in your family.*

**Turn to Page 124,**  
A Line of Kings  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 249

**Have** your child read silently the opening question and paragraph. Tell your child that this story is about an ancestor of Jesus named David who became a leader.

**Read** aloud the text. Discuss how David set a good example for God's People by trying to follow and obey God. David can still be a good example for people today.



**Proclaim** the Scripture.

**Turn to Page 125,**  
Jesus, Son of David  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 251

**Have** your child silently read the paragraphs under the "Jesus, Son of David" section. Review the definition of the highlighted word, **Christ**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Read** aloud the text under the "Men of Prayer" section and review the definition of **psalms** in the Catholic Faith words box.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Every parent is the leader of faith in our own family. Without our example, discussion, teaching, and participating in faith practices, it is unlikely the members of our family will develop a deep faith. Like any leader, those who we lead will be most influenced by hearing what we say, as well as, watching what we do. The dedication and commitment to faith in our own life is founded on the relationship we have with God based on prayer and trust in God's constant care and abiding love.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

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

**Review** “The Liturgical Year” chart. Discuss some aspects of the liturgical year you notice for different seasons and feasts. For example, the color of vestments for a particular season or feast.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

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

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Louis IX of France.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how a leader should act.

**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 322), during your night prayer this week.*



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# The Wisdom of God

## 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:

- Define wisdom as a gift from God that helps us understand the purpose and plan for our life
- Appreciate the Wisdom books in the Bible for their guidance for faithful and wise living
- Discuss several proverbs and their life applications
- Recognize the wisdom of Solomon and Job
- Understand that we are called to seek God's wisdom in our own lives

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *All the books of the Bible reveal God's wisdom in a special way because they unfold his plan for the human family. As we come to hear God's Word, we come to understand that his wisdom surpasses all human knowledge. As a family, explore one of the Wisdom books of the Bible; Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Sirach, Ecclesiastes, and Wisdom. See what might speak to your family at this time. Much of the material may sound like common sense. The books address common human concerns and do so in recognizable human ways.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Holy Spirit
- We Are Marching

## 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:** Solomon's wisdom arose from what he himself admitted that he didn't know. His prayer confesses that his greatest wish is to be given a gift of understanding, so that he might share it with God's People. Today's reading shows God's response.

**Turn to Page 131,**  
The Wisdom of God  
*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:** Like Solomon, we continually need to grow in our faith. We need to try over and over again, to better know and understand the God whom we love and who loves us more.

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

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 132,**  
God Gives Wisdom  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 265

**Summarize** the introductory paragraph.

**Have** your child silently read the biography of Saint Hildegard of Bingen.

**Invite** your child to tell you the topics Hildegard wrote about.

**Ask:** Who were some of the people that learned from Hildegard’s writings? (*nobles, scholars, and religious people*)

**Point** out that we can all learn from people who have wisdom. Review the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, **wisdom**, on page 133.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 133,**  
Wisdom Writing in the Bible  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 267

**Tell** your child that the Hebrew people valued wisdom so highly that it is often mentioned in the sacred writings.

**Have** your child read the first two paragraphs.

**Ask** your child how he or she seeks wisdom. Discuss how we know that our sources of wisdom are reliable.

**Read** aloud the Proverbs on the page. Alternate reading with your child.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Discuss** the possible meanings of the Proverbs and which Proverbs you have found to be true in your lives.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Book of Proverbs is a collection of poetry compiled in the fifth century, B.C. Its purpose is to teach wisdom. It is based on the principle that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” There is much valuable advice for parents, children, and families in this book. Explore the wisdom of this book of the Bible together as a family.*

**Turn to Page 134,**  
The Wisdom Books  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 269

**Have** your child silently read the first two paragraphs. Then have them summarize what they read and tell you about it.



**Proclaim** the Scripture “Solomon’s Request.”

**Discuss** why Solomon would ask for an understanding heart.

**Read** aloud the last paragraph and discuss the questions at the bottom of the page.

**Turn to Page 135,**  
A New Way of Seeing  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 271

**Ask** your child to name a popular belief that he or she thinks is true and another one they think is false. Point out that a belief may be popular, but may or may not be consistent with what we know from Scripture.

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs to introduce the Scripture passage.



**Have** your child read the Scripture, “The Story of Job.”

**Discuss** the two questions at the bottom of the page.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the two introductory paragraphs.

## Activity

**Invite** your child to find a quiet place to think about a decision they might make and to follow the steps for making a wise decision based on the steps on this page.

**Parents, Consider This:** *One of the most important parts of making decisions is identifying the consequences of one’s actions. When you have to make a choice, ask yourself: How will this choice affect me? How will this choice affect others? Am I willing to accept responsibility for the possible consequences, positive or negative? Discuss this process as a family and teach it to your child.*

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

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Thomas Aquinas.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what helps a person become wise.

**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 322), during your night prayer this week.*



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# Prophetic Promise

## 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:

- Identify a prophet as a messenger from God who speaks the truth and calls people to justice
- Understand that there are consequences if we choose not to listen to God's message
- Discover the titles we apply to Jesus in the prophecies of Isaiah and Zechariah
- Describe the Messiah as God's anointed or chosen one who would lead his People; Jesus is the Messiah
- Explain the need for prophets today

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Prophets were an important voice in Israel at a very difficult time. At one point, the People were tempted to abandon the covenant. Later, their leaders were in exile. When the People experienced such hardships, they found it difficult to keep their focus on the one true God. God called forth prophets to admonish the Israelites to return to him. But the prophetic messages were not just for the Hebrew people. We still need to listen to the voice of the prophets in Scripture and their message to us. As you explore the message of the prophets, think about what advice is applicable to your family today.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Sacred Silence
- I Will Choose Christ

## 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:** Over and over, the prophets—God's spokesmen—called the people to keep the covenant and to ready themselves for the coming of the Promised One. Let's listen to what Isaiah told us.

**Turn to Page 141,**  
Prophetic Promise  
*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:** Emmanuel, Messiah, Christ—these are the names we give Jesus, God’s Son. If we are to be his prophets, we must welcome him. We must strive to acknowledge to others his presence among us.

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

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 142,**  
God’s Messengers  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 285

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraphs. Review the definitions of the highlighted words, **prophet** and **exile**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Share** with your child that Elijah followed Moses as a mediator between God and Israel. Because Malachi predicted Elijah’s return, some thought that Jesus was Elijah. He was important and a highly regarded prophet. His messages called for complete conversion, or change of heart.

★ **Have** your child read the letter on parchment paper and underline in the book why King Ahab should be considered the true “disturber of Israel.”

**Turn to Page 143,**  
Repentance and Restoration  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 287

**Have** your child silently read the text.

**Review** the “Who Are We?” chart. Read it aloud for your child and have him or her circle the names of the prophets when you say them.

**Ask** your child to explain what happened because the People did not listen to the prophets in the south. (They experienced great hardships, just as the prophets had warned.)

### Activity

**Do** the Share Your Faith activity. If you have time, look up more than one of the Scripture passages. Discuss what your child discovers.

**Parents, Consider This:** Because your child has grown in an ability to understand various eras in Scripture, he or she might think of the prophets as people who foresaw the future. This is part of what prophets did, but prophecy means more than this. It is sharing God's Word with others. It is the call of our Baptism to share in Christ's message. Encourage your family to live this baptismal promise. Consider how one of the messages of the prophets you are reading about speaks to your family.

**Turn to Page 144,**  
Message of a Messiah  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 289

**Read** aloud the text.

**Review** the definition of the word **Messiah** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to tell you what Messiah means in his or her own words. Read the definition of the word **Incarnation**. Tell your child you will read more about this on the next page.



**Have** your child read aloud the Scripture.

**Point** out the artwork depicting the birth of Jesus, which fulfilled the prophecies.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 145,**  
Jesus the Christ  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 291

**Read** aloud the first three paragraphs.

**Have** your child read the sections on Saint Paul and Dorothy Day. Then have them tell you what qualities Saint Paul and Dorothy Day have in common.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** Discuss as a family what prophetic messages people need to hear today? Who are people in your community or extended family who have a prophetic message?

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 146,**  
Our Catholic Life  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 293

**Have** your child read the paragraphs.

**Ask** your child to tell you what messages the prophets delivered that that people did not want to hear. (Stop hurting others. Help the poor. Repent for your sins. Follow God's laws.)

**Point** out that God's laws applies to everyone.

**Review** the chart, "Steps to Standing Strong."

**Ask:** Do you personally know anyone who stands strong in his or her faith?

**Turn to Page 147,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 295

**Read** the paragraph about Blessed Jacinta Marto.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you obey God's laws.

**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 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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# The Gospel 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:

- Examine the ways in which Jesus shared the Good News of salvation; through his teaching, healing, miracles, and sacrifice
- Recognize that the Gospels are called the Good News of Jesus because they proclaim his life and teaching
- Discuss the importance of oral tradition and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the development of the Gospels
- Recall the names and biblical images that describe the Church

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Have you ever had some good news you were bursting to tell? Maybe it was the day you confirmed that you were about to become a parent! Good news is hard to keep quiet. Jesus proclaimed Good News—the Good News of God the Father’s great love for us. After Jesus’ Resurrection, his disciples could not contain themselves with the great news they had witnessed. They preached the Good News in neighboring towns and countries. That Good News was eventually written down in what would come to be known as the “Gospel” or “Good News.”*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



**Let’s Sing:** These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- Hear Our Prayer
- Where There Is Love

## 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:** In God’s Word today, Jesus makes an important announcement. Listen with your heart to hear what he is saying.

**Turn to Page 155,**  
The Gospel Message  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 311



**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.

**Jesus’** message is Good News, and he himself is the Good News. It’s our delight to discover both and to share that Good News with others.

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

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 156,**  
Jesus is the Good News  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 313

**Read** aloud all three paragraphs.

**Point** out that Jesus was probably around your child’s age in the Scripture story of Jesus in the Temple.

**Ask:** How could Jesus know so early in his life who he was and what his role would be?

**Ask:** What does the word *Redeemer* mean?

**Read** aloud the definition of **Redeemer** from the Catholic Faith Words box. Then read aloud the definition of the word **Sabbath**.

**Ask** your child if he/she has heard the term used before. **(In the Ten Commandments: Remember the Sabbath day—keep it holy.)**

**Turn to Page 157,**  
Jesus is the Good News  
(cont’d)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 315



**Read** the Scripture story. Ask your child to read Jesus’ part. You be the narrator.

**Discuss** why anointing was significant in Jesus’ day. **(Anointing designated a person as chosen by God.)**



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 158,**  
The Gospels  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 317

**Discuss** the question at the top of the page.

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs. As you read the text about each of the gospels on pages 158–159, have your child develop a list of facts for each Gospel on four separate index cards.

**Encourage** your child, during the week, to research the symbolism in the images for the Gospel writers shown on this spread (lion, ox, eagle and angel). Ask her/him to share what they have learned.

**Turn to Page 159,**  
The Church and the Gospels  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 319

**Direct** your child to the Catholic Faith Words box on the previous page and review the definition for **Church**.

**Ask:** What does the phrase, “we trace our origins back to the Apostles,” mean? (What we believe about Jesus was handed down to us from the Apostles who walked with him.)

**Take** turns reading the paragraphs on page 159.

## Activity

**Have** your child look up the Bible passages listed in the Connect Your Faith activity. Then have them write a description of the image of the Church in each passage.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Because we so often think of the Church as an institution, it is sometimes difficult to claim Saint Paul's words that we are the Body of Christ. Another way of imagining that is to understand, “where I go, the Church goes.” Pope Francis says it this way: “... Jesus did not say: ‘One of you go,’ but ‘All of you go’: we are sent together. ... be aware of the companionship of the whole Church and also the communion of the saints on this mission. When we face challenges together, then we are strong, we discover resources we did not know we had. Jesus did not call the Apostles to live in isolation, he called them to form a group, a community” (Close of World Youth Day, 2013).*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the opening paragraph.

**Read** aloud each description of love and have your child add “love” at the beginning of each phrase you read.

★ **Ask** your child to circle the descriptions that best describe him/her, and underline the areas in which they feel they need to grow.

**On** a separate sheet of paper, write down the descriptions of love you believe your child exhibits. Share with them how the quality of her/his love affects the whole family. You may also want to discuss how not loving well also has an effect on the family.

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

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint John Neumann.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family respond to the call to serve others?

**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 324), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# The Early 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:

- Describe the feast of Pentecost as the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles
- Examine how the Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the early Church
- Define *Apostolic Succession* as the passing down of authority and power to lead and teach the Church from the Apostles to the bishops
- Appreciate that the Holy Spirit continues to animate the Church today

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *One of the sad consequences of the increasing number of people who live great distances from their extended family is that our children experience a separation from their family history. It takes an intentional effort on everyone's part to stay connected. Every human being needs to see themselves in the context of their family history. This is especially important for children. As a baptized member of the Church, your sixth grade child is ready to place him/herself in the family story of the Church. As your child searches for an identity, developing a deep sense of belonging in both your family and the Church will help her/him grow in security and happiness.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Spirit, Come Down
- Come to Us, Holy Spirit

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 165,**  
The Early Church  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 331

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:** After Jesus' Death and Resurrection, he appeared to the disciples and gave them a mission. Listen to what Jesus said.



**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 mission Jesus gave to the disciples is the same mission we, as Christians, carry out today.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about being sent to share the Good News.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 166,**  
The Risen Jesus  
and the Holy Spirit  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 333

**Have** your child read the first two paragraphs.

**Point** out the artwork on the page that shows the interaction between Jesus and Thomas. Explain that Jesus understood Thomas’ need to see in order to believe.

**Move** to the Catholic Faith Words box and review the definition of the word **Holy Trinity**.

**Ask:** Why do you think the Apostles were afraid after Jesus’ Death? What gave them hope?

**Turn to Page 167,**  
The Coming of the Spirit  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 335

**Take** out your Bible. Ask your child to find Acts 2:18.



**Proclaim** the Scripture, communicating the drama of the event.

**Point** out that the disciples believed in Jesus’ promise, even though they did not know what would happen.



**Have** your child highlight the effect the Holy Spirit had on the Apostles.

**Then,** turn to page 324 in the Our Catholic Tradition section in the back of your child’s book. Pray aloud the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

## Activity

**Complete** the Share Your Faith activity. Discuss the two gifts from the Holy Spirit (p. 318) that the world needs most.

**Turn to Page 168,**  
The Church's Work  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 337

**Read** aloud the question at the top of the page. Tell your child he/she will learn the answer as you study the next two pages.

**Ask** your child to silently read the first paragraph and circle the word **mission** in the text. Read aloud its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Ask:** Have you ever been given a special mission or job before? Share a time when you were given a mission by someone. Bring the conversation back to the mission of the Church.

**Summarize** the text under “The Early Church.”

**Tell** the children that Jesus promised the disciples that they would be his witnesses “to the ends of the earth.” Saint Paul and others fulfilled this promise. (See Acts 1:8.)

**Discuss** how the mission of the Church today is similar to the mission of the early Church. Encourage your child to give specific examples.

**Have** your child silently read the text.

**Tell** your child that many Christians suffered persecution in the early Church and some Christians still suffer persecution in the world today.

**Ask:** To what extent are you willing to openly profess your faith as a Christian? When is this hardest to do?

**Share** how easy it can become to take your faith for granted. You may want to search online for places where Christians are being persecuted today.

**Ask:** What do you think gives those people the courage to die for what they believe in?

**Read** aloud the two paragraphs on “The Church Today.”

**Walk** through the pictures of the recent Popes.

**Ask** your child what he/she might know about Pope Francis. (He's the first Pope from Argentina; he's the first Pope who is from The Society of Jesus; he took the name Francis because of his love for the poor.)

### **LIVE: Living Our Faith**

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

**Ask** your child to focus on how they can be a good witness for Jesus.

**Read** aloud the first paragraph

**Share** television shows, movies, or news reports in which witnesses played a key role.

**Summarize** the second paragraph, which is an introduction to the content in the chart.

★ **Read** the three sections, one at a time. Each section is worthy of serious conversation before writing in the blanks beside them.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Timothy.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share with your child about the person who first told you about Jesus.

## Activity

**Direct** your child to complete the Live Your Faith activity. Help only when he/she may need further direction. It would be a great exercise for you to complete this activity as well.

**Parents, Consider This:** *When speaking to the Youth of the World from Rio de Janeiro, Pope Francis spoke to the need for witnesses of the faith. His words speak profoundly of witness. "Faith is a flame that grows stronger the more it is shared and passed on, so that everyone may know, love and confess Jesus Christ... Jesus did not say: 'go, if you would like to, if you have the time'... he said: 'Go and make disciples of all nations.' Sharing the experience of faith, bearing witness to the faith, proclaiming the Gospel: this is a command that the Lord entrusts to the whole Church."*

**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 324), during your night prayer this week.*



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# The Body of Christ

## 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:

- Recognize the many ways the Church uses to communicate God's truths
- Define the Epistles as Letters written by Paul and several other Apostles to the new Christian communities they established
- Note that there are two main creeds of the Church—Nicene and Apostles'
- Identify the Marks of the Church—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic—as essential characteristics that distinguish Christ's Church and her mission

**Turn to Page 175,**  
The Body of Christ  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 351

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Did your parents ever say to you as you were walking out the door, "Don't forget whose name you have?" It was a way of reminding us that wherever we went, we took our family's name, the family's reputation, the things the family stood for, out the door with us. In much the same way, as members of the Church, we take our family identity with us wherever we go. That is why knowing the essential characteristics of the Church—one, holy, catholic and apostolic—is crucial. Bringing others to Christ through the Church is the call of our Baptism.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Yes, Lord, I Believe
- They'll Know We Are Christians

## 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:** Saint Luke describes the early Church community in a way that makes people want to be a part of that community. Listen to how the early Christians lived.



**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:** Most of our experience as Church comes from living in a parish. The word *parish* comes from a word that means “being close together.” When you think about community, Church, and parish, think about the many ways of being close together as the Body of Christ.

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

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 176,**  
Keeping in Touch  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 353

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Discuss** what sorts of information people need to share.

**Ask** your child what kind of information he/she gets over the Internet. Share the advantages and disadvantages of getting information over the Internet, rather than in person.

**Silently** read the information under “Sharing God’s Word Today.”

**Ask:** Do you think it is a good idea to share Jesus’ message through social media? What ideas do you have that could make young people your age pay attention to that message?

**Turn to Page 177,**  
Letters of the New Testament  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 355

**Ask** your child to read aloud the two paragraphs.

**Remind** her/him that during the days of the early Church, sending letters and communicating through messengers were the only means of contacting someone far away.

**Ask:** Have you heard the word *Epistles* before? Read aloud the definition of **epistles** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

## Activity

**Read** aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity and complete the activity. Choose a passage yourself. Share your favorite passage and your reasons for choosing it.

**Turn to Page 178-179,**  
Marks of the Church  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 357-359

**Explain** to your child that she/he will learn about the Marks of the Church on the next two pages.

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

★ **Have** your child underline a time when we hear the Marks of the Church during Mass.

**Begin** the paragraphs that explain the Marks of the Church. Alternate reading the paragraphs. As you finish each Mark, ask your child to look up the Scripture citation from the “What Scripture Says” box on page 178. Read the quote directly from the Bible.

**Discuss** how the Scripture relates to the paragraph you just read.

### LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

★ **Direct** your child to read the first two paragraphs and complete the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Have you ever been in a room when someone walks in and you get a whiff of a lovely fragrance? Their scent made you pay attention. You noticed. In his Epistle to the Corinthians, Saint Paul says, “... we are the aroma of Christ.” When we walk into the room, people should notice because we bring Christ. As your child matures in faith, it is becoming more and more critical to connect what she/he believes with their words and actions. It may be helpful to be more intentional in your language when you reflect with your child. There is a difference between saying, “You cannot be so mean,” and, “Is what you are doing helping your sister (classmate) see Jesus?”*

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Jude.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Jesus asks us to be his friends. How can your family grow in friendship with Jesus?

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

**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 324), during your night prayer this week.*



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# The Great Commandment

## 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:

- Explain the Great Commandment in relationship to the Ten Commandments
- Describe the Transfiguration as the revelation of Jesus in glory to the Apostles Peter, James, and John
- Reflect on the Beatitudes and how they should influence our lives
- Follow the practice of charity in our own faith journeys
- Explore how the Precepts of the Church help the faithful to live holy and dutiful lives

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *There is nothing you want more for your child than his/her happiness. Almost everything you do is directed at helping your child achieve that state. As you begin this unit on the moral life, you will teach your child that happiness is achieved through living in right relationship with God and others. What Jesus taught us is now verified by scientific research. People determine their level of happiness based on the quality of their relationships. As Catholics, we understand that our primary relationship, the one we were created for, is our relationship with God. This chapter can be an invitation to reflect upon the quality of your relationship with God.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Open My Eyes
- Christ Our Life

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 189,**  
The Great Commandment  
*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:** Jesus tells us that love of God and love of our neighbor are not in competition with one another. If we truly love God, we will also love our neighbor.



**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:** Loving God and loving neighbor are two sides of the same coin. Because God, who is love, first favored us with love, we are called to respond to God by loving him, our neighbor, and ourselves.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about loving God and our neighbors.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 190,**  
Old Law and New Law  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 381

**Ask** your child if he/she can think of an example of someone who broke the law and the effect that the person’s actions had on others?

**Say:** There are civil laws that help us to live in society, but the most important laws are the laws given to us by God that help us live in right relationship with him and others.

**Read** aloud the two paragraphs.

**Remind** your child that the Laws of Israel helped people to live in response to God’s love. It helped them understand how to love God in return.

**Point** out that the Old Law is still important and that the Commandments are still binding today.

**Emphasize** that the Old Law was a preparation for the New Law revealed by Jesus.

**Direct** your child to find Jeremiah 31:33–34 in your Bible.



**Proclaim** God’s Word.

**Ask:** What does it mean to have the law written in your heart? (We are creatures made by God; we desire to know good, truth, justice.)



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

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

**Summarize** the paragraph, stressing that Jesus interpreted the Law in a new way.

**Direct** your child to find Matthew 17:1-8 in your Bible.



**Ask** your child to read the Scripture.

**Read** the next paragraph explaining the Transfiguration. Have your child read the definition of **Transfiguration** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Have them make a vocabulary card for this term.

**Discuss** the reaction of the Apostles as shown in the artwork on the page.

**Ask:** How would you have reacted if you had been there that day? Share with your child how you would have felt.

## Activity

**Complete** the Share Your Faith activity together. Affirm something your child is doing in your family that is living in right relationship. Share your struggle in doing what is right. Try to give a specific example. (*struggle with patience, with making time for doing things for others, etc.*)

**Turn to Page 192,**  
Jesus Teaches  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 385

**Summarize** the first paragraph, emphasizing that Jesus summed up the Law of Moses and the prophets.



**Read** the Scripture aloud together.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Tell** your child to read aloud the last two paragraphs on the page.

**Ask** your child to take four index cards and, on each card, write the Catholic Faith Words: **morality**, **Beatitudes**, **charity**, and **Precepts of the Church**.

**Read** aloud each of the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box without stating the actual Catholic Faith Word. Ask your child to find the index card that describes what you have just read.

**Expand** your discussion on the Beatitudes by having your child turn to page 316 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of their books.

**Have** your child silently read the two paragraphs.

**Point** out that many people in Jesus' day equated happiness with wealth, trouble-free living, and security. In fact, many people today still think the same way.

**Turn to Page 193,**  
Freedom to Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 387

**Ask:** Who can help us follow the true path to happiness? (the Holy Spirit)

**Talk** about the importance of the virtue of charity. Give your child an example of a time when you saw her/him act with charity and discuss the difference it made.

**Read** aloud the two paragraphs. Turn to page 317 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book for a list of the Precepts of the Church.

## Activity

**As** you explain the directions for the activity, draw a sample word map (the same as the one pictured in the activity), on a piece of paper. In the center circle, write the name of someone who is a Christian that your child knows. Around the person's name, write words that describe his/her Christ-like qualities. Once your child sees how it is done, have him/her complete the activity using a person of their choice.

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Were you challenged by the lines in your child's text, "many people in Jesus' day equated happiness with trouble-free lives, security, and wealth"? In many ways, things haven't changed much in two thousand years. It is so easy for our thinking, and thus our actions, to become disordered. The Great Commandment and the Precepts of the Church help us to keep our hearts centered in the love that is offered to us in Jesus. They give us the capacity to understand what our loving response must be. Guiding your child to make decisions based on God's laws will set her/him on the true path of happiness in this life and the next.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Ask:** What does it mean to keep the Great Commandment?

**Introduce** the list of suggestions for living the Great Commandment. Read aloud the first line of each of the three sections, and have your child read aloud the suggestions.

**Use** these sections to discuss how these choices will bring happiness. Tell your child that his/her happiness is your deepest desire for him/her. Reinforce that you believe this is the path to happiness in this world and the next.

**Listen** to the song "The Great Commandment," on the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 20.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss which Beatitude you find easiest to live.

## Activity

**Both** you and your child discuss and complete the Live Your Faith activity.

**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 325), during your night prayer this week.*



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# Justice and Peace

## 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:

- Recognize natural moral law as the understanding that God places in every human heart
- Define justice as giving God and others what is due to them
- Explore the relationship between peace and justice through the writings of the minor prophets
- Describe social sin as the unjust structures that can occur as the result of personal sin

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Church follows the path of the prophets by recognizing that all humans live in solidarity with one another. To live in justice means to respect the dignity of all, to protect life in all its forms, and to be champions of those whose basic needs are being denied. The presence of injustice in society is a sign of social sin. Social sins are structures in society that promote injustice or make it difficult for people to care for one another. It is the responsibility of all Christians to work for the common good at every level of society.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Raise Your Voice for Justice
- Whatsoever You Do

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 199,**  
Justice and Peace  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 399

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:** Over and over, the Scriptures remind us that God is just. Over and over, the Scriptures challenge us to work for justice for all of God's People.



**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 sometimes confuse justice with fairness. It is important to understand the difference. Today we will talk about God’s constant demand that we work for justice in the world.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about justice and acting as a peacemaker.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 200,**  
Seeking Justice  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 401

**Ask:** What does it mean to act justly?

**Alternate** reading the paragraphs with your child. When you come to the highlighted Catholic Faith Words, **justice**, **virtue**, and **grace**, go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read their definitions.

**Emphasize** that the search for justice is a response to the natural moral law, which expresses the God-given dignity of all persons.

**Turn to Page 201,**  
The Beatitudes  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 403

**Invite** your child to find Matthew 5: 3-10 in your Bible.



**Proclaim** the Scripture to your child.

**Ask** your child what message he/she heard about justice in this passage. (“Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,” is another way of saying “justice.”)

## Activity

**Read** aloud the Share Your Faith activity instructions. Both of you think of a situation and share the injustice with each other.

**Turn to Page 202,**  
Peace  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 405

**Tell** your child you are going to explore the relationship between peace and justice.

**Have** your child silently read the text under the “Peace” heading.

**Give** your child a blank sheet of paper. Have him/her fold it into threes. At the top of each column write: Hosea, Amos and Micah. Ask your child to read “Three Prophets,” and in each column under the name of the prophet, ask her/him to record the central idea of what the prophet says.

**Go** to your Bible and find Micah 6:8 and read the text. Look for the books of the other prophets as well.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 203,**

Justice Seekers  
and Peacemakers  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 407

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Direct** your child to read aloud one of the boxes in the side column.

**Discuss** why the word “duty” is used in each box and not “suggestion.”

**Read** the last paragraph silently together. Discuss examples of social sins.

**Go** to Catholic Faith Words box and review the definitions of **common good** and **social sin**. Ask your child to tell you what they mean in his/her own words.

## Activity

**Ask** your child to complete the Connect Your Faith activity. Have her/him check their answers against the work that they did on the three-column paper.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 204,**

Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 409

**Read** aloud the opening paragraph.



**Ask** your child to complete the gold-star activity. When he/she has completed the work, review the Y’s and then the O’s. Praise your child if you witness these behaviors and speak to the need of those you may not see. Research tells us that as his/her parent, your expectations have a significant influence on your child.

**Turn to Page 205,**

People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 411

**Read** the paragraph about Blessed Dorothy Chavez Orozco.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Give examples of how you show dignity and respect to members of your family.

## Activity

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

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

**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 325), during your night prayer this week.*



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# Sin and Forgiveness

## 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:

- Examine the consequences of venial sin
- Recall the conditions necessary for a sin to be considered mortal
- Begin to understand the need to obey the certain judgment of an informed conscience
- Recognize that through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, God forgives us and restores us to his friendship

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Worrying about the decisions your child will make can keep you up at night. From the friends she/he chooses, to the healthy foods she/he will not eat, you do your best to influence her/his choices. You want what is best for your child. God wants what is best for us. He is our Creator and he has created us equipped with the desire to know his will. The development of a Christian conscience comes from an awareness of the demands and values of the Gospel that God expects of all people. With a well-formed conscience and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, people can discern what is truly right and good. Help your child become aware of God's urgings within her/him.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- You Alone
- Coming Back Together

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 209,**  
Sin and Forgiveness  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 419

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 reading, Peter wanted to show Jesus how much he had learned about forgiveness. Peter expects to know the answer when he asks Jesus a question about forgiving 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:** Peter thought that forgiving someone seven times was pretty generous. Jesus responded by using a common figure of speech that everyone would recognize as meaning “immeasurable.” When Jesus said “seventy-seven times,” he was saying that forgiveness must be offered without limit. Peter’s heart had some growing to do—as do ours.

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

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 210,**  
Your Relationship with God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 421

**Read** aloud the first paragraph. Alternate reading the rest of the text on the page.

**Ask** your child to point out the difference between mortal and venial sin. (Mortal sin is a serious and deliberate act that rejects God; venial sin is less serious.)

**Give** your child examples of a venial sin and a mortal sin. (Lying about homework, taking a pencil from your sister’s supplies/murder, stealing someone’s life savings) To make sure he/she understands the difference between the types of sins, encourage your child to come up with a few examples of their own.

**Review** definitions of **sin**, **venial sin**, and **mortal sin**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Turn to Page 211,**  
God’s Mercy  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 423

**Remind** your child that parables teach religious truths.



**Tell** your child to silently read the Scripture passage. When he/she has finished reading, ask him/her to point out the details that are the same in the first and second paragraphs. (The one owing money begs for mercy.) Then ask how the second incident differs from the first. (The servant does not follow the example of mercy set by his master.)

**Emphasize** that we are to forgive one another as God forgives us.

## Activity

**Read** the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Take the time to discuss with each other, the ways that you show forgiveness as a family. Make suggestions for dealing with the hurt or anger that you feel when you are harmed. This is one of the most valuable lessons your family teaches.

**Turn to Page 212,**  
Making Things Right  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 425

**This** part of the lesson will review what the Church teaches about an informed conscience. The importance of this teaching cannot be emphasized enough as you help your child to make good decisions.

**Read** the first two paragraphs aloud. Ask your child to retell what you read in his/her own words.

**Review** the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, **conscience**.

**Read** aloud the text in the next section. Then have your child silently read the “Celebrating the Sacrament” chart.

**Ask** your child to look at the pictures at the top of pages 212 and 213 and identify which steps are probably occurring in each.

**Pray** the Act of Contrition (found in the yellow box), together.

**Parents, Consider This:** *There are moments in our lives when we believe the worst about ourselves; moments when we think we are unforgivable. At Mass, we are reminded that throughout the history of salvation, God never abandoned those who had sinned or failed to keep their covenant with him. There is no sin that cannot be touched by God’s mercy when sinners turn their hearts back to him. God has given us the gift of the Sacrament of Penance. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, people experience and celebrate God’s mercy and forgiveness by confessing their sins and pledging to do what is right and good.*

**Turn to Page 213,**  
Effects of the Sacrament  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 427

**Ask** your child to read aloud the text and then name the benefits of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (friendship with God is restored or healed; reconciliation with the Church; freedom from the threat of hell; peace and strength to do what is right and good)

## Activity

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

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraphs.

**Explain** that a conscience must be exercised to remain informed.

**Ask** your child to tell you what is happening in the cartoon story to the left. Help him/her to imagine what decision the girl might be making.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Margaret of Cortona.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Do people in your family find it easy or difficult to admit they were wrong and to say, “I’m sorry.”

### Activity

**Discuss** the moral dilemmas presented in the Live Your Faith activity. Clearly tell your child what you would hope he/she might do. Tell your child the kind of person you want him/her to be.

**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 325), during your night prayer this week.*



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# Baptized for Mission

## 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:

- Discuss Philip's attitude of openness to continuing Jesus' mission
- Understand that Evangelization is giving witness to the faith by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus in a way that invites people to accept the Gospel
- Recognize that by our Baptism, we share in the mission of the Church to announce the Good News
- Note that Confirmation perfects the grace of Baptism and seals us with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Appreciate how the Eucharist unites us to Jesus Christ and nourishes us to live out our faith

**Turn to Page 223,**  
Baptized for Mission  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 447

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Through the Sacraments of Initiation, we are invited to follow in Christ's footsteps and share in the priesthood of believers. Through Baptism, we begin the journey of faith and start to share in the mission of the Church. Confirmation seals the gifts of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us to carry out the mission of sharing the Good News. The Sacrament of the Eucharist instills a deep communion with Christ and with the members of the Church. How is our family living a commitment to follow Christ and participating in the mission of the Church? This is an important question to ask. Discuss concrete ways of doing this.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Go Make a Difference
- Find Us Ready

## 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:** These verses from the First Letter of Peter encourage his listeners to live as Christians.



**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 share in Christ’s mission by means of participation in the Sacraments and our membership in the Church.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about God’s plan for their life.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 224,**  
The Apostles’ Mission  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 449

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

**Turn** to page 309 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child’s book to review more information about the Church’s mission.



**Read** the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. Have your child read the part of the Ethiopian man, and you read the part of Philip.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 225,**  
God’s Mission for You  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 451

**Have** your child silently read this page. Ask when he or she might have opportunities to share the Good News. (i.e. when having a conversation with friends) Remind your child that God has given them the Holy Spirit to help them with their mission.

### Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Apostles willingly carried out the mission of Jesus. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to help us on our mission, which begins when we enter into the Christian life through the Baptism. At his or her age, your child may not consider him or herself a “missionary,” but the Church teaches that as baptized persons, we are all called to spread the Gospel to others. We do this most often by example. In time, we may learn how to use words to articulate what we believe. Encourage your child to develop the ability to share their faith in word and actions.*

**Turn to Page 226,**  
Sacraments of Initiation  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 453

**Discuss** the opening question with your child. Invite your child to recall a Scripture story in which water is a main feature.

**Read** aloud the two paragraphs.

**Have** your child silently read the text about “Baptism.” Discuss the question at the end. *(It gives us a seal that marks us for Christ. Through Baptism, we are called to evangelize.)*

**Read** aloud the text under the “Confirmation” section. Have your child look for the words that describe the action of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. *(The Holy Spirit pours out the gifts that seal and confirm you in Christ.)*

**Turn to Page 227,**  
Sacraments of Initiation  
(cont’d)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 455

**Continue** to read the text about Confirmation. Then read the text in the “Eucharist” section. Tell your child to look for the terms that the Church uses for the Eucharist.

**Ask:** Why do you think the celebration of the Eucharist completes the Sacraments of Initiation? *(At the altar, we are united with the People of God.)*

**Write** the words, **Eucharist**, **transubstantiation**, **Real Presence**, and **Tabernacle** on index cards. Have your child read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 226. When your child is confident of their meanings, read each definition and have your child hold up the word that matches the definition.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Have your family members participate in parish events. This is how we learn about and understand the responsibilities of being Church members. Engaging in activities such as this helps to introduce your child to Christian service.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the introductory question and paragraph. Summarize the rest of the text, which describes some things we need to know to be successful “agents” on a mission from God.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how prayer helps you participate in Jesus mission.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** Refer often to the concept of God's unique purpose or mission that God gives each of us. This will help your child to think about God's purpose for their life.

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.



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# Lives of Service

## Preparation for the Session

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

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Discuss how Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet, though surprising, was a sign of his love and a model of serving others
- Define vocation as the purpose for which God made us and a call to love and serve God and others
- Recognize that Holy Orders confers a sacred authority and charism for serving the faithful by teaching, leading people in worship, and pastoral governing
- Describe consecrated life as a state of life lived in community and characterized by the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience

**Turn to Page 233,**  
Lives of Service  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 467

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, he gave an example of the Christian way of life. God calls each baptized person in a unique way to respond to Jesus' invitation to serve by living a Christian vocation. Some men and women respond to God's call by living in religious communities. Some men, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, are consecrated to serve God as bishops, priests, and deacons. These are important roles and special ways to serve. Is there a way for your family to show appreciation to someone you know who serves in this way? Your support is important to encourage them in their vocation.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- I Will Choose Christ
- I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

## 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 gives each of us gifts—gifts for service. Let's read today's Scripture passage to hear more about these gifts.



**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:** Having gifts and using gifts are two different things. We need to listen to God in order to hear what he wants us to do—how he calls us to serve others—with our gifts.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about using their gifts for God’s glory.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 234,**  
Called to Serve  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 469

**Summarize** the paragraph to introduce the Scripture story.



**Proclaim** the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. Ask your child how they believe they would have reacted if they had been among Jesus’ disciples. Discuss how the disciples appear to be reacting in the painting.

**Explain** to your child that, in Jesus time, people often traveled on foot. It was an act of hospitality for a host to provide for the washing of a guest’s feet. The host provided servants to wash the feet of guests or water so that guests could wash their own feet. Have your child explain to you what Jesus wanted his disciples to understand when he washed their feet. Reinforce the concept that Christians must be willing to perform acts of service.

**Turn to Page 235,**  
The Cost of Serving Others  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 471

**Have** your child silently read the first two paragraphs.

**Read** aloud the text in the “Your Vocation” section. Review the highlighted word, **vocation**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Ask:** What are the four types of vocations named? (*ordained priesthood, religious life, married, committed single life*)

## Activity

**Do** the Share Your Faith activity. Brainstorm some career choices with your child. Discuss the ways these careers might serve others.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Jesus modeled our call to love and serve God and others. Vocation is the purpose for which God made us and why we answer his call. Talk about the various vocations of relatives and friends in your family and how they are serving God and others. Note the variety of ways those you love serve others and God. Each is given unique ways to serve.*

**Turn to Page 236,**  
Living the Call  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 473

**Have** your child silently read the text.

**Ask:** Who participates in the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

**Together,** name or find out the names of the bishop(s), priests(s), and deacon(s) who serve your parish. Review the roles of bishop, priest, and deacon. Interview one if possible.

**Read** the text under “Consecrated Life.” Tell your child to look for what living a consecrated life means. Discuss what this means after reading this section. Encourage your child to tell you what they know about the highlighted words, **Holy Orders**, **Magisterium**, and **consecrated religious life**, in the text. Have your child silently read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Turn to Page 237,**  
The Evangelical Counsels  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 475

**Explain** that members of religious communities profess vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

**Read** aloud the sacred promises in the chart, “The Evangelical Counsels.”



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Tell** your child that the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit help them to live out their own life of service. Turn to page 318 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of the book to review them.

**Summarize** the paragraph and have your child name someone in ministry who has served them by helping them know more about Jesus.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Consider examples of charisms people in your family might have, such as love for animals, caring for those who are elderly or of children, respect for the environment, or talent for fixing things around the house. Marvel at the many gifts God gives us.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the opening paragraphs. Invite your child to name some ways to serve Jesus by helping others.



**Proclaim** the Scripture passages.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you use your call to share the love of Jesus with others.

## 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 during your night prayer this week.*

### Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.



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# Sharing God's Love

## 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:

- Understand that a baptized man and woman make a permanent covenant of love in the Sacrament of Matrimony
- Recognize that this Sacrament helps a man and woman grow in love and holiness and prepare a home for children
- Identify Matrimony as a Sacrament at the Service of Communion
- Discuss why the family is called the domestic Church
- Explore the virtues of temperance, chastity, and modesty as a way of honoring the Sixth and Ninth Commandments

**Turn to Page 243,**  
Sharing God's Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 487

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Jesus gave special honor to the relationship between a man and a woman in marriage. Men and women are created in the image of God, and their union in marriage mirrors the relationship God has with his People. Faithful Christian families are privileged communities because they are blessed by God and have committed themselves to live in God's image. The Christian family is often called the "domestic Church." A Christian family shares in bringing Christ's love to the world. How does your family live Christ's love?*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ
- From Today

## 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:** The Holy Trinity is a God of relationship. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are the perfect communion of love. Since we are made in God's image, human beings are made to be in relationship with him and one another.



**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:** Made in the image of the God of love and faithfulness, many men and women are called to a vocation of a faithful lasting love.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Catholic marriage.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 244,**  
Together in Holiness  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 489

**Read** the opening question and paragraph. Remind your child that good marriages are based on friendship.



**Proclaim** the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. If possible, read it as a play with the parts of narrator, Mary, Jesus, and the headwaiter.

Discuss the question that follows the reading.

**Turn to Page 245,**  
Matrimony  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 491

**Read** aloud the two paragraphs in the “Matrimony” section. Have your child circle the text that tells why marriage is a Sacrament and underline the two purposes of marriage.

**Review** the definitions of the highlighted words, **Matrimony** and **domestic Church**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Have** your child silently read the text under “Sacraments of Service.” Have your child look for the promises people make when they marry one another.

**Together**, brainstorm qualities that make a good marriage. After your discussion, make a list of them. Create a paper chain of the most important qualities of a strong marriage by writing these ideas on slips of paper and connecting them in the form of a chain.

**Parents, Consider This:** The words of consent in the Sacrament of Matrimony are these: "I \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and bad, in sickness and health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life." Use these words as a basis for discussion. Talk about how these promises connect to friendship and to a relationship with God. Think of those you know who seem to live these vows. Point out how they are a living example that can inspire us.

**Turn to Page 246,**  
A Domestic Church  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 493

**Read** aloud the text.

**Ask:** In what ways is a family a domestic Church? (The Church has concern for all her members, the family has concern for all its members; we serve one another in Church and in families; we are called to love in both the Church community and family community.)

**Turn to Page 247,**  
Sharing God's Love  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 495

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Turn** to page 315 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book. Read aloud the Sixth Commandment and the Ninth Commandment. Invite your child to read silently the remainder of the content on page 247 and to identify ways to live out these Commandments.

**Talk** about the highlighted virtues, **temperance, chastity, and modesty.** Read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 246. Write each word on a separate index card. After your child has reviewed their definitions, give your child the cards and have them hold up the word that matches the definition that you read aloud.

**Discuss** the meaning of these words and ask your child to define each of them in his or her own words.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** Virtues are habits that become part of our character if they are practiced long enough and are integrated into the values we live in our words and actions. Continue to point out examples of people you know who live the virtues of temperance, chastity, and modesty. Lifting up those who live these virtues will encourage the members of your family to live them, too.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the first paragraph. Tell your child that you are going to learn how to promote harmony within your family using advice from the Letter to the Ephesians.

★ Do the gold-star activity after reading through the “Ways to Harmony” chart.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Henry II.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about ways your family works for justice.

## Activity

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

**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 during your night prayer this week.*

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

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# The Communion of Saints

## 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 the Communion of Saints as including all holy persons, living and dead
- Define Purgatory as a state of final cleansing after death and before entering into Heaven
- Explore the Spiritual Works of Mercy, the actions by which we address the needs of heart, mind, and soul
- Discover intercessory prayer and personal reflection as means to growing in holiness

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Although a few of us might find it difficult to ask for help, wouldn't it be nice to know that you had a whole community of people who were there to help when you needed it? Living with that kind of support would lessen some of the anxiety we walk around with daily. Actually, you were given the gift of that community at Baptism—the Communion of Saints. All of the faithful, both living and dead, are included in the Communion of Saints. Christians believe that death does not mean an end to their relationship with those who have died, but a change, because not even death can separate people from the love of Christ.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- For All the Saints
- Around Your Throne

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 257,**  
The Communion of Saints  
*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 Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

**Say:** It is sometimes hard to imagine that God created us all to be Saints. Sometimes we think that the Saints did not have struggles and challenges, but they were human beings just like us. In God's Word today, we will

hear an invitation to be God’s beloved children, so that his grace can help us to live holy lives.



**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:** These words of Saint Paul, originally addressed to the Church at Rome, also comprise an invitation issued to us at our Baptism. After presenting a lighted candle the priest says, “...walk always as children of the light... When the Lord comes, may they go out to meet him with all the saints in the Heavenly kingdom” (Rite of Baptism, 64). God calls all of us to be Saints.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about Saints—both living and dead.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 258,**  
The Church Community  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 517

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs as an introduction to the Scripture passage.

**Ask** your child to tell you the group that she/he felt most oneness with. Share with your child the group where you experienced the greatest sense of oneness.



**Ask** your child to find Acts 2:42-47 in your family Bible and then proclaim the Scripture.

**Turn to Page 259,**  
All the Faithful  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 519

**Invite** your child to silently read the text and to look for ways in which believers are united.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Review** the definitions of the words, **Communion of Saints**, **Heaven**, **Purgatory**, and **Hell**, presented in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 258.

**Ask** your child to explain which believers are honored on All Saints' Day. (all those who are with God in Heaven)

**Ask** which believers are prayed for on All Souls' Day. (those in Purgatory)

**Share** with your child someone in your family who has died that you consider a "Saint." Talk about the virtues and attitudes this person had that helped you to know God.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Life is all about choices. There are moments when we look back at decisions we have made and wonder how different things would be if we had not made a particular choice. Knowing the importance of those choices, how is it that we do not spend much time thinking about the ultimate choice we have been given—the choice of where we will spend eternity? If your child lives with the security and joy of knowing that God created her/him for an eternity of communion with him, this life will have meaning and purpose. Guiding him/her to make the choices that will help him/her accept this gift from God is your true purpose.*

**Turn to Page 260,**  
Charity and Prayer  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 521

**Encourage** your child to think about what charity and prayer have to do with the Communion of Saints as you cover the next two pages.

**Read** aloud the text in this section, alternating paragraphs with your child.

**On** a separate sheet of blank paper, ask your child to draw a triangle in the middle. At each point of the triangle, have her/him write the name of one of the three persons of the Holy Trinity. In the middle of the triangle, direct your child to draw a heart. Remind her/him that all love begins in the heart of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Look** up the Spiritual Works of Mercy on page 318 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section and discuss how these actions are the way we share God's loving presence in the world.

**Look** at the definitions for the Catholic Faith Words, **Corporal Works of Mercy** and **Spiritual Works of Mercy**, in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 261.

**Turn to Page 261,**  
Intercessory Prayer  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 523

**Have** your child silently read the information under "Intercessory Prayer."

**Brainstorm** people or causes that we include in intercessory prayers. (people who are sick, Church and government leaders, family and friends, unity in the Church)

**Have** your child underline the different ways to pray that are mentioned in the reading.

**Ask:** What way to pray feels most comfortable for you?

**Share** your favorite way to pray. Emphasize your need to pray to your child. He/she might not see you do so and assume that you do not pray.

**Read** aloud the two paragraphs under “Personal Prayer.”

**Ask** your child to explain reflection in their own words.

## Activity

**Have** your child work on the Connect Your Faith activity. Give your child a blank index card. List the people you know who have died on one side of the card. Ask your child to draw a sacred image on the other side. Place the card in his/her room as a reminder to pray for these people that you love.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Ask:** What does the word intercede mean? (to come between two parties)

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Read** the bold text in each block of the “Praying for Others” chart. Ask your child to read the explanatory copy for each suggestion.

★ **Complete** the gold-star activity. Ask your child to fill in the lines in the book. You complete the exercise on a piece of paper and then share your responses.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Mary Faustina Kowalska.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family grow in trust of Jesus?

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



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# Christian Unity

## 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:

- Appreciate Jesus' desire for unity among his believers
- Examine the Catholic Church's desire to bring all Christians together in unity
- Explore the Protestant Reformation as a separation from the Church led by Martin Luther
- Recognize that the ecumenical movement looks for ways to help Christians work toward unity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Many communities celebrate Folk Festivals or Nationality Days. During those celebrations, we honor and appreciate the distinctions that make that culture or people unique. At the same time, we recognize that, as diverse as we are, we are one in our humanity. The oneness that Christ desired for his People has been thwarted throughout the centuries for various reasons. In a world that is so diverse, it is important for all Christians to remember that, through our Baptism, we are one—one in Christ Jesus. Helping your child to appreciate the oneness of all Christians and, yet, at the same time, teaching them to value the distinction of being a Catholic Christian is part of your mission as a Catholic parent.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- One Spirit, One Church
- They'll Know We Are Christians

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 267,**  
Christian Unity  
*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 his prayer in the garden on the night before he died, Jesus showed his concern regarding unity once he returned to the Father. Saint Paul echoed that concern regarding the growth of the Church.

 **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 tells his disciples of his great desire for them to be one. We believe that all baptized people are one because we belong to the Body of Christ, yet there are many divisions among Christians. It is our hope that all Christians will soon be one again.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about disunity among Christians.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 268,**  
Unity and Division  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 537

**Ask** your child to read the introduction to the lesson.

**Proclaim** the Scripture passage.

**Ask:** Where are you mentioned in this Scripture passage? (*those who will believe in me, meaning Jesus' followers*)



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Read** the last paragraph as a summary of Jesus' prayer for unity.

**Ask:** Why do you think unity was so important to Jesus?

**Turn to Page 269,**  
The Story Continues  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 539

**Read** the introductory text aloud. Then have your child silently read the two paragraphs under "More Divisions." Have them identify the two major divisions that occurred in the Church. Ask him/her to name and describe the two divisions.

**Draw** attention to the highlighted words, **schism** and **Protestant Reformation**, and review their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Turn to Page 270,**  
New Hope  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 541

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Ask** your child to give examples of Protestant communities. (Possible responses: Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Baptist, and Methodist)  
Ask them to tell you who among your friends and relatives belong to Protestant denominations.

**Have** your child read aloud the next two paragraphs. Tell your child to read the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, **ecumenism**.

**Ask:** How can you be respectful of other people's beliefs?

**Turn to Page 271,**  
Ecumenism Today  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 543

**Tell** your child to underline the main idea in each paragraph as he/she follows along with the reading in the book.

**Read** aloud the first paragraph. Ask your child to point to the issues that were addressed by the Second Vatican Council.

**Read** aloud the second paragraph. Have your child identify the steps toward unity outlined by the bishops. (talking, praying, and serving together)

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *While ecumenism has been a great gift to the Church in the past decades, there is a subtle danger when we think, "We are all Christians, so there must not be too much of a difference among us." Each Christian denomination has its own creed, its own set of beliefs. While many of our beliefs we hold in common, there are sometimes small—sometimes big—differences. That is why it's critical to not only know, but be able to articulate, your Catholic faith so that you can first share it with your children and then respectively with your neighbor.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Read** aloud the introduction.

**Have** your child read the bold print in the "Steps to Unity" chart and you respond with the information in the second column. Pause after reading each step and its accompanying example.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Charles Borromeo.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family try to learn and understand about beliefs that are different than yours?

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



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# A New Creation

## Preparation for the Session

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

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Within your lifespan, how many times have you heard the end of the world was imminent? Some person or group is always calling us to pay attention for the time is near. Life is short. Time is limited. What is really important? Whether we are reflecting on our own death or the end of the world, Christians do so with joy. We trust that the God of love—who created us in love—wants us to live in response to his love, so that someday we will live in the fullness of his love. Meditate on that truth and live each day in your family as if it were your last on Earth.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- Lord of All Hopefulness

## 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 the Nicene Creed, we pray, “I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” Until the new world arrives, we strive to live holy lives as “we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ” (*Roman Missal*).

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define apocalyptic literature as a type of writing that claims to reveal what humans cannot see
- Recognize that God will triumph over evil when Christ comes again in glory
- Explore the resurrection of the body and life everlasting as being central tenets of the Catholic faith
- Reflect on the things that can help deepen our trust in God's promise of eternal life, like virtues, the Sacraments, and the Church

**Turn to Page 277,**  
A New Creation  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 555



**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:** Hope is the virtue that trusts God will act on our behalf. It is not wishful thinking, but the sure conviction that God will keep his promise of a new creation where we will enjoy happiness with him forever.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about the end of our lives.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 278,**  
The Triumph of Good  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 557

**Read** aloud the first paragraph. Discuss the difference between literal and symbolic language. Ask your child to give you examples of each.

**Have** your child read aloud the rest of the text. Stop at the highlighted word, **apocalyptic literature**, and have them read the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Ask:** How does apocalyptic literature differ from most books that you have read? *(It uses numbers and symbols to help convey a message.)*

**Ask** the children why the Holy Spirit inspired John to write the Book of Revelation. *(to encourage Christians in a time of persecution)*



**Have** your child locate Revelation 21:1-4 in your Bible. Read the Scripture passage.

**Ask:** What is God’s message for us today?

**Listen** to the Song, “New Jerusalem,” on the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 22. You can find the lyrics at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com). Discuss the lyrics and ask your child to tell you what he/she understands the image of the New Jerusalem to mean.

**Turn to Page 279,**  
Unveiling the Future  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 559

**Read** aloud all three paragraphs. Tell your child to follow along in the book as you read. Then use the “Key to Revelation” and reread the text. Discuss the images mentioned.

**Invite** your child to share ideas about why the symbols were used. (The symbols were important because those who might want to harm Christians would not understand the meaning of the book, but Christians facing persecution would understand its meaning.) Sacred Scripture is not always easy for us to understand the first time we read it. Go to page 304 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book and read "How to Better Understand Scripture."

**Discuss** the difference between the Bible and a history book.

## Activity

**On** a separate sheet of paper ask your child to write a list of the evils in the world that she/he would like God to conquer.

**Parents, Consider This:** *There are some news stories we read or news reports we hear that make us wonder, "What is this world coming to?" Or, we learn of places in the world where people are suffering and dying because of natural disasters or disease and we might wonder, "How can this be?" We may even ask what kind of world are we creating and leaving for our children and grandchildren? All we can do is hope. Hope, however, is not a wish. It is a gift from God that helps us to trust that God can redeem all evil. It is a virtue that helps us trust that God has created us for life eternal and will offer us the grace to receive it.*

**Remind** your child that we believe God has the power to conquer all evil and that the time will come when God will defeat every evil.

**Alternate** reading aloud the paragraphs.

**Ask:** How does our belief in the Resurrection affect how you feel about the people we love who have died? How should it affect the way we live today?

**Remind** your child that the Resurrection is the foundation for all Christian living and future hope. We believe that our bodies will also rise to new life. While we do not know what form it will take, we will once again be body and soul.

**Look** at the illustration of the Resurrection. Talk about what the women must have felt like before they went to the tomb and after they left the tomb.

**Invite** your child to silently read the text.

**Tell** him/her to look for ideas and images of what the new creation will be like. Point out that the Church is the beginning of the New Jerusalem on Earth.

**Turn to Page 280,**  
Hope for the Future  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 561

**Turn to Page 281,**  
New Creation  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 563

**Read** the definitions of the words, **Resurrection** and **new creation**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Ask** your child what the “new Jerusalem” would look like here on Earth. What would be the indicators that evil had been conquered once and for all and that we were truly living in the Reign of God? Share what would make you most happy in this “new city.”

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Tell** your child that they may hear some people talk about the end of the world. They talk about destruction and pain. Catholics emphasize God’s desire for us to live with him forever. On this page you will be continuing to discuss our hope for the future.

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs.

**Discuss** the difference between ordinary hopes and the Christian hope of everlasting life.

**Have** your child read aloud the next three paragraphs.

**Discuss** with your child examples of how you both can practice the suggestions in your everyday lives.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint John the Evangelist.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss how your family follows Jesus as you live your daily lives.

## Activity

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

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



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