

The Mystery of God

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Examine the unique role of humans and the purpose of human intellect and reason
- Differentiate the ways we can come to know God
- Recognize that humans cannot fully understand God, so he remains a mystery until we know him completely in Heaven
- Recall Old Testament accounts showing God did not abandon his People and remained true to his promise to save them
- Identify that God planned from the beginning to give his only Son to reconcile all of creation to himself
- Examine fundamental beliefs about God: he is eternal, he is truth, and he is love
- Reflect on the attributes of God

Parents, Consider This: *One of the great gifts of young children is their sense of wonder and awe. Everything is new to them. They are seeing things for the first time, and their response is often amazement. Over time, we tend to become jaded, and so many things that once were “miraculous” become mundane. As you begin Chapter 1 of **Alive in Christ**, you and your daughter/son will be contemplating the mystery of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. You will be reminded once again that you are God’s creation, made in his image. You will hear the truth that is the joy of the Gospel—you were created in love and then saved by love. If you and your child approach this mystery with childlike hearts, you will be overwhelmed with wonder and awe. That is the appropriate response in the presence of a miracle!*

Children at This Age: *Two big questions in the minds of adolescents are “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” We find beautiful answers to those questions in our Catholic faith, which can support young people as they develop in their identity. Your child is beginning to see that life is not always an either-or proposition. This can be frightening as he/she realizes some childhood beliefs may require reexamination. Seventh-graders are constantly being pressured to take sides on issues such as fashion and pop culture. In our polarized culture, religion, too, can be a contentious issue for them.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 51,
The Mystery of God

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Say: Today’s Scripture invites us to listen for God’s plan for all of creation. Discovering God’s plan for all things leads to a life of meaning and purpose.



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

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

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

Ask: When you look at something you have never seen before, do you wonder about its purpose? How important do you think it might be to know the purpose of something?

Discuss these questions together.

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

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

- What was it like at the first moment of creation? (This answer invites the imagination, but it is important to include that God’s goodness gives birth to all things.)
- How did we get here, and why we are here? (While Scripture does not address from a scientific perspective how creation happened, Scripture does teach us that all creation exists to give glory to God by living out our created natures.)

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

Turn to Page 52,
Getting Started

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions and complete the activity on page 52. When he/she is finished, share two things you have learned about God through the Bible. Ask your child to share two of his/her thoughts.

Turn to Page 53

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

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have your child complete the activity in the book. You can complete this activity on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with each other one moment you were conscious of the gift of creation. Discuss whether you remembered to give God thanks.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 54–59. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 59,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 60

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

Parents, Consider This: *As you begin the Our Catholic Life section of this chapter, you will be reading about the prayer of adoration. Your child is asked to consider the connection between adoring God and knowing our place as his creatures—the real meaning of humility. Forgetting our place in the order of creation causes so much disorder. When we think we can control things, or we think that we can create our own happiness, or we try to control others, we go down empty pathways. The picture on page 60 calls attention to our Catholic practice of being present before Jesus in the Eucharist, reserved in the Tabernacle or exposed in the*

monstrance, as shown in the picture. The next time you pass by a Catholic church, take a few minutes to stop in and show your adoration. Honoring God as the all-powerful and almighty will help you to know that you are not! And in that you will find peace.

Ask: What happens in the world when a person begins to believe that they are a “god”? (Share some examples like Hitler or Saddam Hussein.)

Say: Everything becomes disordered and power becomes destructive. When we sin, our lives and the lives of others become disordered. That is why it is so important to understand that we are just creatures and that God is the Creator. Praying prayers of adoration helps us to remember that. Look at the picture on the page. Do you know what is happening there? (A young man is in front of a monstrance—a special sacred container that displays the Eucharist so that we can see it. You can see the Host in the middle of the circle.) The boy is sitting in silence, adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Say: Now let’s read about Mary, the Mother of Jesus and how she received the title of Our Lady of Fatima.

Read aloud People of Faith.

Say: We have learned about adoration, especially the practice of sitting quietly in front of Jesus in the Eucharist. Mary also reminds us that her Son, Jesus, should be the center of our lives. So now, look at the Identify activity. We are both going to do this activity and then talk about it.

Once you have both thought of three people and how they reflect the attributes of God (see page 59 for the list), share with each other who those people are.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Faith on Page 387.



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

The Word of God in Sacred Scripture

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explain Divine Inspiration as God's direction and guidance of the human writers of Scripture
- Contrast the content of the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Recognize the literary forms contained in the Bible
- Analyze the literal sense and spiritual sense of Scripture
- Distinguish the different major emphases presented by the four Evangelists in their respective Gospels
- Identify the development of the Gospels from the Person of Jesus to the written Word
- Recognize that God's "voice" in the proclamation of Scripture and our response comprise a dialogue
- Examine the role of conscience in our lives

Parents, Consider This: *Communication is essential in any relationship. The better you become at listening, the more able you are to respond with understanding. Communication will be essential in your relationship with your child as he/she enters adolescence and as new challenges face both your child and you. The same is true in our relationship with God. Scripture is one of the ways we believe we can hear God's voice. Developing the skill of listening to God's Word and MAKING time to give to him is essential in growing deeper in relationship with God.*

Children at This Age: *At this age, young people are beginning to be concerned about establishing friendships that run deeper than those they had with the playmates of their childhood. They want to be able to share their thoughts and feelings with their friends. They want to be understood by you. Because you will be learning about people of faith in the past, your child will need help in making the connection between his/her life and the lives of those who have gone before us. Help your son/daughter understand how the decisions, good and bad, of past generations affect the world we live in today.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 63,
The Word of God in
Sacred Scripture

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Say: God’s Word is at the heart of our faith. It is alive; it is light on our journey to God; it shows us how to live; it brings us joy. Let’s listen as God speaks to us through Sacred Scripture.



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

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

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

Say: God reveals himself to us through Sacred Scripture. His Word “lights our paths” and strengthens us to make better choices.

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

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

- How is the Word of God living? (*It not only recounts how God worked in the past, but also how he will work in our lives today.*)
- How can you learn more about God? (*by reading his Word and books that help us to understand Scripture (commentaries); also through prayer, spiritual reading, and the Sacraments*)

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

Turn to Page 64,
Getting Started

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask your child to complete the chart. Afterwards, talk about what he/she has written and prompt some additional people, places, or events that either of you might know.

Turn to Page 65

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

Direct your child to find the first and the third Scripture passages and answer the questions in the book. You find the second reference and record your thoughts on a separate piece of paper. Remind your child that the word (e.g., Hebrews) is the name of the book. The first number (4) is the chapter, and the third number (12) is the beginning verse. If there is another number, it marks the end of the verses that you are to read. When you both are finished, discuss your answers.

Say: This week you are going to learn new things about the Word of God. I hope that they will help you understand the importance of listening for God's voice in your life.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 66–71. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 71,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 72

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

Parents, Consider This: *In the Our Catholic Life text, your child will be invited to consider that the Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom helps us to discover God's purpose and plan for our life. At this stage of development, your child is beginning to wonder about this very thing. Perhaps changing your normal conversation from “What do you want to do with your life?” to “What do you think God's plan is for you?” will help both of you remember that true happiness comes from living out the will of God.*

Open your Bible to the book of Psalms and read Psalm 139:1–6. Ask your child to tell you what he/she thinks the writer of this Psalm meant. Share with your child what it means to you that God knows you more intimately than any person could.

Say: Saint Matthew was one of Jesus’ Apostles. A lot of what we know about Jesus comes from the Gospel of Matthew.

Direct your child to read aloud the brief story of Matthew in the People of Faith box. Ask your child to share a time when other people may have misjudged her/him. Discuss what you do when something like that happens. Connect this conversation back to Psalm 139 and the point that God knows our innermost being.

Using Psalm 139 as a pattern, ask your child to write a six-line psalm, on a separate sheet of paper, asking God for help in discovering his plan for him/her. On another sheet of paper, write your own six-line psalm asking God for the help your child needs to discover God’s plan for him/her. Share your psalms with one another. You may want to post your psalms in a place where you will both be reminded to pray or reflect on them often.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Faith on Page 387.



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Jesus, Sign of God's Love

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explain that Jesus is the perfect Revelation of God the Father
- Understand that God's new covenant is made present in the world through the Eucharist
- Describe how being baptized in Christ gives us a share in his Divine life as sisters and brothers of Christ
- Explore the ways Jesus points us to the coming of God's heavenly Kingdom on Earth
- Define natural moral law
- Recognize that God's revealed law in the Ten Commandments directs us to live in right relationship with him and with one another

Parents, Consider This: *Your child has been on a search for love since she/he was born. You were the first love that she/he knew. And in some ways you might believe that no one will ever love your child like you do. But your love is not enough. That longing for love is only satisfied in God's love for us and our love for God. Jesus is the perfect sign of that love. As your child learns more about Jesus' relationship with his Father, remind your daughter/son that like God's love, your love for her/him is unconditional and sacrificial.*

Children at This Age: *At this age, adolescent development includes the shift from thinking of themselves based upon their role within your family (son, daughter, grandchild) to identifying themselves in more independent ways (student, soccer player, musician). Your child is learning new ways to show love and respect for the adult members of your family. While your child still wants to know he/she is loved, your son/daughter is experimenting with new ways to express that love (a pat on the back instead of a hug). The first experiences used by young people to understand the relationship of Jesus and the Father is usually their own relationships with their parents or guardians. This is why the Church calls you the first and most important teacher of the faith. The way you show and express love is a glimpse into the heart of God.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 75,
Jesus, Sign of God's Love

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Explain that God reveals himself through the works of creation, his Word, and his Son, Jesus.

Say: John the Evangelist tells us that “God so loved the world he sent his only Son...” for our salvation. Listen to how God describes his Son in today’s Scripture passage.



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

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

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

Say: God made a promise to his People; he fulfilled this promise when he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from sin and death.

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

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

- What promise did God fulfill in Jesus? *(the promise to save us from sin and restore eternal life)*
- How would God define love? *(God’s best definition of love came in the living example of his Son, Jesus.)*

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

Turn to Page 76,
Getting Started

Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph. Complete the activity together. Think of an example you can share with your child. Discuss your answers. Remind your daughter/son that knowing God's love for you personally and how to respond in turn is a foundation for every choice we make as Christians.

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

Turn to Page 77

Complete the activity on this page. This is a powerful activity and will prompt a great conversation. Working separately, each of you will rank the definitions for *love* (list yours on a separate sheet of paper). Each of you should then share your order and explain why you ranked them that way.

Now, write your definitions for *love* and don't forget to name a way you have witnessed that love in your life. Share with each other.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 78–83. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 83,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 84

Read and review the Our Catholic Life text together. Share what you do to make sure your relationship with your best friend continues to be a priority for you. Ask your child how important she/he thinks it is to stay connected to God right now? Tell him/her why you think it is important.

Move to the People of Faith box. Ask your child to silently read the story of Saint Maria Goretti.

Parents, Consider This: *There are many forces at work trying to form your child's conscience. Our culture, his/her friends, and the school community are all voices that he/she hears each day. Research tells us however that the voice that speaks the loudest to your child is yours! While that is a great comfort, it can also be a great challenge. How often do you "give voice" to the laws of God with your words or actions? While we rarely if ever teach our children to act against God's commands, we can find ways to be even more committed and intentional about teaching God's truth. The result will be a truly happy child who becomes an adult who lives a meaningful and joy-filled life.*

Read the People of Faith story yourself. Share your thoughts and questions about it. (The sin that the story alludes to is sexual intercourse.) Your child may have questions about Maria's mother's forgiveness of her murderer. Be honest in explaining how hard this would have been without God's grace and strength.

Ask your child to complete the Identify activity and then share a couple of his/her answers.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Faith on Page 387.



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God Is Trinity

Preparation for the Session

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

- Understand the need to trust in God's presence and look for guidance in his Word
- Recall that God the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit to help us find our way to him
- Discover how the Holy Spirit acts as Guide and Counselor for the Catholic Church
- Describe how the Persons of the Holy Trinity relate to one another and with humanity
- Explain how the love among the members of the Trinity is a model for human affection and bonds
- Explore how the Persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct yet share total union
- Discover how the nature of the Holy Trinity is the source of God's loving plan
- Define *grace* as God's free gift and sharing in his Divine life
- Examine how humans journey into deeper truth, wisdom, and love in relationship with God

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

Parents, Consider This: *The doctrine of the Trinity, one God in three Divine Persons, is difficult to grasp for all of us. It is a mystery that is known by faith. While your son/daughter at this age is a little more comfortable with this mystery than younger children, he/she might still struggle with conceptualizing how God can be one and yet three at the same time. In this chapter, you and your child will be contemplating the mystery of the Trinity. We can better understand the mystery of the Trinity in terms of our own relationships such as with family and friends. Discuss with your child the joys, challenges, and responsibilities that flow from those relationships. You will have the opportunity to ponder the mystery of the Trinity and how the love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have for each other demonstrates the love we should emulate in the relationships in our lives. Do not try too hard to explain this mystery but invite your child to wonder about the unfathomable and unconditional love God has for us.*

Children at This Age: *Your child is expanding her/his imagery of God. She/he is beginning to identify with God in different ways as she/he attempts to understand him more. At this age, young people still understand God primarily through the lens of their own lived experience, especially what they experience in their family life, their prayer life, and in the world around them. You have this awesome opportunity to teach your child about the Holy Trinity and how the love that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit share is a model for our own relationships.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 91,
God Is Trinity

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Explain that the desire deep inside every human heart is to know the truth about God.

Say: The Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—is a perfect communion of love. Because of our Baptism, you and all the members of the Church, past and present, are part of this love.



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

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

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

Say: While we cannot fully understand the breadth of God’s love, it is wondrous to reflect upon the truth that the God who is love, shares his very life and love with us.

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

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

- How is it possible that God’s love for his Son is in each of us? (Jesus’ mission was to reveal God’s love in every human heart. As we grow in our trust of Jesus’ presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit, we may come to know that love in a personal way for ourselves and more easily recognize God’s love for all people.)
- How much can we ever really understand God? (While we cannot ever fully understand God or his love for us, we can learn to relate to it through the loving relationships we experience with others, especially our family members.)

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

Turn to Page 92,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions and complete the activity on page 92. When he/she is finished, share one thing you know about each person of the Holy Trinity. Ask your child to share some of his/her answers.

Turn to Page 93

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

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete this activity on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with each other one thing you know to be true about God. Discuss an experience you have had with a person who you believe has a deep faith.

Ask: What do you think is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God more deeply?

Discuss briefly.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 94–99. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 99,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Invite your child to share what he/she can learn when looking to the Holy Trinity as a model for his/her own relationships with others and with God.

Turn to Page 100

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

Parents, Consider This: Your child is reminded that in making the Sign of the Cross, we are remembering that we were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Sign of the Cross is an act of dedicating ourselves to God. It is a plea that God might strengthen us for the work of loving and serving others. It reminds us that all blessings come from God, and that we should treat others with kindness in what we do, think, and say. While we cannot explain the Holy Trinity in a way the human brain can fully comprehend, we come to some understanding of the Trinity's love and grace within us as we live out the teachings we learn from Scripture and through the practices of the Church. Through these teachings, we strengthen our minds and hearts to live in love and for love. As we do this, our lives become a journey into deeper faith and truth. We grow in wisdom and in our ability to love unselfishly. We can then reflect the love, interest, and care God shows for us. The Sign of the Cross is a powerful symbol known universally. Each time we make the Sign of the Cross, we enter a little more deeply into the mystery of God's love.

Ask: How would you explain the sign of the Cross to someone who is not Catholic? (It is an action that symbolizes and reminds us of the Holy Trinity, three Divine Persons in one God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.)

Say: By making the sign of the Cross, we mark ourselves for Christ and remind ourselves to root our lives in God's love. Now let's read about Saint Frances of Rome and how she shared God's love and helped those in need.

Read aloud People of Faith.

Say: Saint Frances loved the Roman people so much that she stepped out of the social boundaries of the time to help those in need. She is a good example for us on how we can show and share God's love through our care for others, especially for those who are most in need.

Point out the Explain activity.

Say: We are going to work on this activity separately and then come back together and talk about it.

Once you have both thought of a recent problem and how you resolved it, share how you could see God's care for you in the solution to your problem.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Hope on Page 387.



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Jesus, Word of God

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Recognize that Jesus was fully human and fully Divine at the same time
- Define the Incarnation as the truth that the Son of God took on a human nature
- Understand that through the Incarnation, God the Father speaks directly to us through his Son
- Describe the Holy Spirit's role in the Annunciation
- Identify Mary as the first and most faithful disciple and a model for us
- Recognize that Jesus' miracles revealed God's power, and they were often a response to his compassion, pity, and thirst for justice
- Identify passages in Scripture that reveal the two natures of Jesus

Parents, Consider This: *Your son/daughter is at an age when he or she probably has a low tolerance for hypocrisy in others. Your child may be troubled when she/he sees someone say one thing and do another. Young people are especially sensitive when they witness this type of behavior in leaders and in adults who are important in their lives. As you begin Chapter 5 of **Alive in Christ**, you and your child will be contemplating how God is God in both Word and deed. This culminates in the person of Jesus Christ, the fullness of God's Revelation. Jesus was a man who perfectly followed his convictions, and perfectly lived what he taught as well as what he preached in the Sermon on the Mount. We live in a time when our children especially need models of integrity. Within the discussions in this chapter, you can help your child know Jesus, the Son of God, and a Person of the highest integrity; there is no better example for us to trust and follow. Jesus whose name means "God saves" truly saves each of us.*

Children at This Age: *Younger adolescents often do not have an integrated sense of who they are. They might feel like they are one person to their families, another to their friends at school, and so on. In the process of maturing, they try to discover who they are for themselves. Self-definition is a key developmental need at this age. Your son/daughter is very conscious of what others think of him/her; he/she may be reluctant to share his/her true feelings with anyone, unless he/she feels complete trust in that person. Help your child see that living exclusively within one core group can lead to a narrow sense of what is important and limited ways of coping with tough times. Encourage her/him to branch out and connect with multiple groups.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 103,
Jesus, Word of God

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Explain that the psalmist’s prayer causes us to pause and ask, “What’s in a name?” Jesus, the “eternal Word,” came among us and changed our relationship with God.

Say: Today’s Scripture tells us that God wants us to be a living sign of his Word to others. Let’s listen to what Saint Paul teaches about the name of Jesus.



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

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

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

Say: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the living Word, and God’s greatest gift to us. We should do our best to be a sign to others of God’s never-ending love.

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

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

- What does it mean to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? (It means we acknowledge or declare that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God and Lord of our life.)
- How do you really come to have a relationship with Jesus? (While there is no one sole way to develop such a relationship, a heart that is open to prayer and serving others will often lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus.)

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

Turn to Page 104,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Have your child read aloud the directions for completing the Son of God chart on page 104. Work together to come up with at least one example of Jesus' humanity and his divinity for each stage of his life.

Turn to Page 105

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

Invite your child to silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Ask him/her to complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with one another how you describe who Jesus is and what his name conveys to you. Discuss ways the meaning of the name of Jesus has grown or changed as you have matured.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 106–111. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 111,
In Summary

When you return, review the "In Summary/Catholics Believe" section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 112

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

Parents, Consider This: *The Our Catholic Life text is about the many titles of Christ and how the followers of Jesus used these different names to show their understanding of who he was and what his presence meant to them. The Church has used different titles of Jesus throughout her history and in various prayers. Jesus responds to us with the same love and grace no matter which name we use to call on him. However, we often find one or another that we are more comfortable using in our own prayers. Consider addressing Jesus in a new way in your family prayer.*

Ask your child to share what name he/she calls Jesus by most often in his/her own prayers.

Say: Remember that prayer is a source of strength that we can use to help us live our faith in the everyday moments as well as in the difficult times. It also helps to remember all the models of faith who came before us and remained faithful even when their beliefs were not popular.

Direct your child to read aloud the brief story on Saints Maria, Rosa, and Mary Zhao who gave up their lives for the faith.

Move on to the Describe activity.

Say: We learned about the many names by which we address Jesus. Now, write down your name and three statements that are unique to you and show ways you are living a Christian life. We're both going to do this activity, and then we'll share our answers. After that, we'll try to help each other come up with one additional way we might live as a Christian.



Conclude the session by praying the Act of Hope on Page 387.

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

Holy Spirit, Comforter and Guide

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explain why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as an Advocate
- Identify the Church as the Body of Christ
- Recognize that the members of the Church serve as the hands and feet of Jesus
- Examine the Holy Spirit as the source of gifts and talents
- Identify the Holy Spirit as the Comforter
- Understand why we call on the Saints to intercede for us
- Recognize the relationship between prayer and spiritual growth
- Explore how the Holy Spirit guides us through others, Sacred Tradition, and prayer

Parents, Consider This: *One thing that distinguishes a person of faith is the ability to recognize God's power and presence in the challenges, decisions, and difficulties of life. Often a person of faith will express how he or she invited God to help during this challenging time. Christians hold the belief that the same Holy Spirit present at Pentecost with the frightened disciples of Jesus following his Death is present to us today when we open our hearts and minds to him. The Holy Spirit is perhaps the most mysterious of the three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity, which is why we tend to make use of our traditional symbols and signs (i.e., dove, wind, and fire) to assist us in understanding or explaining the Holy Spirit. As you cover this chapter with your son or daughter, you will be reminded that we are never alone. Even in what may seem the most difficult or lonely times in our lives, the Holy Spirit comforts us, strengthens us, and supports us every moment. We need only to accept this gift that we might find in the spiritual garden of prayer we cultivate, as we raise our hearts and minds to God and ask the Holy Spirit to fill our lives with wisdom, strength, and grace.*

Children at This Age: *It is important that children this age find and learn to identify with appropriate role models. Adolescents are often attracted to role models who seem independent of or outside of established societal norms and traditional authority figures. Some seventh-graders also admire those with the capacity to speak out against the status quo. They may feel someone like that would understand them better than others. You can help your son/daughter find individuals that they can relate to who stand up for the vulnerable, the poor, and those who seek justice. If their respect for counter-cultural role models is appropriately challenged, it can foster an appreciation for Jesus, the ultimate counter cultural witness and the ultimate teacher of unselfish love.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 115,
Holy Spirit,
Comforter and Guide

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Say: God the Father is with us and helps to guide us every day through his gifts to us—God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us to help us to live according to his Father’s will.



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

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

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

Say: God the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as his everlasting love, to help us on our faith journey and in our daily lives.

Ask: What difference does it make in your life to know that God is always with you to lead you back to him for all eternity?

Discuss the question.

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

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

- What keeps you going when things are very difficult? (This might be a very personal answer such as a trusted friend or family member, the inspiration of a specific hero, the practice of a virtue like courage, or a practice of faith like prayer.)
- What role does the Holy Spirit have in your life? (Many of us need to be taught to ask the Holy Spirit to help us. While the Holy Spirit is always with us, we are strengthened by awareness of his presence in our heart and mind.)

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

Turn to Page 116,
Getting Started

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph.

Read the directions for the Holy Spirit web on page 116 and ask your daughter/son to write in her/his explanations. When your child is finished, invite him/her to share what he/she wrote. If you have any additional ideas, add them to the web.

Turn to Page 117

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

Remind your son/daughter about God's ever-present love for us and the role of the Holy Spirit as our Comforter and Guide.

Explain the instructions for the Write activity. Have your child complete the activity in the book, while you complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with each other a time you felt alone and how God filled the empty space of loneliness in your heart.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 118–123. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 123,
In Summary

When you return, review the "In Summary/Catholics Believe" section. Alternate reading the copy with your child. Ask your daughter/son to identify any times when she/he recognized that the Holy Spirit was acting as an Advocate for her/him.

Turn to Page 124

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

Parents, Consider This: *At the time of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers when they must have felt extremely alone and afraid. They were able to gain comfort, strength, and courage from him. Just like the early followers of Jesus, when we pray to the Holy Spirit, we can grow in strength and wisdom, and be comforted. We will also be more equipped to lead the life of love Jesus wants for us. Your child is asked to pray to the Holy Spirit the next time he or she is faced with a difficult decision or a hard choice. When we pray to the Holy Spirit, we can pray with words from the liturgy of the Church or use our own words. So often the power of the Holy Spirit is unleashed in us when we take the time to be quiet and listen to him. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide and work in your heart. There will be no more impactful teaching for your child than to see the example of prayer and trust in the Holy Spirit that is evident in your life.*

Ask: Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to help you in challenging times? *(Share some examples from your own experiences.)*

Read aloud the People of Faith story on Saint Rafqa.

Say: Saint Rafqa was a holy woman who devoted herself to prayer. On the Feast of the Holy Rosary in 1885, she prayed that she might share Christ's sufferings. She became blind and crippled. Saint Rafqa shows us the power of prayer in both her suffering and in her final prayer that her sight would be restored just before her death.

Point out the Consider activity on this page. Invite your child to think of a favorite movie in which the main character drastically changed, and try to imagine why the change took place in that character. Once you have both come up with a movie and character, share your thoughts. Discuss who supported this character and how that may have helped him/her. Now, share how someone has supported each of you in a difficult time.

Remind your child that amazing things can happen to us when we open our heart and invite the Holy Spirit in, especially when difficult choices or changes have to be made.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Hope on Page 387.



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

The Way

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explore the understanding of the fullness of human potential
- Explain that the Son of God became man to show us how to live and to share his divinity with us
- Explain that Jesus is the Substantial Image of the Father because he is a visible image of the true nature of God
- Explore the ways that Jesus' actions demonstrate God's love for us
- Examine the behaviors and dispositions of discipleship that are rooted in the life of Christ
- Identify fullness of life as becoming the people God created us to be

Parents, Consider This: *From the moment your child was conceived, you began dreaming about a special life for her/him. Now that your child is an adolescent, she/he has likely begun dreaming about her/his own life—what will make her/him happy, what she/he will be as an adult. This chapter reminds us that God has been dreaming about your child and who he created her/him to be before either one of you. God knit your daughter/son in your womb with a plan and a purpose. Your greatest responsibility and privilege as a parent is to help your child walk this sacred journey of discovery.*

Children at This Age: *Most likely, your child has begun to notice how he/she is developing at different paces and in different ways from his/her peers. Looking at pictures of you and other aunts and uncles at a similar age will help your son/daughter to trust the natural process of growth that is part of God's plan. The simpler ambitions of childhood are being reevaluated as your son/daughter learns about his/her own gifts and interests. "What do you want to be when you grow up?" is suddenly a more complex question than it once was. Encourage your child to look at the future through another lens: "What do you think God imagined for you?" Your child was created by God to be a gift to others. Help him/her discover how he/she can be a gift from God to the world.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 131,
The Way

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Say: We know God more perfectly through Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. While Jesus offers us the perfect image of God (so shows us what God is like), he also offers us a way to live fully as human beings (shows us what God imagined and made human beings capable of).



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

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

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

Say: God gave us Jesus, his Son, the most wondrous gift. Jesus restores our relationship with the Father and shows us how to live in right relationship with God and our neighbor.

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

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

- How is Jesus true God and true man? (*Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, chose to become human. He is the Son of God who took on human flesh to redeem us from sin and show us the way to the Father. He has two natures: fully human but also fully Divine.*)
- What does Jesus being fully human mean for how we live? (*Because Jesus was fully human, he understands the things we go through in life. He is the perfect example of how we should live and what we should strive to be.*)

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

Turn to Page 132,
Getting Started

Read aloud the opening paragraph.

Have your child read the directions and complete the chart on page 132. When she/he is finished, invite her/him to share what she/he wrote or drew.

Tell your son/daughter that this exercise was set up to get a feel for what he/she thought or already knew. The chapter content will help him/her learn more about Jesus.

Turn to Page 133

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

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. While he/she is working in his/her book, you should complete the activity on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, discuss your thoughts with one another.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 134–139. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 139,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 140

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

Invite her/him to point out a sign of discipleship she/he sees in you. Tell her/him what signs of discipleship you see in her/him.

Have your child silently read the story of Maximillian Kolbe in the People of Faith box.

Parents, Consider This: *Saint Maximillian Kolbe saved the life of a man with a family by offering to take his place when the Nazi's decided to starve some of the prisoners to death. His devotion to being a disciple of Christ is seen in this action as well as in his earlier work to defend the Church and her members. Sometimes sacrifice is the consequence of truly knowing Jesus. It is not enough to simply know about Jesus. We can truly get to know him better through an intentional choice to pray, to receive the Sacraments, and to be formed by God's Word.*

Ask your child what he/she thinks motivated Maximillian to offer up his life for another prisoner.

Point out the Examine activity. Work on it together.

Discuss with your child one thing you each can do in the next month to deepen your relationship with Jesus. Make a commitment to check in with each other often to see if you are being faithful to your promise.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Love on Page 387.



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Model of Wisdom

Preparation for the Session

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

Parents, Consider This: *Some of our greatest fears for our children stem from concerns about their potential for making poor choices. With the countless voices in the world competing for their attention, that's understandable. Some of the "voices" or influences we recognize, but others are so subtle we may not even be aware of them. There is hope! Research tells us that the voice your child listens to above all others is yours. In this chapter, you and your child will focus on God as the source of all wisdom; allow this language to begin or deepen your conversations about good choices.*

Children at This Age: *At this age, your child may be beginning to question principles and beliefs she/he has long held as given truth. This provides you with a wonderful opportunity to help your son/daughter review and re-think childhood understandings. Increasingly, he/she will see the differences between the values of the Gospel and some of the values reflected in popular culture. At times, he/she may engage in a serious internal struggle between a desire to endorse the negative or sinful values of some of his/her peers and a desire to do what is right. Help your child see that the message Jesus taught about such things as wealth, power, fame, status, and physical pleasure still applies today.*

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

- Illustrate ways that Jesus challenged the commonly accepted understandings of his time
- Explain why Jesus used parables to teach
- Relate Jesus' use of parables with his proclamation of the coming of God's Kingdom
- Explore some of the major teachings of the Sermon on the Mount
- Describe the attitudes and actions in the world that contradict the teachings of Christ
- Explain how the Beatitudes offer us the path to a life of happiness and peace
- Relate how being obsessed with material things keeps us from living the real values of God's Kingdom

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 143,
Model of Wisdom

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Explain that this prayer helps us reflect on what wisdom is, particularly God’s wisdom.

Say: Let’s listen to God’s Word and see how Jesus seeks wisdom and shows wisdom.



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

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

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

Say: God is our ultimate source of wisdom and guidance.

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

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

- How does knowing God’s plan help us to be happy? (God has a plan when he creates us, so when we live as he “designed” us, we are able to live to our fullest potential. This usually makes us happy, and allows us to become a gift to the world.)

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

Turn to Page 144,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Direct your child to complete the chart. Point out the example next to the letter I. Help your son/daughter with letters that seem to present more of a challenge.

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

Turn to Page 145

Ask your child to read the instructions at the top of the page. While he/she is working on the activity in the book, answer the questions on a separate piece of paper. When you are both finished, share your answers with each other.

PART 2: Discover

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

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 151,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to write one thing about each point that she/he would share with a friend.

Turn to Page 152

Read aloud the Our Catholic Life text.

Give your child an index card. Have her/him write the steps to making a good decision as bullet points on the card. Ask your daughter/son to place the card in her/his room in a visible place.

Ask: When have you relied on God’s wisdom to help you make a decision?

Have your child silently read about Saint Gerard Majella.

Parents, Consider This: *Saint Gerard Majella carried in his pocket a note that read: “Here the will of God is done.” Believing that living God’s will is your purpose and then seeking God’s will in your life are important for a strong spiritual life. You cannot simply hope that your child learns and follows this belief. You must help him/her build a strong spiritual foundation by your constant witness. Encourage your child to create a banner on the computer with the words of Saint Gerard, and place it somewhere visible in your home so that all may read and remember these words of wisdom.*

Read together the Identify questions and discuss your answers.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Love on Page 387.



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

Christ Our Savior

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Examine how sin and suffering came into the world
- Explore God's faithfulness in sending leaders and prophets to guide his People back to him
- Identify Jesus' saving action as the only means by which we are saved from Original Sin and personal sin
- Compare and contrast Jesus, the new Adam, with the first Adam
- Identify the Paschal Mystery as Christ's work of Redemption
- Describe how the Church continues Jesus' saving actions

Parents, Consider This: *In a world that seems to primarily seek pleasure, it's important that your child knows that doing good sometimes involves sacrifice and suffering. When we choose to put someone else's needs above our own, we are acting in the name of love. God is with us and understands suffering because he became a human being who suffered incredibly in the name of love. Walk your child through the Stations of the Cross; help him/her relate Jesus' suffering back to his/her everyday life. Be sure to point out that Jesus' Resurrection teaches us that with God, there is an Easter Sunday for every Good Friday; even in the greatest darkness, God can bring light.*

Children at This Age: *As your child develops physically, intellectually, and emotionally, she/he may act out or do things that are foolish or destructive without really knowing or being able to explain the behavior. Children this age often navigate between the fear of standing out and the need to be noticed. As is true even for younger children, sometimes negative attention is perceived as better than no attention. Appreciating Jesus as our Savior requires that your child get in touch with her/his own need for salvation. She/he may need help in recognizing the things that cause her/his words and actions to "miss the mark," that lead to sin, and that influence her/him to be less than God imagined.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 155,
Christ Our Savior

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Explain that the opening prayer reminds us of our need for mercy and forgiveness.

Say: Let’s listen to God’s Word and see how Jesus’ sacrifice of love reconciled the world to God the Father.



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

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

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

Say: Saint Paul speaks a lot about reconciliation in the Letter to the Colossians. He addresses a central theme of Jesus’ mission and ministry: our redemption. Because God so loved the world, he sent his only Son and saved us from sin and death. This chapter will help us understand what it means to say that Jesus is our Savior.

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

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

- Why are we in need of reconciliation? (because of the rupture in relationship with God caused by Original Sin)
- What weakens our friendship with God? (Our own sinfulness and our lack of attention to our relationship with God weaken our relationship with him.)

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

Turn to Page 156,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph. Direct your child to complete the chart. When he/she is finished, invite him/her to share some of the explanations for the different titles or symbols for Jesus. Offer a few of your own answers.

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

Turn to Page 157

Read the introduction to the Identify activity.

Point out the three words: *forgive*, *save*, and *reconcile*. Have your child complete the second part of the activity in the book, while you complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with each other the experience you wrote about. Now go back to the first part of the activity and work together to write a definition that describes what it means to be redeemed by Jesus.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 158–163. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 163,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 164

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

Parents, Consider This: *Have you ever been so frustrated that you said something like this to your child: “Sorry doesn’t cut it!” One of the most subtle and important distinctions you teach your child is the difference between trusting in your forgiveness and at the same time not taking advantage of your love. The same is true in our relationship with God. We trust in his mercy and love. But God’s mercy and love is the response to our contrite hearts. Along with our sorrow, there must be some evidence of our effort to turn from our sin and change our hearts. One of the main places your daughter/son learns about contrition and forgiveness is through her/his relationship with you. She/he also needs you to teach that sin matters. Recognizing it and truly being sorry is the first step necessary in being reconciled to God and one another.*

Discuss the difference between repeatedly doing the same wrong thing and expecting forgiveness and truly trying to change your ways.

Read aloud the People of Faith text. Share with your child Saint Madeleine’s best-known words of advice: “Let us attach ourselves to God alone, and turn our eyes and our hopes to Him.” Ask your child to explain what he/she thinks this means.

Invite your daughter/son to read the instructions in the Recall and Write box. Both of you should complete the exercise on your own. Share your experiences with one another.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Love on Page 387.



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

Disciples in Community

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Recognize that Saint John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of Christ and led people to Jesus
- Analyze why the first disciples followed Jesus
- Describe the importance of the Apostles in continuing Jesus' ministry
- Discover sources that contain the official teachings of the Church
- Identify the characteristics of a disciple in the world today
- Recall the Church's rich and varied tradition of prayer

Parents, Consider This: *One of the great challenges of the Christian life is to learn to be our authentic self while also being a follower of Jesus. To the modern mind, this can sometimes seem to be a contradiction. We place a great deal of value on being an "individual" and on living as an "independent" person. It can be a little frightening to face how truly dependent we are on God. It may also be difficult for us to understand how God will help us to become the person we were meant to be if we are open to his grace. We can gain insight into how to be a disciple by learning how Jesus worked with the Apostles and their individual personalities. For example, Peter was, at times, impulsive, stubborn, indecisive, and cowardly, but Jesus chose him to lead his Church. It might be helpful to reflect upon how the impulsive and cowardly Peter could be transformed into the Peter who was the first and fearless leader of our Church. This transformation can give us hope in how God can help and strengthen us to become his disciple, a follower of Jesus, and also help us grow into our full individual human potential.*

Children at This Age: *Young people of this age often struggle with the conflicting values of establishing their own unique leadership styles or going along with the crowd. Among their peers, they might even perceive leadership as an aggressive behavior. Teaching and modeling gentle, virtue-driven leadership shows them other possible ways to lead besides dominating. Your child is watching what you do as well as what you say. Be an example of joyful living out of discipleship, and your son/daughter will have an opportunity to learn how to be a Christian leader in his/her own life.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 171,
Disciples in Community

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Together make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the first two lines of the leader prayer. Have your child read the Psalm verses. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Explain that our prayer today challenges us to be a disciple of Jesus.

Say: Jesus provides the perfect image of what it means to love God and spread the Good News of his love to others. In today’s reading, we are called to be an example to others of Jesus’ love.



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

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

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

Say: The disciples believed so strongly in Jesus and his message that they responded wholeheartedly to his command to spread the Good News of God’s Kingdom to everyone.

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

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

- What motivated the first disciples? *(This question invites your child to imagine the relationship the first disciples had with Jesus. You might discuss how Jesus made the disciples feel, his compassion, his miracles, and how he treated everyone—even those others rejected.)*
- Who can you help to follow Jesus? *(Answers might include friends, family, even strangers. Anyone can be touched by our authentic faith and love.)*

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

Turn to Page 172,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions and complete the chart on page 172. When he/she is finished, share a few things that take priority in your life and ask your child to share a few things that are a priority in his/her life.

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

Turn to Page 173

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, discuss what you and your child believe Jesus invited you to do as a second grader and what Jesus is inviting you to now.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 174–179. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 179,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 180

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

Parents, Consider This: In the Our Catholic Life section of this chapter, your child will be reading about how prayer connects us to God. The text invites your child to consider the difference between finding a place to pray and finding the quiet space inside of ourselves to simply “be” with God. This form of prayer is called contemplative prayer. Often this can be very challenging for active people. They may feel they are “doing nothing.” But this practice can help us listen deeply to how God speaks to us in a very personal way. If you choose to engage in contemplative prayer, you may want to start out trying it for short periods for time. People often find this can be an important and valuable spiritual practice. It requires learning to be still and listening more than speaking in our interaction with God.

Ask: How is the experience of contemplative prayer different from other types of prayer? (It is silent and intense, and our ability to do it can grow over time.)

Say: Now let’s read about Saint Theodore who committed her life to teaching, healing, and caring for the needy. Though she experienced many hardships and challenges, her faith did not waver.

Read aloud People of Faith.

Say: We have learned about contemplative prayer and about how Mother Theodore drew strength and helped others face fears by reminding them that with Jesus we should not fear. Let’s look at the List activity. We are both going to do this activity and then we’ll talk about it.

Once you have both thought of someone you personally know who is a true follower of Jesus, share some of the qualities you see in this person.

Conclude the session by praying the Evening Prayer on Page 386.



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

Christ Present Among Us

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explore the visible and spiritual aspects of the Church
- Examine how the Church is the Body of Christ
- Recognize that the Church is one because she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, and is born of one Baptism
- Discover the harmony that results as members of the Church live in communion with the Holy Spirit and one another
- Compare the diversity of gifts that allow the Church to help God manifest his Kingdom

Parents, Consider This: *There is a tension in life between being a unique and independent individual and belonging to groups and communities. We need both, an individual identity and a sense of belonging. In fact, belonging to healthy, life-giving groups, such as a loving family or a vibrant faith community, can help us to better form our identity, especially in early adolescence. To prepare to work through this lesson with your child, discuss with him/her various communities in his/her life, such as family, sports teams, social groups, and so on. Reflect together on these questions: What are the benefits of this group? What are the sacrifices that we make in order to belong? How would our life be different if we didn't belong to this group? Discuss the value of belonging to groups where we feel accepted and valued. Help your child to see there is a place for everyone, including him/her in God's Church.*

Children at This Age: *Belonging to a peer group is very important in the lives of adolescents. Yet, some young people may perceive their membership as a matter of conformity rather than a matter of contributing something new and distinct. Most of us want to belong to groups and to have friends who accept us without condition and will stand by us in tough times. An important part of growing in faith is to come to see our place in the Body of Christ here on Earth in the Christian community in which we live. Help your child to discover how her/his gifts can be used as a contribution to your local faith community.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 183,
Christ Present Among Us

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Remind your daughter/son that the Church has many members, but we are one Body in Christ.

Say: Let’s listen to God’s Word and see how our individual gifts and talents contribute to the Body of Christ.



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

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

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

Say: Every individual of the Church has unique gifts and talents given by the Holy Spirit that help them to work together united as the Body of Christ to love others in his name.

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

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

- What does being part of the Body of Christ require? *(To accept being part of the Body of Christ, we must first recognize that there are many different gifts. We each are given certain gifts to build up the Body. We need to value and share the gifts we are given as well as those contributed by others.)*
- How do people’s individual gifts and talents contribute to the Church? *(The Church is strengthened when we value and share the gifts we have. We also can appreciate other’s gifts and invite them to share them for the good of the Church and those the Church serves.)*

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

Turn to Page 184,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Have your child read aloud the directions for completing the Gifts and Talents web on page 184. When he/she is finished, share with one another two gifts and talents you each think the Church needs to continue Jesus' work.

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

Turn to Page 185

Invite your child to silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with one another two of the gifts or talents you each identify. Describe how you can use one of your gifts to help another person.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 186–191. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 191,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Ask: Which part of this lesson did you find most interesting?

Turn to Page 192

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

Parents, Consider This: *Sharing the gifts God gives us, especially with our faith community, is a wonderful way to help us feel a sense of belonging and part of a community of the Body of Christ. But knowing what our own gifts are is not always easy. In the Our Catholic Life section of this chapter, your child will be reading about some of the ways to share his/her unique personal gifts, perhaps simply by being a friend or mentoring a younger child. As your child sees you serve in your Church and community—feeding the hungry, serving in liturgical ministries, worshipping, and praying for others—they will come to understand we not only profess our faith, we live it. You may easily see the gifts and talents your child has but not every adolescent is aware of their own gifts. Affirm the gifts you see in your child and in the young people with whom you come in contact. Many people, especially young people, respond to the invitation to participate in helping others when asked but they may not feel confident to offer on their own. The next time you pray together with your child, ask God to show each of you more clearly what gifts you have to share. Perhaps find a way to serve in some capacity together. It will bring you closer to one another and will surely benefit the Body of Christ.*

Ask: What is one gift you can share in our community this week? *(Share some examples that you know your child would be good at, like offering child care services or shopping for food for a food pantry, or helping an elderly neighbor.)*

Say: Everything becomes more joyful when we give to others and serve in meaningful ways. Look at the young man in the picture. It looks like he is planting a tree. He probably enjoys and is gifted in caring for creation.

Remind your daughter/son that there are gifts that she/he simply may not have taken the time or made the effort to share yet. Explain that we should pray and ask God to help us know our own gifts and talents, and continue to think of ways we can share them in our home and with others in the community.

Read aloud the People of Faith story on Saint John Bosco and how he devoted his life to helping troubled children know Christ.

Say: God revealed Saint John Bosco's calling to him through his dreams.

Ask: How has God reached out to you?

Point out the Identify activity. Work on it together. Discuss the common themes and/or the messages that can be found in the hymns you added to your list.

Conclude the session by praying the Evening prayer on Page 386.



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

Source of Life

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explain that God helps us learn to use our free will to choose what is good
- Recognize that Jesus is the Mediator who brings us to salvation
- Express that faith and Baptism are necessary for salvation
- Describe how the Church is catholic, or universal
- Identify the process of purification we must go through before we can enter Heaven
- Explore the relationship between a deep prayer life and the call to live a life of love and truth

Parents, Consider This: *The gift of salvation comes through Jesus Christ. It is because of God's love for each of us that he sent his Son to redeem us. God left us the Church to continue to teach, guide, and help us. Your child is still learning what this means, and it may be daunting to him/her to think that he/she could spread the faith in any systematic and effective way. Help your child see that it is not his/her responsibility to proselytize about the faith (that is, verbally persuade someone into conversion). It is enough for your son/daughter to send a message from his/her everyday life about what he/she believes. Help your child connect the acts of service within your family and community with what he/she is learning about the teachings of our faith. In that way, he/she will discover how we act as faithful people. The words of faith will follow the experience of faith. In this chapter, you and your son/daughter will be learning about Baptism and the ways the Church helps us grow closer to God through the Sacraments, prayer, and sharing faith with those who do not know God's love.*

Children at This Age: *Younger adolescents can be very focused on their immediate surroundings and the issues that dominate their current environment. They may not readily see the connection between their local world and the global reality. They may feel conflicted between cynicism and idealism. Faith calls us to be people of hope and to believe in God's power to bring light and love to any place we find ourselves. Providing healthy, practical avenues for your son/daughter to serve in response to local needs can help nurture the virtue of hope. Encourage your child to build a relationship with God. Prayer will nourish that relationship and help each of us answer God's call to bring love and truth to others.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 195,
Source of Life

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Say: Let’s listen to the Scripture reading and recall that God sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles at Pentecost so that they could proclaim the Good News to the ends of the Earth!



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

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

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

Say: We are all called to continue this mission and invite others to know and love Jesus. The Holy Spirit continues to help guide us on our faith journey.

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

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

- How does the Holy Spirit strengthen the Church to spread the Good News of salvation? (*The Holy Spirit comes upon us at Baptism and strengthens us in Confirmation. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit guide and fortify us to live and share our faith.*)
- How much does faith have to do with everyday life? (*If we appreciate the gift faith is, it will influence and affect every choice we make in our lives. It can inspire us to pray, to read the Bible, and to love and serve others.*)

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

Turn to Page 196,
Getting Started

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph.

Read the directions for the web on page 196 and ask your daughter/son to write in her/his answers. When your child is finished, invite her/him to share what she/he wrote. Add any additional ideas of your own.

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

Turn to Page 197

Point out that just as the Church continues Jesus' mission, we are also called to continue Jesus' work.

Have your child read the instructions for the List activity. Work together to brainstorm some things that your child's school or your parish does for others in the community. Discuss how your family is or can be involved in these types of activities.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 198–203. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 203,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Alternate reading the copy with your child.

Turn to Page 204

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

Parents, Consider This: *In the Our Catholic Life section of this chapter, your child will be reading about how the Church, these days, encourages leaders to share the message of faith through blogs, podcasts, and other forms of social media. In fact, the Papal Conclave that elected Pope Francis in 2013 was covered in the media and the Pope's first message was covered by social networks. The Church has the responsibility to use every means of reaching people with a message of faith. How wonderful that she has been able to reach millions more people by engaging in these new ways of communicating. However, those who communicate on behalf of the Church must be vigilant in making sure that the authentic message of the Church is presented faithfully.*

Ask: How would you present the Church's message through social media? *(Share some examples like contributing to a blog about faith or following a leader in your parish on social media and Tweeting his/her posts.)*

Say: The world and the ways we communicate with each other are changing quickly. This gives us more opportunities than ever to learn about people from different cultures and various parts of the world and share our faith in ways that are relevant to them. It also opens us up to influences that can lead us away from our faith and developing a sound moral life. We must use the gifts of technology to bring us closer to God and learn more about the good work the Church does all over the world.

Point out the brief story on Saint Lorenzo Ruiz and explain how he held fast to his faith even in the face of persecution.

Invite your son/daughter to read aloud the People of Faith text.

Say: Saint Lorenzo Ruiz held onto his love for the Church and shared his faith even though the price was high. Today, the Church encourages us to share the message of God's love and his Kingdom in new ways. The Text activity will give us an opportunity to practice this.

Invite your child to read aloud the directions for the activity.

Once you have each thought of a text message you could send out about the work of your parish community, share them with one another.

Conclude the session by praying the Evening prayer on Page 386.



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

Freedom and Responsibility

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Discuss the interrelationship of the soul, intellect, and conscience in following the moral law
- Contrast mortal and venial sin and their effect on the sinner's relationship with God
- List and explain the elements that determine the morality of an action
- Explain how the circumstances of an action can increase or decrease its moral goodness
- Relate the formation of a good conscience to the need to learn and practice new skills
- Explore the steps needed to make a good moral decision

Parents, Consider This: *Have you ever said to your son or daughter, "Did you think before you did that?" It can be very frustrating how often children speak or act without thinking through the consequences of their actions. Younger adolescents are still prone to making impulsive decisions, particularly when pressured by peers. The language you use in helping your son/daughter to think through the various consequences of his/her actions should always be framed inside the "language of faith." Talking about our choices and their consequences as a response to our relationship with Jesus will help your child connect his/her faith to everyday life.*

Children at This Age: *When it comes to moral decision making, your child has many competing voices in her/his life. Often, popular culture gives one message (especially through television, music, movies, and video games), while you and the Church may be presenting quite another. It's important for your daughter/son to understand that only God knows what is best for her/him, because God made her/him. Research has shown that when making decisions about risky behaviors, it will help your child to think about her/his bigger life goals and how a particular decision might make that goal closer or make the goal less possible. Discuss with your child the importance of making decisions based upon being and living as a disciple of Christ.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 211,
Freedom and Responsibility

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Say: Because of free will, we have the ability to choose to follow God’s will or to act against it. Listen for God’s voice to speak to you today about the responsibility that comes with the freedom to choose.



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

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

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

Say: God the Father gave us the gift of free will, and with that comes the great responsibility to live a moral life by following Jesus’ teaching and actions.

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

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

- Why did God create us with the freedom to choose? (*so that we could be free to choose to respond to him, because love is a decision*)
- How are freedom and responsibility connected? (*If we are free, then we have to own the consequences of our choices.*)

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

Turn to Page 212,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph.

Ask your child to give you a definition of *freedom*. Write it in the chart. (Note: These directions are different from the ones in the book.) Do the same for *responsibility*. Listen carefully to your child as his/her answers will tell you much about how he/she perceives these important parts of his/her own character.

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

Turn to Page 213

Direct your child to complete the two parts of the activity. Recall something like this that may have happened when you were your child's age, and write about it on a separate sheet of paper. When you are both finished, share your situations with each other. Remember to emphasize that doing what is God's will is the best answer for your child's own happiness now and his/her eternal goal of Heaven.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 214–219. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 219,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read aloud the bullet points.

Ask: Are these beliefs only for Catholics? Do you think other people follow them, too? Do you think all Catholics follow them?

Discuss your child's responses.

Turn to Page 220

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

Parents, Consider This: *“Repeating the same actions and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity,” says Albert Einstein. While we may agree wholeheartedly, most of us generally fail to apply this concept to our spiritual lives. A daily examination of conscience helps us to identify where we are repeating the same harmful actions, the actions that do damage to our relationship with God and others, our sins. Talk with your child after he/she reads the Our Catholic Life section about the importance of this practice and consider recommitting yourself to making this a daily practice in your own life.*

Read the story of Blessed Aloysius. Discuss his understanding of the need to speak for the freedom of others.

Point out the Practice activity. Discuss the four resources for developing your conscience when facing a moral dilemma. Cut out or copy this section and hang it in your child’s room or on the refrigerator as a reminder to your whole family about the responsibility of making good choices.

Conclude the session by praying the Hail, Holy Queen on Page 384.



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

Respecting Life

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explain that each human life has value because we are made in God's image
- Identify murder as an action that violates the sacredness of human life
- Explore the aspects of the Fifth Commandment that deal with anger and vengeance
- Examine why the Church advocates for the rights of others on life issues
- Examine the ways in which we do not show respect for our own lives or the lives of others
- Explain why scandal harms individuals and society
- Identify the basic rights people need to grow and mature

Parents, Consider This: *Who among us does not recall some of the hurtful things that were said to us as middle-school children? That we can often remember what was said and even who said it, speaks to the impact that words can have on us. Because at this age young people have not yet begun to understand the consequences our words bear, they need a great deal of guidance to keep them from causing irreparable harm. We must make intentional choice to make our homes a place where we teach our children human dignity. Human dignity finds its source in our belief that God creates every person in his image. While your child might get the message outside your home that some lives are worth less than others, this is simply not God's truth. It is important to ask yourself, are your words and actions respectful of all people starting with each other in your home? Do you hold your child accountable when he/she acts contrary to this truth?*

Children at This Age: *Your daughter/son has probably had some personal experience with bullying and/or gossiping in her/his school. He/she sees how some students seem to be valued more or less than others. This is often the area where the most energy, fear, and, sometimes, tears are focused. This happens because younger adolescents are more inclined to notice others for their differences rather than their commonalities. They tend to form judgments based on appearance, talents, or personality traits. For these reasons, your home should be a safe place where your child is valued, affirmed, and supported with words and actions. This is an important time to clearly communicate what the Church believes about human life and dignity.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 223,
Respecting Life

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Together make the Sign of the Cross. Proclaim the opening lines of the leader prayer; have your child read the Psalm verse. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Explain that all life is a gift—that we each are works of art, and God’s desire is that we treat all life the way he does, with great dignity and respect.

Say: This week we will focus on that truth that every human life is precious to God. We are called to respect and care for our own lives and the lives of others, just as Jesus did. Let’s listen to God’s Word and hear him speak to us about choosing life.



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

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

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

Say: Because we are made in God’s image, we must respect and care for every human life.

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

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

- What does it mean to *always* choose life? (*We choose what will uphold our own and every person’s value and dignity.*)
- What does it mean to respect and value *all* human life? (*In our everyday choices, we respect the dignity of each person and we work for justice for those who need our help, especially the unborn.*)

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

Turn to Page 224,
Getting Started

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

Direct your child to complete the chart according to the instructions in the box directly above it. Invite him/her to share what he/she wrote, keeping in mind that the purpose of this exercise is simply to check your child's understanding as you begin the chapter.

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

Turn to Page 225

Explain the activity on this page by illustrating an example from your own life of trying to stand in the shoes of another person. This is an important habit for your child to develop—being able to seek to understand where another person is coming from.

Have your child think of a person who faces different challenges, and then together list the challenges that person and/or his/her family might face.

Think of a specific action your family could take to support that person and his/her family.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 226–231. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 231,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 232

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

Parents, Consider This: Sometimes, when we watch the evening news, it's easy to think: "People today have no respect for life." Whether the story is about a terrorist group or people who shoot their own family members because they are angry or hurt, our minds are boggled and our hearts are troubled. Many parents worry about the kind of world their children will inherit. We should take great comfort in the fact that through the ages the Catholic Church has stood for the fundamental right to life for every human being. Use the events of the world to help your child reflect on the right to life from conception until natural death—a conversation that must be ongoing in your home. Evil gains strength when it is not confronted by truth. You stand in the line of the prophets when you speak God's truth both in your home and in your community.

Invite your child to read aloud the story of Saint Martin de Tours.

Ask: What do you think motivated Martin, at the age of fifteen, to be so generous?

Complete the List activity together. Was it hard to come up with answers? Discuss whether our current culture seems to respect life.

Conclude the session by praying the Hail, Holy Queen on Page 384.



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

Being Virtuous

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Examine how the virtues can help us make good moral decisions
- Identify the Theological Virtues as gifts from God that help us believe in him, trust in his plan for us, and love him as he loves us
- Explain the relationship between the Cardinal Virtues and other moral virtues
- Explore the roles of modesty and chastity in our lives
- Examine how sins against the Eighth Commandment damage our integrity and character as they oppose the virtue of truth

Parents, Consider This: *Sit for a minute and recall that day in the hospital when you first held your son or daughter. When you looked at that tiny face filled with possibilities, what did you imagine for him/her? What kind of life did you dream of? Happiness and success are two things that might come to mind. Most parents long for their child to be a good person, but the world may confuse us about the nature of goodness. As Catholics we have a blueprint for goodness. We believe that God is goodness itself. He sent his Son to teach us, in our brokenness, how to live good and holy lives. God makes us capable of goodness (Theological Virtues), and then gives us the grace to grow in virtue. As a faith-filled parent, you have an opportunity to show your child how the virtues can help guide her/his emotions and conduct.*

Children at This Age: *While you can see the physical changes taking place in your son/daughter's body at this age, his/her emotional life is also developing. The need to be loved outside of the love he/she experiences in your family life fuels both his/her friendships and budding sexual interest. As your child grows as a sexual being, it is important that he/she sees modeled a respect for the gift of sexuality. Discussions about the importance of both modesty and chastity are critical. The culture is "teaching" all the time. Silence is not neutral. When you are silent, the culture is your child's only teacher. Remember that your voice is still the one that means the most.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 235,
Being Virtuous

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Explain that virtues are the foundation for living a holy life.

Say: God is the source of our faith, hope, and love. Let’s listen to today’s Scripture reading for what God’s Word has to say about living a virtuous life.



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

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

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

Say: God gave us many gifts that enable us to act as his faithful disciples. We are going to discover how our relationship with Jesus affects the choices we make. There are some very important issues to reflect on in this chapter. I want you to listen with both your mind and your heart.

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

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

- How do we “put on love”? (*This is another way of saying that love is the source of all our attitudes, words, and actions.*)
- How can the virtues help us to become the people God created us to be? (*Virtues are both gifts and guides that God gave us to help us live good lives.*)

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

Turn to Page 236,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph and the directions in the box above the charts.

Have your child fill in what he/she can. Discuss his/her answers. Do not be concerned if your child's answers seem inadequate. These are difficult concepts to grasp, but the exercise will help you to know how much your child knows and how much he/she learns by the end of the lesson.

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

Turn to Page 237

Direct your child to review the instructions and complete the activity on page 237. When he/she is finished, listen to his/her response and add the good habits you see that were not mentioned or the good habits you would like to see him/her develop and share why.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 238–243. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 243,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 244

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

Parents, Consider This: *One of the greatest mysteries of our faith is that God will not force anything upon us, not even his love. By its definition, love requires the freedom to choose. You have the great power and obligation to influence your child's free will. In your own faith life as well as his/hers, virtue requires strengthening. It is something we must pay attention to and focus upon. In the virtue of chastity, for instance, do you believe that it is possible for someone to remain a virgin until they are married? If the voices of our culture have made you believe that chastity is impossible, then God is asking something of us that we cannot do. Would God do that? Never! He has given us all we need to do his will. God is good, and he made us capable of goodness. It is our choice to follow his will. Teaching your child how to practice the virtues in a disciplined way will fill his/her life with meaning and joy.*

Ask your child to read the story of Saint Margaret Ward in the People of Faith box. Discuss Saint Margaret's courage, and recall some of the people today who witness to their faith with their lives.

Have your child complete the scales in the Identify activity, except for the last one. When she/he is finished with the first four scales, share where you believe she/he is on each scale and point to practices or the lack of them that caused you to choose that number. If you have the courage, ask your child to do the same for you after you complete the scale for yourself. Finally, look at the last scale and ask your child to define *abstinence*. Discuss with her/him why this is a virtue and share your belief that she/he is capable of living that life because God asks us to do so.

Conclude the session by praying the Hail, Holy Queen on Page 384.



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

God's Masterworks

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Discover that the Sacraments begin with God's invitation given in signs and symbols and require our faith-filled response
- Explain why we call Jesus the first Sacrament
- Explore how the Holy Spirit works with the Church to make Jesus' saving work present in the Sacraments
- Recognize that all of the Sacraments draw us into the Paschal Mystery
- Explain how the Edict of Milan changed the lives of Christians
- Explore how the physical elements used in the Seven Sacraments help us experience God's presence
- Identify what Real Presence means in Catholic teaching

Parents, Consider This: Saint Augustine described a Sacrament as "an outward sign of invisible grace." Young children are able to learn about the signs and symbols of Sacraments, but they may not be able to grasp the deeper theological meaning and invisible realities behind them. However, by the seventh grade, your child may be developing the capacity for more abstract thought, including understanding the meaning behind the signs and symbols of our religious traditions. When discussing sacramental celebrations, point out the invisible realities behind the visible signs, like the new life of grace a child receives in the baptismal waters, the strength and healing associated with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, or the joy experienced in the celebration of the sacramental covenant of marriage. You both might be surprised at the insights your child is developing about these matters of faith.

Children at This Age: Young people this age tend to be very open to being taught about the power of rituals and traditions. This is an important time to be sure that your family continues to participate in Church ritual, especially Sunday Mass. It can be easy to allow work, school, and activities to overwhelm the family schedule. Keep faith practices a priority. These are formative years when adolescents are growing into a deeper awareness of how their past is connected to their present. Help them to find the balance between comfortable family traditions and expressing themselves in new and independent ways.

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 251,
God's Masterworks

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Explain that Jesus is always with us, loving us. His greatest desire is to bring us to his Father.

Say: God's greatest gift to us is his Son, Jesus Christ. Let's listen to God's Word and remember that we are rooted and grounded in the love of Christ.



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

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

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

Say: The Sacraments are Jesus' gift to us as a way for us to always experience his welcoming, forgiving, healing, and nourishing power in our lives.

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

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

- Why is it important for faith customs to be passed down through generations? *(Imagine if a generation didn't find it important to participate with the younger generation in rituals and customs. The customs and rituals might die out. Talk about why faithfulness and consistency are important in passing down customs.)*
- Which Church traditions are especially meaningful to you? *(Each of you will likely have certain traditions that appeal more to you. Share your favorite traditions with one another.)*

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

Turn to Page 252,
Getting Started

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

Invite your child to read the directions for the chart. Point out that the category titles can also be found in the Catholic Faith Words box. When your son/daughter is finished, discuss together how each of the Sacraments relates to its category title.

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

Turn to Page 253

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Make sure he/she identifies at least one Church tradition and one personal and/or family tradition. Have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper. (Note that when you discuss Church traditions, you will likely be speaking of liturgical practices within your own parish.)

When you both are finished, share with one another the symbol(s) you drew and/or one of your favorite traditions and what it means to you.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 254–259. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 259,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read the summary statement and each of the bullet points. Ask your child to share his/her most memorable experience during one of the Sacraments that he/she has celebrated.

Turn to Page 260

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

Parents, Consider This: *In the Our Catholic Life section of this chapter, your child will be reading about grace and how it allows us to participate in the life of the Holy Trinity. Grace aligns our human life spiritually with God and helps us to do what God calls us to do. Actual grace can help us to make the right decisions in life and know and act according to God's will in particular situations. Sanctifying grace is a permanent gift that builds our relationship with God and assures us of eternal life. We also receive a particular grace, or sacramental grace, with each Sacrament. God is active in our life in all of these ways. Take some time to think about the ways these experiences of grace have touched your life and changed you.*

Ask: What kind of grace do you most need in your life right now. How do you think you should ask for it? *(Share some examples like prayer, being still, and listening to what comes to our heart, or being involved in relationships with strong spiritual people.)*

Say: Grace permeates our lives. Developing good habits or virtues help us to focus on grace and help us live according to God's will. Participating regularly in the Sacraments, being kind and caring in our relationships, and cultivating a regular life of prayer, all help us to recognize God's grace in our lives.

Point out the picture on the page. Might this be a brother or older friend and a younger child sharing a happy moment together? Discuss a possible caption. Explain that God wants us to share the grace he gives us with others by our love and good will toward them.

Read aloud the story of Saint Ludmilla, who helped to bring Christianity to Bohemia. She is the grandmother of King Wenceslaus, who later became a Saint himself.

Say: We have learned about grace and how it helps us in life. Actual grace helps us to make right decisions and think and act according to God's will. Saint Ludmilla showed steadfastness and courage in her life as the leader of her country and within her family. We're going to use the Consider activity to think of ways we can be more mindful of God's presence in our lives.

Once you have both completed the activity, share with each other an example from each category.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Contrition on Page 387.



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

Sacraments of Initiation

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explain how the Sacraments of Initiation bring us into a relationship with Christ and the Church
- Identify the effects of Baptism
- Describe Confirmation as the Sacrament of Initiation through which the spiritual life received in Baptism is strengthened
- Give examples of ways to use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in life situations
- Relate the strength that we gain from receiving the Eucharist to each person's call to participate in the mission of the Church
- Examine how we experience the presence of Christ in the two parts of the Mass, but most fully in the Eucharist
- Define transubstantiation

Parents, Consider This: *In this chapter, your child will explore the Sacraments of Initiation—their form, their effects, and their meaning. Think back on your child's Baptism and the joy and excitement of that day! This child of God, who is God's gift to you, was welcomed into the Christian community and the Catholic family of your parish. Reflect on the symbols of that day: the water of Baptism that gave your child new life in Christ; the white garment signifying purity and human dignity; the holy oil of Sacred Chrism that anointed him/her as priest, prophet, and king; the baptismal candle, symbolizing the Light of Christ and signifying how your child can carry that light into the world. Remember the hopes and dreams you had for your son/daughter that day. Recall the love of God you experienced at your child's Baptism. Let this reflection renew your love for God and for your child today.*

Children at This Age: *Seventh-graders are beginning to want to understand why they are here on Earth and what their purpose is. As your child begins to develop intellectually and spiritually, she/he may begin to question her/his roles in life in a more serious way. You can encourage your child to learn the gifts she/he has to offer by affirming them when you observe them. These might be areas in which your daughter/son excels, qualities she/he has that reflect a good character, or virtues she/he seems to possess. Remember that young people at this age are often drawn to groups that give them personal support while also affirming their desire to be part of something bigger than themselves.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 263,
Sacraments of Initiation

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Together make the Sign of the Cross. Read the opening lines of the leader prayer, and invite your child to read the Psalm verse. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Say: We are baptized into Christ, and through our Baptism, we each have a special place in the Church.



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

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

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

Say: We receive the gifts of faith and new life through our Baptism, our initiation into the Church.

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

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

- How is it that because of Baptism we have new life in Christ?
(Baptism is the Sacrament that unites us to Christ and through which we share in his life as members of the Body of Christ.)
- What helps you feel at home with your family, with your friends, with God? (Some examples might be: feeling safe and accepted, knowing we can be ourselves and that we are cared for and loved, feeling we can serve others in meaningful ways.)

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

Turn to Page 264,
Getting Started

Have your child read aloud the opening paragraph as well as the directions for the Sacraments of Initiation web.

Work on the chart together. See how much information your child can come up with on the outward signs and ritual actions of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Add some of your own ideas to the page. As you work through the chapter, invite your child to come back to this page to fill in any more information he/she discovers.

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

Turn to Page 265

Remind your child that the Sign of the Cross is a sign of our Baptism into Christ and of our belonging to the Church.

Read aloud the directions for this page. Have your child complete the activity in the book, while you complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, show and explain your illustrations to one another.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 266–271. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 271,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 272

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

Parents, Consider This: *In the Our Catholic Life section of this chapter, your child will be given an opportunity to ponder the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which we receive at Confirmation. It is worthwhile to take some time to regularly reflect on the presence of these gifts in our own lives. Particularly, consider the gift of fear of the Lord, which also means awe and wonder of God. It allows us to realize all the blessing God has given us. As we move from task to task in life, we often neglect to simply thank and praise God for all he has created and for the blessings of our own life. We tend to take the wonder of God's grace for granted. We can go through the motions of life and neglect to look back and see God's plan unfolding. Smaller things, like comfort, entertainment, financial gain, what others think of us, etc. can easily dominate our thoughts and our priorities in life. All the while, our God, who is greater than anything in the world, is pouring out his powerful creation before us at all times. This week, try to be open to God's surprising you with goodness and peace.*

Ask: What changes do you think we might experience in our life if we devoted ourselves to spending more time in awe and praise of God?
(Share how you feel when you take the time to do this. Encourage your child to recognize how this helps us keep our priorities in line with our spiritual values.)

Say: Let's read about Saint Catherine of Genoa who wrote about her prayer experiences and devotion to Christ.

Read aloud the People of Faith text.

Say: Fear of the Lord is the Gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to recognize God's greatness. Saint Catherine of Genoa clearly recognized God's greatness. Despite the obstacles she encountered in her life, she made her prayer life and service to others her priorities.

Ask: Do you think facing obstacles in our faith journeys can bring us closer to God?

Discuss your thoughts with one another.

Point out the Explain activity. Work independently to complete it. Once you both have finished, share two characteristics of Jesus you believe you have or will take on and explain why you chose them.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Contrition on Page 387.



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

Sacraments of Healing

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explain why Jesus healed people
- Discuss the process of conversion
- Recognize the need for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
- Describe the four elements of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
- Review the steps in the Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Identify the benefits of receiving the Sacrament of Penance
- Explore the need for and the effects of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Parents, Consider This: *By this age, your child and/or your family may have experienced suffering, illness, or a loss of some kind. These life experiences can collide with the strong sense of justice that is common in children and teens at this stage of emotional development. The suffering a young person personally experiences or witnesses in the world can be confusing and disturbing. They may ask silently or out loud: "How can God allow suffering?" Share the words of Pope Saint John Paul II with your child: "God is always on the side of the suffering." He weeps with us and longs for goodness and healing within our human circumstances. The Church offers us the Sacraments of Healing to help us cope with our own suffering and strengthen us for our challenges. Through these Sacraments, the Church unites us in prayer, is a conduit of God's special grace for the sick and suffering, and strengthens us as we face our trials and challenges.*

Children at This Age: *The values of popular culture do not always align with or reinforce the values of the Catholic faith. As young adolescents, seventh-graders may be influenced by the sexual and moral values they see in the media and in society in general. We need to help them filter what they see and hear in the culture through the lens of our Catholic faith. Encourage your son/daughter to look to the Church as a source of teaching and wisdom and as a place where he/she belongs.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 275,
Sacraments of Healing

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Explain that God reaches out to us constantly with loving forgiveness when we fall short of loving him, ourselves, and others as we should.

Say: Let’s listen to God’s Word and discover how we are a new creation in Christ.



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

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

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

Say: Jesus sacrificed his life so that we could become part of a new creation, one that strives to share God’s love and righteousness with the world.

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

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

- What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ? (It may be challenging to respond to this question because it requires a degree of abstract thinking. For while we remain ourselves, the grace of Christ can change our hearts if we accept it. This new life in Christ will strengthen our relationship with God and deepen our spiritual lives.)
- How is forgiveness the key? (The ability to forgive is a powerful dimension in how our faith impacts our day-to-day life and spiritual growth. Growing in our ability to forgive is a sign of maturing in faith.)

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

Turn to Page 276,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions and complete the web on page 276. When he/she is finished, share any additional things you know about the Sacraments of Healing.

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

Turn to Page 277

Remind your child that Saint Paul says we are ambassadors for Christ. Discuss what ambassadors do, then paraphrase the activity instructions by suggesting that we don't have to travel to the far ends of the Earth to be ambassadors for Christ. We can practice forgiveness and reconciliation every day, wherever we are. We can be Christ's ambassadors in our home, at school, in our parish, and in our neighborhood.

Have your son/daughter design a "forgiveness key" in the space provided in the book and then explain how it symbolizes what he/she knows to be true about forgiveness. When he/she is finished, talk about some of the "doors" that forgiveness can open. Discuss an experience you have had of forgiving or being forgiven.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 278–283. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 283,
In Summary

When you return, review the "In Summary/Catholics Believe" section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 284

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

Parents, Consider This: *Forgiveness is a powerful spiritual force. We can see the evidence of the grace of God in giving and receiving forgiveness if we look for it. Think of a time when you have been forgiven. Perhaps there was, or is, someone you need to forgive. It is likely at some point in your life you have experienced forgiveness or a lack of forgiveness that has impacted you. Through prayer, God helps us find the wisdom in the circumstances that require forgiveness. The Church, through Christ, offers us the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation to have our personal sins forgiven and to heal our relationships with God. If we model adhering to the Church's precept to celebrate this Sacrament at least once a year, we tell our children, without using words, the importance and value of this Sacrament in our lives. This is the most likely way your child will learn to be faithful to this practice throughout her/his life.*

Ask: How would you describe Reconciliation to someone who is nervous about confessing their sins?

Discuss some ways to approach inviting someone to confession.

Read aloud People of Faith.

Say: Blessed Carlos was born with a digestive disorder but he never let his suffering undermine his commitment to Christ or get in the way of sharing the Good News. We can learn a lot from him.

Review the instructions for the Identify activity. Work independently to match up the answers. When you both are finished, discuss some of the benefits of forgiveness.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Contrition on Page 387.



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

Called by God

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Discuss the role of family in teaching us to hear God's call, and respond to him in faith and love
- Examine how a Catholic family is a domestic Church—a holy community of love, grace, and prayer
- Identify the laity's role in being witnesses to Christ
- Explain the process of discerning a vocation
- Name ways we can share in Jesus' mission
- Compare and contrast the parish priesthood and a priest in consecrated religious life
- Explore the vows taken by those in consecrated religious life

Parents, Consider This: *For your child, high school is looming on the horizon and with it the dawning awareness that she/he will soon be leaving childhood behind. When asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" the response can no longer be "a superhero" or "a princess." As your child begins to consider how to make her/his way in the world, it is important for you to help her/him understand that growing in maturity also means growing in holiness. The question should no longer be, "What do I want to be?" but "What is God calling me to become?" With your guidance, your child will see signs of God's call through the gifts or talents she/he has been given, the opportunities that arise, and/or through the observations of other trusted people. Remind your daughter/son that each of us is called to use our gifts and abilities for the glory of God rather than for ourselves. Every Christian is invited to listen to Jesus' call and to follow him, using our personal gifts to serve him and his Church. When we do this, when we reach our fullest potential, we will find happiness, which is what our loving Creator wants for us.*

Children at This Age: *For better or worse (and probably both), young people at this age tend to identify themselves by the qualities others see and name in them. While your son or daughter may have revealed some of his/her gifts at an early age, other personal abilities and gifts may just be beginning to blossom. Remember, your child needs affirmation by you and others in positions of authority to help reinforce his/her positive abilities and qualities and to help him/her discover how these gifts and talents can be used to serve God.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 291,
Called by God

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Together make the Sign of the Cross and pray the leader prayer and Psalm verse. Invite your daughter/son to respond with the part marked “All.”

Remind your child that God calls us, and that God hears us when we call on him.

Say: Today we are going to consider the ways God calls us— because he does indeed call each of us to use our gifts to bring his life and love to the world. So let’s prepare ourselves to hear his voice in his sacred Word.



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

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

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

Say: Each of us is called by God to share our time, talent, and treasure with others to reveal his Kingdom on Earth.

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

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

- What does it mean to be called by God? (You have been “designed” by God to be part of his plan for salvation.)
- How can your gifts serve God and make a difference for others? (When you work to uncover and live God’s plan for you, using the gifts he gave you, you will discover that you were made to be a gift to the world.)

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

Turn to Page 292,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph.

Direct your child to read the directions for the chart. Instead of having him/her complete the chart independently, work on this together. Remember, this activity was set up to help you assess the understanding and assumptions that your son/daughter currently has.

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

Turn to Page 293

Invite your child to silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper.

When you both are finished, share your answers with each other. Your child will probably be interested to hear who has influenced you.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 294–299. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 299,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet; after each one is read, discuss with your child how we can help others answer these particular calls.

Turn to Page 300

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

Parents, Consider This: *When you think of “the church,” what are the first images that come to your mind? For many adults, our minds go to the hierarchy of the Church in Rome or at least the leadership of the parish where we worship. And yet, the Holy Spirit continues to ask us to claim our baptismal identity and understand that we are the Church. Vatican II reemphasized the role of the laity in the Church. We are reminded that while the ordained serve the people of the Church, we, the laity, are sent out to serve the world. It is our responsibility to bring Christ to others through our attitudes, words, and actions, especially to those who may never have heard God praised in a Church, heard his Word proclaimed, or received his Sacraments. We live in God’s Kingdom, and by our transparent witness to the Gospel, we invite others to know Him.*

Ask: How can we help continue Christ’s mission on Earth?

Discuss some possible answers with your child.

Point out the People of Faith box. Explain that certain events in Saint Anthony’s life helped him to discern his vocation.

Invite your child to read aloud the text.

Share that many Catholics (and even non-Catholics) are familiar with Saint Anthony because we have, or we know someone who has, asked him to intercede when something is lost.

Read the instructions and questions for the Identify activity. Ask your child what he/she thinks God has created him/her for. Share your thoughts on how you use your gifts and talents now, and perhaps some ideas on what gifts you might be using twenty years from now.

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



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

Act with Justice

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Define justice as giving God what is due to him and giving others what is due to them as children of God made in his image and possessing equal human dignity
- Discover that to live in God's Kingdom, people must choose to believe, to have faith, and to make the necessary changes in their lives
- Identify people of the Kingdom of God by the actions that work toward what is just, peaceful, and loving
- Explain why solidarity is a Christian virtue
- Describe how being poor in spirit can be connected to the Tenth Commandment

Parents, Consider This: *The anthem of adolescence may well be: "That's not fair." Whether it is being cut from a team, a grade received, or something you did for a sibling and not for her/him, sometimes, in your child's eyes, life may seem overwhelmingly unfair. Truth be told, it often is. As a Catholic parent, not only must you help your child negotiate these difficult life situations, but you are the first line in teaching your child that there is a bigger issue—the issue of justice. Justice is giving God what he is due and giving others what is due to them as beings created in God's image. Point out that we cooperate with God as he builds his Kingdom when we stand up for what is right and fair in the smallest moments of our everyday lives. This can include defending or befriending those who are lonely, unpopular, teased, or bullied. Engaging your child in conversations about injustices in the world (and possible solutions) allows him/her to move away from self-absorption and personal wants and toward a focus on the needs of others.*

Children at This Age: *You may have noticed that your daughter/son can sometimes bounce back and forth between great self-absorption and a concern for others. Helping your child develop the capacity to think beyond himself/herself is often difficult in a culture that is always encouraging us to look out for number one. However, affirming his/her virtuous qualities may lead to more generous attitudes and actions. Raising awareness of the injustices that people suffer daily in this world will also help your child keep perspective on the difference between what is fair and what is just.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 303,
Act with Justice

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



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

Explain that it is not enough to believe; we need to act on what we believe. Our Lord is a just Lord, and he loves just deeds.

Say: Justice is at the heart of a disciple. Jesus calls his disciples to see as he sees so that injustice can be named and challenged through words and actions. Let’s take a glimpse into what God’s Kingdom is like by reading his Word.



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

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

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

Say: The Bible makes it very clear that we are not only to recognize Jesus in those who are in need, but also to help them. This helps to build up the Kingdom of God. In this chapter, we are going to see the connection between God’s desire for justice and his expectation of us.

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

Invite your child to respond to the questions listed here:

- Is a just world possible? (Because of Jesus’ Resurrection, we believe that all evil can be defeated by God’s power and love. So, yes, a just world is possible.)
- What do we owe people in need? (whatever it takes so that they can live free from worry about food, shelter, clothing, medical care, freedom to worship, and work)

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

Turn to Page 304,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph and the instructions for the chart.

Direct your child to complete the chart, and then discuss the words or terms he/she chose. If your child is finding the process difficult, help him/her come up with some words or phrases.

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

Turn to Page 305

Have your child complete the Write activity in her/his book, while you complete it on a separate piece of paper. (Note: This exercise is meant to help your child start thinking about the chapter objectives. At the end of the chapter, you should notice an increase in understanding.)

When you both are finished, share with one another your story or some of the situations you wrote about.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 306–311. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 311,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 312

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

Parents, Consider This: *In the Our Catholic Life text, your child is reading about some of the ways the Church uses social media. When thinking about social media, cyberbullying is an important topic that may come to mind, as it is a huge reality in today's world. Almost every child knows someone who has been a victim of this form of injustice. Looking at a screen (as on a cell phone) as opposed to someone's face when saying hateful things lessens the capacity to see the damage that these words are causing. Teaching your child how to handle strong feelings appropriately is essential at this age. Actually walking her/him through a process that leads your child to think before responding as opposed to simply reacting to unjust situations is a lesson of maturity that will benefit all of her/his present and future relationships.*

Ask: What is one thing you could share online this week about the Catholic Church or our parish?

Help your child come up with something appropriate to post.

Read the story of Pope Leo XIII.

Say: Pope Leo did much to help build God's Kingdom. Following the example of Jesus in his pursuit of justice and peace, he used his diplomatic skills to help settle troubles between and within various nations.

Research, together, how Pope Leo XIII worked for justice for the Catholics in Germany.

Review the process of assessing injustice in the world, presented in the Identify activity. Keeping in mind that injustice can sometimes seem so overwhelming that it can immobilize us, remind your child that it is important for us to remain hopeful and to think about the small ways we can act for justice.

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



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Our Reason for Hope

Preparation for the Session

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

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

- Explore how the raising of Lazarus showed that Jesus had power over humanity's greatest fear—death
- Discuss why Jesus' Resurrection gives us hope for our future
- Express the Church's teaching on Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory
- Explain how our life on Earth affects our destiny for eternity
- Describe the Last Judgment
- Explain the significance of the Works of Mercy in relationship to eternal life

Parents, Consider This: Saint Catherine of Siena wrote, "It is heaven all the way to heaven and hell all the way to hell." In this session, you will be helping your child reflect upon the mysteries of eternal life. During these discussions and in your family's experiences of death that will come, remember to always hold these two truths before your child: God's desire is for each of us to live forever in union with him (Heaven), and Heaven is both the gift we receive and the choice we make through our attitudes, words, and actions. Help your child to see that our task as disciples is not only to be Christ for others but also to see Christ in others, and to act and react accordingly. We must also strive to turn away from sin and live in right relationship with God and his People, and then, it will be Heaven all the way to Heaven!

Children at This Age: Seventh-graders are becoming aware, in a personal way, of their own mortality. This can be frightening if we do not trust that Jesus has returned to us the gift of eternal life. If your child has not already, he/she will soon likely experience the death of family members (in particular, grandparents and other older relatives) in ways he/she has not before. Your son/daughter will need you to help him/her process these losses and look at them through the eyes of faith. This is one of the most teachable moments for any of us in our spiritual lives.

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 315,
Our Reason for Hope

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

Find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Together make the Sign of the Cross. Pray the opening lines of the leader prayer. Have your child read aloud the Psalm verse. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Explain that hope comes with the Resurrection of Jesus, the hope of eternal life that Jesus’ Death and Resurrection made possible.

Say: Let’s listen to God’s Word as we are reminded that we have hope because we are saved, and that there is life beyond death.



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

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

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

Say: We look forward, hope-filled, to the coming of God’s Kingdom and to living in eternal happiness with him.

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

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

- What does it mean to wait with hope? (*Hope is our capacity to trust in the promises Jesus made to us.*)
- What does it take to get to Heaven? (*live a life in response to God’s invitation to love by loving him and others*)

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

Turn to Page 316,
Getting Started

Read the opening paragraph.

Say: We may wonder where people go when they die, or if we will ever see them again. We may also wonder what it takes to get to Heaven. But Jesus promises us eternal life, and that he will come again.

Direct your child to write his/her thoughts about Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory. She/he may struggle with Purgatory, but remember, this exercise is meant to check current understanding. Tell your child that he/she will learn more about the Church's teachings about life after death in this chapter.

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

Turn to Page 317

Explain the activity to your child. The question posed could be phrased this way, "What do you want your life to mean?"

Have your son/daughter complete the activity in the book, while you complete it on a separate piece of paper. Keep in mind that he/she will not be able to answer with the same depth as you. After you both have completed the exercise, share your answers with each other.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 318–323. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any questions he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

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

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 323,
In Summary

When you return, review the "In Summary/Catholics Believe" section. Read aloud the summary statement and the three bullets. Ask your child to summarize what Catholics believe about eternal life.

Turn to Page 324

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

Parents, Consider This: *When someone first placed your child in your arms, the sacredness of that moment was blanketed in a new sense of responsibility. Our faith teaches us that from that first breath, it became your privilege and obligation to walk this child into God's arms in eternity. Your family is the sacred ground within which your daughter/son first experiences communion and learns that she/he is a beloved child of God, a child in need of God's mercy. The world is in great need of young people who are passionate about their faith and committed to helping God manifest his Kingdom here on Earth. May you continue to be your child's guide, for surely the waters will become rougher in the days ahead. As your child reaches for your hand, may she/he know with certainty that your other hand is holding the Lord's.*

Discuss All Souls Day with your child, using the information in the Our Catholic Life section. Think about some prayers you can use to remember those who have died. Remind your child about the prayers listed in the back of the Student Book.

Say: As a young man, Saint Francis de Sales worried that he might not get to Heaven, but once he was convinced that God is love, his worries left him. He devoted his life to teaching others about God's love. His book, *Introduction to a Devout Life*, is a guide to choosing Heaven each day during this life.

Have your child read aloud the People of Faith text.

Explain that even though Saint Francis lived at a time when the Church faced many problems because of the Protestant Reformation, he always urged people to treat one another with kindness, even if they disagreed with one another.

Say: Hope is trusting in God's promises.

Ask: What can we do to grow in trusting God?

Discuss. After your conversation, read aloud the instructions and work independently to write about ways to become a more hope-filled person. Share your thoughts with one another.

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



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