

# The Church Community

## Preparation for the Session

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

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe the Bible as the Word of God written in human words, the holy book of the Church
- Define the Church as the community of all baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus
- Recognize that the Church helps us understand God's Word, teaches us about God's love, and gathers us to honor and worship God
- Realize that we can serve God and the Church by living out the Good News of Jesus

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *In the very first pages of the Bible, God says to Adam, "It is not good for man to be alone." He gives humans families to nurture them and communities in which they can live and work. The Church is a special kind of community. Christians provide one another with strength and hope to live as disciples. The Church's mission is to invite others into God's life by and sharing his plan of salvation. The life, mission, and saving work of Jesus is the heart of the Church. Your family is part of God's divine plan to share his life with the world—really! In your family you help each other to grow in deeper love with Christ and then you bring his life to the world.*

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

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



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

- We Come Today
- Jesus Is the Word

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

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



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

**Explain** that Jesus called people to follow him. The disciples were people who said "yes" to Jesus. They became a community of believers. Jesus loved them and wanted them to help other people to learn about him.

**Turn to Page 63,**  
The Church Gathered  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 127

**Say:** Let's listen to some words that Jesus shared with his disciples.



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

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

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

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

**Say:** Jesus wants us to be one community, one Church. If we say "yes" to Jesus like his first disciples, we can work together to spread the Good News.

**Invite** the children to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about God's life and love and how he shares them with us.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 64,**  
Serving the Community  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 129

**Read** aloud "Saint André Bessette."

**Tell** your child you are going to read a story about a man named Brother André. Brothers are followers of Jesus who decide to follow the Church by living together as a family. They make a promise to live simply and will never get married.

**Say:** Think about how in the beginning of the story Brother André made an ordinary job important.

**Ask:** Why it is important to help others? Explain to your child that because Brother André did his little job with such love and joy, God chose him to be the instrument of his healing power.

**Ask:** Why did they have to build another building for Saint André?  
(so that all of his visitors would have a place to come to talk and pray with him)



Read the directions for the gold-star activity. Ask your child to find the correct answer.

**Turn to Page 65,**  
God Teaches You  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 131

**Read** the opening sentence.

**Have** your child find the highlighted Catholic Faith Word **Bible** and then read the definition.

**Give** your child an index card. Have her/him write the vocabulary word on one side of the card and its definition on the other side. Keep the cards for use in a vocabulary memory game or for the unit review.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story.

**Ask:** So, what did Jesus followers do? (learned from Apostles, broke bread, prayed, sold what they had and gave to the poor, shared belongings with those in need)

## Activity

**Look** at the Share Your Faith activity. Ask your child to name the three most difficult things to share that he/she owns. Why is it difficult? Listen with sincerity and seriousness as they talk about their struggle. Invite him/her to take the words of Jesus to heart: "We should love people more than things." Help your child create a simple prayer to repeat when the situation arises. (i.e. Jesus, help me share. Jesus, let me love like you.)

**Turn to Page 66,**  
God's People  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 133

**Have** your child fold a blank piece of paper in half. On one side of the fold, have them make a list of all the communities he/she belongs to. After they complete their list, have them write a sentence across from each item that describes why they are a member of that community. (i.e. school... I go to school to learn.)

**Have** your child find the Catholic Faith Word **Church** and read aloud the definition. Write the vocabulary word on one side of the card and its definition on the other side. Keep the cards for use in a vocabulary memory game or for the unit review.

**Read** the paragraphs on the page alternating with your child.



Read the directions for the gold-star activity and have your child do as directed.

**Turn to Page 67,**  
Gathered in Jesus' Name  
Vivos en Cristo, Page 135

**Find** the highlighted Catholic Faith Word **Sacred Tradition**. Ask your child to read the definition and write it on an index card.

**Ask:** Why do you need the Church?

**Go** back to the second paragraph and place numbers above the things that we do as members of the Church and that the Church does for us. (Hint: There are six.)

# Activity

**Look** at the Connect Your Faith Activity. Ask your child to draw a picture of your family in your parish Church. You can write the name of your parish in the steeple of the Church.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Do you sometimes yearn for some support? Or maybe you might feel an overwhelming need to be understood. The yearning for connectedness is God-given. The need for relationship with God, with family, and with each other in Christ is deep within our hearts. That's why being an active and conscious member of your parish community is so important. Your connection to your parish, especially through the Mass, will help focus you and strengthen you as you face the challenges of daily life.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

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



Read the directions for the gold-star activity. After completing the chart, review the list. Next to each item both you and your child write a number that indicates on a scale from 1-5 (5 being the highest) how difficult it is to live this command of God. Discuss ways you can help each other do what God asks.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Francis.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can remember to praise God for all the beauty of creation.

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Our Father (see Page 321) during your night prayer this week.*



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