

The Holy Trinity

Preparation for the Session

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

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Recognize that a mystery is a truth that is difficult to perceive or understand with our senses, but is known through faith and through signs
- Examine Jesus' teachings about God the Father and God the Holy Spirit
- Identify God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit as a perfect communion of love
- Describe the Creed as a statement of the Church's beliefs

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

Parents, Consider This: *The teaching of the Trinity is a religious mystery. It is the mystery that helps us to probe more deeply into the nature of God. It provides some insight about God as a relational being. The Trinity embodies the energy and power of love that draws all creation into God's embrace. We come to faith in part by recognizing that our loving relationships reflect the love of the Trinity.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

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



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

- Yes, Lord, I Believe
- Jesus Is the Word

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 87,
The Holy Trinity
Vivos en Cristo, Page 175

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



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

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

Say: Let's listen to God tell us who he is through his Word and the Church.



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

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

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

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

Say: We know that God is so great that, even when we try, we can never fully understand his great mystery. This doesn’t stop our minds and hearts from wanting to know about our God, who loves us very much.

Share a time when you felt God’s love in your life.

Have your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else your child might wonder about God’s life and love and how he shares them with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 88,

One God, Three Divine Persons
Vivos en Cristo, Page 177

Read aloud the three paragraphs.

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

Ask your child “What helped the people better understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity? (the *shamrock*)”

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture story and refer to the image of the shamrock on the page. Remind your child that Saint Patrick used the shamrock to help people better understand God.



Do the gold-star activity.

Read the section explaining the three persons in one God. Have your child find and point to the word **Incarnation**. Then move to the Catholic Faith Words box and ask your child to read the definition.

Read the question and the first paragraph. Tell your child to listen for the definition of the word “mystery.”

Read the rest of the paragraphs.

Turn to Page 90,

Communion of Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 181

Turn to Page 91,
Honoring the Trinity
Vivos en Cristo, Page 183

Together, find the definitions for the words **creed** and **Apostle's Creed** in the Catholic Faith Words box and read them.

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph. Point out the phrases that begin the three main parts of the Apostles' Creed.

Read the second paragraph. Ask your child when the Holy Spirit might guide him or her.

Activity

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

Parents, Consider This: *Creed comes from the Latin "credo," meaning "I believe." Two well-known creeds are the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. In November 2011, the translation of both creeds were revised when the Third Edition of the Roman Missal was implemented. The Apostles' Creed honors the Blessed Trinity. If possible, find or make pretzels shaped into a loose knot. Share with your child that the three spaces symbolize the Trinity and the pretzel strips represent praying arms. Share some pretzels shaped in this way after completing this section.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Discuss the question, "Where can you find answers to your questions about the Church?" (**parents, guardians, grandparents, parish priest, your religion book**)

Read the paragraphs together.



Do the gold-star activity.

Remind your child that we grow in wisdom and grace when we learn about the Catholic faith.

Parents, Consider This: *As a Catholic person, it is our responsibility to learn about the Catholic faith. As adults, it is our obligation to find correct information about Church issues. As a parent, you can share this knowledge with your child and help them learn how to live the faith.*

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

Read the paragraph about Saint John of Matha.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about ways your family can show that you love the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Catholic Social Teaching is an important dimension of our faith. It is our responsibility to learn more about the Church's teachings regarding family life so that we can grow in our own faith. Consider learning more about a Catholic Social Teaching issue that relates to your family.*

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

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