

# The Church Through Time

## Preparation for the Session

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

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define a covenant as a sacred promise between God and humans
- Examine the covenant between Abraham and God, which led to the beginning of God's People
- Recall that, through Jesus, the Church continues to be a sign of God's covenant, which extends to all people
- Recognize the faithfulness and commitment of early Christians to the covenant and to God

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *From the time of the first people, humans gathered in community and made efforts to relate to God. They did so because God made us capable of hearing his invitation to relationship. After many generations, God called Abraham and Sarah to form a People who would be particularly his own. They heard his call and responded in faith. Can you hear the call of God amidst the noise and distractions of your life? It is not easy. Our lives are filled with so many, many things. Yet, as a parent, you have been given the responsibility to teach your child to listen for God's voice. Your family will grow in both a deep sense of unity and purpose when you join the generations before you who listened and responded to God's invitation.*

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

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



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

- Get on the Boat
- Building God's Kingdom

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 257,**  
The Church Through Time  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 515

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



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

**Explain** that, after Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended into Heaven, there were not very many people outside of his own country who knew about him.

**Say:** The first disciples, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, learned how to live together and went out to spread the Good News.



**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:** A very long time ago, God spoke to a man named Abraham and asked him to live as his friend. The promise, the covenant God made with Abraham, was to always be with him and his family. The coming of the Son of God shows us that God keeps his promises.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about God's promises.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 258,**  
God's Covenant  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 517

**Read** aloud the introduction to the Scripture.

**Tell** your child that they are about to hear a story about Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac. It is based on the very first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story (continued on page 259).

**Point** out that God later changed Abram's name to Abraham.

**Ask:** What family stories do you enjoy hearing again and again? Tell your child your favorite family story and your favorite story about him/her when he/she was younger.

**Ask** your child to read aloud the Catholic Faith Words, **covenant** and **proclaim**, and their definitions. Direct him/her to write the words on one side of the card and their definitions on the other. Save these cards for review.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 259,**  
I Will Be Your God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 519

**Point** out that this lesson may seem to be on “fast forward” as it moves from Abraham to Jesus. Explain that the Bible contains so many stories about people’s faith in God that one lesson cannot tell all of them.

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 260,**  
The Early Church  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 521

**Read** the three paragraphs.

**Explain** that some people did not want to hear the Good News about Jesus and that they made laws against the Christian faith. Help your child understand the term persecution—harassment of or harm done to a group because of some difference.

**Ask:** Why is it important to learn about the early Christians? *(They teach us how to live as disciples of Christ.)*

**Have** your child read the caption over the photograph. Discuss this information with your child.

**Review** the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, faithful. Have your child write the word on one side of the card and its definition on the other. Keep the cards to use for review at the end of the unit.

**Turn to Page 261,**  
The Church Grows  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 523

**Ask** your child to read aloud the paragraph under “The Church Grows.”

**Explain** that many years passed between the beginnings of the Church and the time of the Irish and Scottish Saints. Even more time passed before the Church spread to the Americas.

**Read** aloud the paragraphs under “Into the Present.”

**Ask** your child how he/she is part of the Church’s history. *(They follow Jesus and share their faith with others. They might be a parent someday and teach the faith to their children, or be a Catechist and teach the faith to many children.)*

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** “Promises, promises...” You might have said those words yourself out of frustration because someone did not follow their promise with action. No Christian could ever utter those words to God. The covenant he made with Abraham and Moses resounds throughout history until the coming of his Son, Jesus. In Jesus, we see a promise fulfilled—the beginning of a new covenant that is realized in the ultimate sacrifice of love. In the promises you made at your child’s Baptism, you pledged to raise your daughter/son in the awareness of the gift of that covenantal love. Keep your promise. It will lead your child to the promise of eternal life with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

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



**Complete** the gold-star activity. Help your child find information about the topic she/he chose. Use the chart in the Live Your Faith activity on page 263 to organize the information. Ask your child to share that information with the rest of the family.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Clement of Rome.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does the Pope communicate today?

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning Offering (see Page 324), during your morning 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).