

# The Work of the Church

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 275,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 551

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Examine how the Church continues Jesus' work on Earth through her worship, teaching, care for others, and work for peace and justice
- Recognize that the Church is a sign of God's Kingdom and helps people share in the love of the Holy Trinity
- Recall that by our Baptism, all members of the Church share in her mission to share the Good News and serve God and others

**Turn to Page 267,**  
The Work of the Church  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 535

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Parents are not supposed to have favorites. Each child in the family needs to know how loved they are as they are God's beloved child as well as your own. And yet, we know that children with special needs or those who are ill may need extra time and attention from a parent. When the Church works for the care and liberation of those who are poor, she is acting as a parent who is giving that attention to the ones most in need. As Christians, we work to cooperate with God's Kingdom. We must look, not only into our own homes, but also outward, to those who are most in need of the Good News. Aiding those who are poor or in need shows solidarity with all humanity.*

**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).

- Peace Is Flowing Like a River
- Take the Word of God with You

## 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 because we are the Church, we have a mission.

**Say:** Our mission is to share the Good News and to serve God and each other. Saint Paul told the people who lived in Corinth how they should act.



**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:** When we respect others, we help bring God's peace to the world. When you work to make the world a place where people have what they need to live, you work for justice. As a member of the Church, you share in God's work.

**Invite** the children to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about living in peace.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 268,**  
Doing Jesus' Work  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 537

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

**Have** your child underline the sentence that tells the work of the Church.

**Emphasize** the idea that, as baptized members of the Church, we are all called to perform positive actions and work for the Kingdom of God.

**Ask** your child to explain how a simple action could help make a better future. Examples from this chapter's People of Faith feature may help start ideas flowing.



**Proclaim** the Scripture.

**Ask** your child what was the most difficult thing Jesus asked the disciples to do?

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.



**Complete** the gold-star activity. While your child fills in their answers in the book, answer each of the questions yourself on a separate piece of paper. After they share their answers with you, share your insights with them.


**Turn to Page 269,**  
Called to Work  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 539

**Turn to Page 270,**  
The Church in the World  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 541

**Have** your child silently read the three paragraphs on this page.

**Ask** your child to tell you how we can share the Good News of Jesus.

**Discuss** a person you know who has impressed you with his/her actions as an example of sharing the Good News.

 **Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Read** aloud the photo caption. Ask your child to tell you what is happening in the picture on this page and on page 271.

**Turn to Page 271,**  
Sharing a Mission  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 543

**Alternate** reading the first two paragraphs. When you get to the highlighted words, **peace** and **justice**, go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read their definitions. Have your child make vocabulary cards. Collect the cards so they can be reviewed at the end of the unit.

**Read** aloud the paragraph under “Why Help with the Church’s Work?” Remind your child that all people are called to share their gifts and serve one another.

## Activity

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


**Parents, Consider This:** *It is a wonder how many things we can cram into a twenty-four hour period. When parents are asked to describe their family life, the words most often used are harried, overwhelmed, and exhausted. In our culture, time is more valuable than money. It is a precious commodity. And yet, to live as a disciple of Christ we are called to service and that service takes time. It takes time to notice the needs around you. It takes time to imagine a way to help. It takes time to do what needs to be done. God is asking us to be intentional about the way we use the gift of time that he has given us. As your family serves those who are poor and vulnerable, you are a sign of God’s love in the world.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

**Define** the term “witness” as a verb that means “to testify or tell the truth about something.”

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

 **Complete** the gold-star activity. Read aloud the three bullets. Discuss how participating in the listed activities shows faith to others.

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

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Peter Claver.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Think of someone that your family can bring God’s message of love to.

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 275,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let’s Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 551

**Parents, Consider This:** *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning 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).