

The Creator's Work

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 61,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 123

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recall that God created human beings in his image and likeness
- Reflect on creation as a gift from God that shows his goodness
- Understand that creation is the work of the Holy Trinity
- Recognize our responsibility to care for all of creation, especially each other

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

Parents, Consider This: *Part of the mystery of creation is just how perfectly the universe is put together. God's well-ordered plan situates planets and plants, buds and bugs, stars and squirrels so that each functions according to its purpose. All creation gives honor and glory to God, yet only humans are created in his Divine image. The Bible tells us that each human being is wonderfully made. Beginning your day by looking in the mirror with your child and repeating, "I am wonderfully made," may help both you and your child grow more deeply aware that you are God's magnificent work of art.*

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.

- And It Was Good
- The Trinity

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 God made the world and everything in it. He created human beings to be able to know him and live as his friends.

Say: Let's listen to the words of Psalm 139 and hear what God has to say to you about how you were created.

Turn to Page 53,
The Creator's Work
Vivos en Cristo, Page 107



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: You are God’s special creation. There is no one in the entire world like you. Your life is a gift and has a purpose. All of creation is a gift and has a purpose. Let’s explore God’s plan.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about being God’s special creation.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth



Proclaim the Scripture reading. Tell your child to close his/her eyes and imagine what is being described in the story as you read.

Emphasize that God created the world and everything in it. Like a good detective, we can search for clues about God by looking at what he created. What can looking at a sunset, understanding how a bat flies, or learning about dolphins tell you about God? *(That he has an unlimited imagination, that he wants all things to live in harmony, etc.)*

You may want to complete this chapter sitting on your deck, patio, or porch.

Ask your child to read the paragraphs.

Give your child one index card. Have them write the Catholic Faith Word **creation** 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.

Activity

Discuss the pictures of creation in the circles on the pages. Ask your child to draw or write his/her favorite thing in creation in the blank circle. Tell your child about a time when you were overwhelmed by God’s creation. *(a camping trip with boy scouts, a vacation to the Grand Canyon, a favorite tree outside the house where you grew up)*

Turn to Page 54,
The Creation of the World
Vivos en Cristo, Page 109

Turn to Page 55,
Learning about God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 111

Turn to Page 56,
The Beauty of Creation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 113

Ask: What is the purpose of God’s creation? (to live together in harmony and peace)



Read the directions for the gold-star activity. Complete the activity. Discuss the illustration with your child. Ask him/her to describe what he/she sees in the illustration. Ask what they think the family in the drawing could be talking about.

Read aloud the definition for **Holy Trinity** and locate the word in the text. On an index card, have your child write the vocabulary word on one side of the card and the definition on the other side. Keep the cards for use in a vocabulary memory game or for the unit review.

Turn to Page 57,
The Image of God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 115

Read aloud the first two paragraphs. Have your child place his/her finger on the Catholic Faith Word **image of God** and read the definition for them.

Ask: your child to stand up across from you. Tell them you are going to ask them to do exactly what you do. Stand on one foot with arms outstretched. Stand with legs crossed, with arms crossed behind you, etc. Try to make him/her lose their balance.

Share how hard it is to keep things in balance—playing and school work; eating a balanced diet, spending money on family and others in need, etc. Sin makes God’s creation out of balance. Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Fold it in half. On one half, direct her/him to draw something beautiful in God’s creation. On the other half, ask them to draw what it looks like when mankind sins, or knocks things out of balance. (A beautiful seashore—seashore with dead fish because of pollution in water; a rainforest—a rainforest cut down with animals who have no place to live.)

Parents, Consider This: *While God made each of us unique and wonderful individuals, God also created each of us with the need for relationship and for community. The most basic need of every human being is to be loved and to love. Being a part of the community of faith, our family, our parish, helps us keep our life in balance. Left to our limited, individualistic way of thinking we can easily become out of balance, we can live a life that is out of order—God’s order. When you help your child learn to respect and live in right relationship with you and all of the members of your family, you are creating balance in their lives, a balance that begins to reveal God’s order in their lives and in the world.*

Read aloud the paragraph “Responsible to One Another.”

Ask: What is your most important responsibility in caring for creation? (to show love and respect for all people) How might your responsibilities change as you grow older?

Say: Humans are special and deserve respect because they are created in God's image.

Help your child see that beauty and diversity are important aspects of creation.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 58,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 117

Read the question followed by the paragraph.

Point out that the Earth must be cared for in just the same way as people care for the gifts they receive from friends and family members.

Ask: Why is it important to respect the Earth? (It gives us food and materials we need to live. It is God's creation and we are thankful.)

★ Ask your child to read the directions for the gold-star activity. Allow time for your child to read, think, and mark the boxes that apply to them. Discuss their answers. Help him/her determine a specific and practical plan for caring for creation this week. You do the same. Writing the plan on a piece of paper and putting it on the refrigerator might help you both keep focus during the week.

Turn to Page 59,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 119

Read the paragraph about Saint Rabanus Maurus.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can pay better attention to how God shows his plan in nature.

Activity

Complete the Live Your Faith activity. You may already have a family garden. Discuss ways your family can learn about God through your garden or perhaps a community garden.

Turn to Page 61,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 123

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.

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.

- 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.

Families Teach Love

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 81,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 163

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Appreciate that families teach us how to care for, respect, and help one another
- Recognize the importance of Mary as the Mother of God and our Mother, too
- Connect the words Elizabeth used to greet Mary with the Hail Mary
- Identify the Catholic family as the domestic Church where we experience love, and learn about God and how we pray and live as Catholics

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

Parents, Consider This: *Family is the place where we first learn we are loved and we learn how to love. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it this way: “The first school of Christian life is the Christian family” (CCC 1657). The family shapes a child’s primary image of God. It does so faithfully when it mirrors God’s life and love in the perfect love that flows between the three Persons of the Holy Trinity. Your child learns this from you when you display a loving relationship that results in the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of a daughter/son.*

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.

- The Family of God
- All Over the World

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 73,
Families Teach Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 147

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 our families are one of God’s first gifts to us. They take care of all the things we need. Most importantly, they help us to live as God’s People. We have another family as well.

Say: Let’s listen to this story about Jesus.



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 helps us to understand that our families belong to a bigger family we call the Church. Learning how to love each other in our family helps us understand how to love other people in the world. God uses our families to teach us important lessons.

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 74,
A Model for Our Families
Vivos en Cristo, Page 149

Read aloud the question. Ask your child how she/he knows that she/he is cared for in your family? How can our family show more care for each other? (Listen to your child’s answers. They may surprise you.) Make sure you discuss how important it is for family members to spend time together.

Find the highlighted Catholic Faith Words **Visitation** and **Mary**. Ask your child to read aloud the definitions and then write the word and definitions on separate index cards.



Proclaim the Scripture story. Ask your child what the Scripture tells about how Mary and Elizabeth felt. (*happy to be together, grateful for God’s blessings, full of wonder about the changes happening in their lives*)



Read the directions for the gold-star activity and then help your child complete the activity.

Discuss the illustration. Mary’s response to Elizabeth is called the Magnificat. You may want to play “Mary, O Blessed One” (Track 17) from the *Songs of Scripture* CD Grades 1-3.

Turn to Page 75,
The Greatest Mother
Vivos en Cristo, Page 151

Read aloud the paragraph and the question that follows.



Complete the prayer. If you need help, turn to page 321 to find the Hail Mary. Pray the prayer together.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child write one of the ways your family cares for each other that you discussed at the beginning of the lesson.

Turn to Page 76,
The Church of the Home
Vivos en Cristo, Page 153

Read the first three paragraphs together.

Ask your child which family members taught them about safety rules and how to care for pets.

Read aloud the fourth paragraph.

Ask: What is something you have learned about the Catholic Church in our family?

Have your child find the highlighted Catholic Faith Word **domestic Church**. Read the definition out loud. On an index card write the vocabulary word on one side, and its definition on the other.

Read aloud the first two paragraphs.

Ask your child what he/she thinks authority means. Reinforce that authority means the right or power to enforce rules or give orders. Note that the power to make decisions is based on responsibility for the good of all.

Explain that families are part of the Church.

★ Read aloud the directions for the gold-star activity and then complete the activity.

Read aloud “God Loves Everyone.”

Ask: Why is it sometimes hard to obey someone who is responsible for you? What can you do to overcome that difficulty?

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 78,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 157

Read aloud the question.

Remind your child that respect is honoring God and other people.

★ Read aloud the directions in the green box and then complete the activity.



Turn to Page 79,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 159

Read the paragraph about Blessed Luigi and Maria.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can help each other be Saints. (i.e. calling out the best in each other)

Activity

Read the directions for the Live Your Faith activity. On a separate sheet of paper, help your child name four or five scenes that will tell his/her story. On the other side of the paper help him/her section the paper into the number of boxes he/she will need to tell the story. Direct your child to finish the work.

Parents, Consider This: *The one simple truth that God shares with us in the first pages of Scripture is that he is our creator and we are his creation. When we hear people say, "What does faith have to do with my life?" it is indeed a testimony to how far human beings can stray from the truth that God has created us for relationship with himself and others. Our families are sacred for two reasons; in our families we experience the love of God for us through one another and in our families we are formed by word and action to bring Christ to the world. When you lose sight of that amidst the daily blur of everyday life, pray for the grace to remember and see. Pray the words of Scripture "Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive," (2 Chronicles 7:15) and see the difference.*

Turn to Page 81,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 163

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.

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.*



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The Church Celebrates

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 105,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 211

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Describe worship as adoring and honoring God, especially at Mass and in prayer
- Discover that at the Last Supper Jesus celebrated the Passover with his Apostles
- Identify liturgy, including the Seven Sacraments and forms of daily prayer, as the public prayer of the Church
- Understand that Catholics are required to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- Recognize the Blessed Sacrament as the Holy Eucharist, especially the Body of Christ, which is kept in the Tabernacle

Turn to Page 97,
The Church Celebrates
Vivos en Cristo, Page 195

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

Parents, Consider This: *Making Sunday liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation part of your regular family life is a priceless gift to your child. Every liturgy is an encounter with the loving God. Here, Catholics experience Christ's presence most fully in the Eucharist, but also in the Word, the priest, and the assembly. As we come week after week to be nourished, we find help to face daily joys and struggles with hope and faith.*

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.

- Praise the Lord
- Five Loaves

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 we already have something to thank God for when he opened our eyes in the morning—the gift of our life.

Say: Even if we tried, we could not keep count all of the gifts that God gives us in a single day. We should give thanks to God at all times and in all ways. Jesus knew how much we need God in our lives.



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 ate many meals with his family and friends. But, Jesus knew that people were hungry for more than food. He knew they were hungry to learn about God and his love. God, our Father, knows what we need. If we trust in God, we do not need to worry. We learn to trust God as we trust those who care for us in our everyday life.

Share a way you like to give thanks to God.

Have your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else they might wonder about giving thanks to God.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 98,
Special Celebrations
Vivos en Cristo, Page 197

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child find and point to the words **Seven Sacraments**. Have your child read the rest of the page. Then have them point to the words **Last Supper** in the last paragraph. Move to the Catholic Faith Words box and ask your child to read the definitions there.

Turn to Page 99,
The Last Supper
Vivos en Cristo, Page 199



Proclaim the Scripture.

Have your child recall a time when he or she expressed thanks.

Ask: Why were Jesus and his friends celebrating in the story? (it was the Jewish feast of Passover) Discuss how Jesus’ words are used at every celebration of the Mass.

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child decide what the special celebration is and write the story together.

Parents, Consider This: *We remember things we celebrate. Keep in mind the dates of your child's Baptism and First Communion. As a family, celebrate them in some special way; light your child's Baptismal candle on the anniversary date of their Baptism or bake or buy some special bread together on the anniversary date of your child's First Communion.*

Turn to Page 100,
The Heart of Our Worship
Vivos en Cristo, Page 201

Ask your child to describe what they know happens at Mass.

Read the first three paragraphs. Discuss how all the ways we worship are pleasing to God, but the Eucharist, or the Mass, is the most important to Catholics.

Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Word box and identify **liturgy** and **Nicene Creed**. Review the definitions.

Read the paragraphs under the heading, "At Mass."

Turn to Page 101,
At Mass
Vivos en Cristo, Page 203

Move to the Catholic Faith Word Box and have your child read the definitions of the **Tabernacle** and the **Blessed Sacrament**.

Activity

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

Parents, Consider This: *Children learn what is important by what we say to them, what we teach them, and what we do with them. Describe to your child how the Blessed Sacrament, as the Holy Eucharist, the Body of Christ, is kept and reserved in the Tabernacle at church. Visit your church when you can spend some quiet time together in prayer and adoration. A short reverent visit is a great way to pray with your child and pass on your belief in the importance of the Eucharist.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 102,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 205

Discuss the question, "How do you show respect at Mass?"

Summarize the information presented on this page. Demonstrate and practice with your child the gestures that show respect at Mass.

Remind your child that Christians celebrate both inside and outside of the church building. Within a church, Church members gather for Mass and joyously celebrate the Sacraments. Recall family gatherings that have been held as extensions of Church celebrations such as Baptisms, First Communion, and weddings.

Turn to Page 103,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 207

Read the paragraph about Saint Mary MacKillop.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what your child's favorite part of the Mass is.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The Eucharist is a sacrifice and a shared meal. The sacrifice offered is Jesus suffering and death. The meal that Christians share unites them with Jesus and with one another. It also nourishes us to do God's work. Family life also involves both sacrifice and shared meals. When someone sacrifices something for someone in your family, praise that action. When you gather to share a meal, make it a regular practice to thank God and bless the food that nourishes your family.*

Turn to Page 105,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 211

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.

Pray Always

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 115,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 231

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Describe prayer as talking and listening to God
- Name the Lord's Prayer as the prayer Jesus taught his followers to pray to God the Father
- Discuss the importance of daily prayer
- Recall the various ways to pray: using traditional prayers and our own words, out loud or silently, and at any time
- Identify the five basic forms of prayer as blessing and adoration, praise, petition, intercession, and thanksgiving

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

Parents, Consider This: *You are about to help your child better understand the gift of prayer in our lives. Prayer has many forms. One of the most important forms is making and taking the time to be with God in silence; with an uncomplicated awareness of God's power, goodness, generosity, and care. When you are constantly aware of God's presence in your life, you are constantly praying. At opportune times, you can point out to your child occasions to pray, such as saying, "Let's say a prayer in our heart and mind for our neighbor who is ill." Making this part of your everyday conversation is how your child will learn to pray.*

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.

- Open My Eyes
- Jesus, Please Hear Our Prayer

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 prayer is an important part of our life with God.

Say: In prayer, we give thanks and we ask forgiveness. We tell God about what worries us and ask for help. Most of all, we give God praise. It is important to think about how we should pray.



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: Talking with our friends is something we all enjoy. Talking with God is even better than talking to your friends. God knows us so well that he understands exactly what is in our hearts. Learning to be a person who prays will help you to become a better disciple.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about prayer.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 108,
Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray
Vivos en Cristo, Page 217

Read aloud the paragraph. Have your child find and point to the words **prayer** and **Lord’s Prayer**. Move to the Catholic Faith Words box and ask your child to read the definitions there.



Proclaim the Scripture.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Recall a time in your own life when you asked God for something in prayer and you believe your prayer was answered. Try to remember to share those stories in your family. That is often how we come to recognize God’s action in our lives.

Turn to Page 109,
How to Pray
Vivos en Cristo, Page 219

Read the introductory paragraph.

Ask your child to listen to the directions Jesus gives for praying.



Proclaim the Scripture story. Have your child talk about where and what he or she prays for most often.

Ask: What does God know about your prayers? (God knows what is in their hearts.)

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity. Help your child decide what he or she would want in an ideal prayer space. After listening to your child, have them write their answer in the box.

Parents, Consider This: *Having a prayer space in your home is an excellent way to set an environment for prayer. Any small area, such as a table top in a corner of a room, can become a place of prayer. You might want to keep your family Bible there, a statue of a Saint, a holy card, or a crucifix. Whatever would set the context for prayer for your family can be placed in this prayer space.*

Turn to Page 110,
Ways We Pray
Vivos en Cristo, Page 221

Ask your child to describe some different ways to pray.

Read the paragraphs on this page.

Ask: Does God always hear our prayers? (yes)

Recall for your child that Jesus was praying on the night before he died. Ask your child what Jesus might have been saying to God the Father. (he didn't want to die; he was afraid; he needed his Father's help; may God's will be done)

Turn to Page 111,
Prayer Forms
Vivos en Cristo, Page 223

Read the introductory paragraph. Tell your child you are going to review five forms, or types, of prayer.

Move to the Catholic Faith Word box and have your child read the definitions of the highlighted words. Explain that these are the five forms of prayer.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Together, look up the passages from Scripture and have your child complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Think of the importance of daily prayer in the life of your family. Prayer that is done often becomes a habit. Praying regularly changes our lives. Praying as a family strengthens and roots our family in God's loving presence.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 112,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 225

Read the paragraph.

Discuss the question, "How can you communicate with God?"

Review the suggested ways to pray in the "Ways to Pray" chart.



Ask your child to add some other ways they can think of to the list.

Turn to Page 113,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 227

Read the paragraph about Saint Gertrude the Great.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about who your child likes to pray for.

Activity

Have your child work on the Live Your Faith activity. Once they've completed their prayer wheel, both of you take a couple of spins.

Parents, Consider This: *At the heart of the Christian relationship with God is the willingness to communicate with him. It is important for the children to recognize that their thoughts are among the most precious prayers. Teach your child to sit quietly and offer thoughts to God. Remind yourself and everyone in your family that if they are quiet, they will hear and understand how God is helping them.*

Turn to Page 115,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 231

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.*



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The Good News

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 129,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 259

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recall that the Gospel message is the Good News of God's Kingdom and his saving love
- Identify the Gospels as the four books in the New Testament that tell the stories of Jesus' life
- Describe the Kingdom of God as the world of love, peace, and justice that is in Heaven and is still being built on earth
- Recall that in his miracles and parables, Jesus teaches that God's Kingdom is here and to come

Turn to Page 121,
The Good News
Vivos en Cristo, Page 243

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

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus came to proclaim the reign of God founded on love, justice, and peace. When we act in the name of Jesus, with compassion, justice, forgiveness, and love, within our family or out in the world, we help to realize the Kingdom and proclaim the Good News. Be aware of how the words and actions in your home can proclaim the Good News of the Gospel. Speak with love to each other, be quick to forgive, act fairly, and pray for peace.*

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.

- When We Praise You
- Act Justly

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 God sent Jesus, his Son, to teach us about God's Kingdom.

Say: In the Kingdom of God there will be peace and justice. Peace comes to many people when they know they are forgiven. Jesus helped us to understand the Kingdom through many different stories of God's forgiveness.



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 see many times in the Gospel that people who are sick and suffering come to Jesus. He makes them well. He heals them. Healing is another sign of God’s Kingdom.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about healing.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 122,
The Gospel Message
Vivos en Cristo, Page 245

Read the text aloud.

Ask: What is the Good News that Jesus shared? (Possible response: **God loves his People and saves them from the power of sin and everlasting death.**)

Read together the definition for the word **Gospel** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Turn to Page 123,
Jesus’ Message
Vivos en Cristo, Page 247

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask: Where did Jesus begin his ministry? (**Nazareth**)

Tell your child that you will hear a story about how Jesus surprised people in his hometown. Point out that in Jesus time, many people did not understand that Jesus was the Son of God.



Proclaim God’s Word.

Ask: Why were the people surprised by Jesus’ message? (**they didn’t expect him to be from Nazareth**)



Do the gold-star activity.

Read the final paragraph.

Have your child put a finger on the word **Messiah**. Read its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: The word *Gospel* comes from the Old English “*godspel*”—*god* meaning “good” and *spel* meaning “tale.” The four Gospels were written thirty to sixty years after Jesus’ Resurrection. The authors recognized the importance of writing the story of Jesus so that future generations could know and believe in him. Tell the stories of Jesus life in your family. That is how your child will also come to know and believe in him.

Turn to Page 124,
The Kingdom of God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 249

Read the first three paragraphs.

Ask: What were the signs of the Kingdom during Jesus time on Earth?
(his teaching and miracles)

Have your child find the words **Kingdom of God** and **miracles** and read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 125,
Parables
Vivos en Cristo, Page 251

Read the first paragraph and help your child read the definition of **parable** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Ask: Why did Jesus use parables to teach? (Parables use comparisons and ideas that people can understand to explain difficult concepts.)

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 126,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 253

Read aloud the intro question and the text.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Jesus’ Good News is a message of hope. His message to his disciples was to take the Corporal Works of Mercy seriously, that is, to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, and bury the dead. We give hope to others by these actions. Consider something your family can do this week to extend mercy to others.

Turn to Page 127,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 255

Read the paragraph about Saint Isaac Jogues.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about ways you can tell someone about Jesus.

Turn to Page 129,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 259

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



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The Paschal Mystery

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 139,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 279

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that Jesus offered the greatest sacrifice: he gave his life to save us from sin so we could have new life with God in Heaven
- Recall that the Resurrection is the event of Jesus being raised from Death to new life
- Define the Paschal Mystery as the mystery of Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- Examine how the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery in each of the Seven Sacraments

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

Parents, Consider This: *The Paschal Mystery is the suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. These four events together comprise the mystery of faith and give us hope that we, too, will rise from death to life. In the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, God has transformed defeat and death into victory and life. This is not an easy concept for a child to grasp. We are formed over time into an understanding. Point out, in the dark times anyone in your family experiences, that the Paschal Mystery of Christianity celebrates God's power to bring hope from despair, life from death, and saves us from our sin.*

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.

- We Proclaim Your Death, O Lord
- Savior of the World

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 on the night before he died, Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples.

Turn to Page 131,
The Paschal Mystery
Vivos en Cristo, Page 263

Say: Jesus wanted the Twelve to understand that, when you love someone, you are willing to sacrifice for them.



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: On Good Friday, Jesus died on the Cross. He gave up his life because he loved his Father, and he loved us. He wanted to give us back what we had lost because of sin. Every time we receive a Sacrament, especially the Eucharist, Jesus offers his love to us again.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about Jesus' love and life.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 132,
Being True to Our Promises
Vivos en Cristo, Page 265

Read aloud the Catholic Faith Word definition for **sacrifice**.

Read the intro question and invite your child to respond. Then read aloud the first paragraph and the section on Lindsey's Promise.

★ **Do** the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 133,
Sacrifices Show Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 267

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Ask: What did Jesus sacrifice mean for the world? (*Because of Jesus' sacrifice, all people can have new life with God in Heaven.*)

Activity

Ask your child when they have made a sacrifice for someone? How did your sacrifice show love? Have your child write his or her answer in the Share Your Faith box. Share a time when you made a sacrifice for someone.

Parents, Consider This: Although children often make sacrifices, they may be unfamiliar with the term. Build the word, sacrifice, into your child's vocabulary by using it in everyday situations. Thank someone if they make a sacrifice, no matter how small. Take notice of sacrifices people make in daily life situations, such as a family member who helps another. Notice, for example, someone clearing the plates from the table to the sink after dinner without being asked, or an older child being generous with a younger child. Affirm these sacrifices.

Turn to Page 134,
Jesus Resurrection
Vivos en Cristo, Page 269

Read the definition for **Resurrection** in the Catholic Faith Word box.

Read aloud the question and tell your child that the meaning of the Paschal Mystery will be explained in this lesson. Then read the first paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture story "The Appearance to Mary Magdalene."



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 135,
Christ's Saving Work
Vivos en Cristo, Page 271

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Read the definitions for the words **Ascension** and **Paschal Mystery** in the Catholic Faith Word's box.

On a separate piece of paper, have your child make a cross. In each quadrant of the cross, have your child name one of the four events in Jesus life that make up the Paschal Mystery. (suffering, Death, Resurrection, Ascension)

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 136,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 273

Read the question and the paragraph.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: In a world where immediate gratification is the norm, it may take some effort to help your child come to value self-sacrifice and to embrace sacrifice as a way of life. However, learning about the life of Jesus, surrounding ourselves with other faithful Christians, especially in a parish community, and being open to ways to serve others will lead us to grow in our ability to follow Jesus' example and "Love one another as I love you" (John 15:12).

Turn to Page 137,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 275

Read the paragraph about Saint Mary Magdalene.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about ways you can be a follower of Jesus the way Mary Magdalene was.

Turn to Page 139,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 279

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



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The Body of Christ

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 149,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 299

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, members of the Church continue Jesus' work here on Earth
- Identify the Church as the Body of Christ of which Christ is the head
- Recall that all the baptized use their gifts and talents to serve others
- Name stewardship as the way we appreciate and use God's gifts, including our time, talent, and treasure and the gift of creation

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

Parents, Consider This: *Saint Paul uses both the Body of Christ and the human body to convey the oneness of Christ and the Church. The different parts of the body contribute to our ability to function as a person in life. The Body of Christ is most alive when we each share the gifts we are given for the good of all. Pray to know the gifts of each person in your family. Encourage and invite each person to share his or her gifts for the good of others.*

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.

- Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ
- Share the Light

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 141,
the Body of Christ
Vivos en Cristo, Page 283

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 each person who is baptized becomes part of the Body of Christ.

Say: Jesus has a plan for you. When you live according to his plan, you will honor God for his gifts and bring peace to the world. Listen to these words from Saint Paul.



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 have all been given different gifts from the Holy Spirit. We must use these gifts and talents to love God and serve others. We continue Jesus work on Earth by doing so.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about gifts from the Holy Spirit and using them to love God and serve others.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 142,
We Each Have a Role
Vivos en Cristo, Page 285

Read aloud the question and the first paragraph.

Have your child find the highlighted words **parish** and **Body of Christ** and read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read the next three paragraphs.

★ **Do** the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 143,
Doing Jesus’ Work
Vivos en Cristo, Page 287

Read aloud the paragraphs on this page.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus clearly told us that we will be judged on how well we love God by how well we love others. When you think about the Corporal Works of Mercy, think of one way your family can feed the hungry or visit the sick and plan such a service activity to do together this week. Help your child relate your service to what he or she learns in this chapter. Our faith grows and develops when we are able to connect what we do in life with what we believe in.*

Turn to Page 144,
Sharing in Jesus’
Work of Helping Others
Vivos en Cristo, Page 289

Read the opening question and discuss it together. Read the first paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture story “The Appearance to Mary Magdalene.”



Do the gold-star activity.

Ask: How can you help Jesus by helping someone else? *(We are all part of the Body of Christ. When we help someone we are helping someone who is part of the Body of Christ.)*

Turn to Page 145,
Share Your Gifts
Vivos en Cristo, Page 291

Read the definition of the word **stewardship** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read the three paragraphs on this page and discuss the question at the bottom of the page.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *People use their gifts and talents to serve God and others. We serve God when we serve our neighbor. Your child has probably used his or her talents to help others. When you see your child using his or her gifts and talents to help others, praise and affirm them. Surprise your child by leaving a note on their bed, in their lunch box, or at the dinner table to reflect the good you see them do. In your prayer, thank God for the goodness of your child.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 146,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 293

Read aloud the question and the first and second paragraph.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 147,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 295

Read the paragraph about Blessed Joseph Vaz.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some things you can do to help others know God.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: A “charism” is a grace given by the Holy Spirit to a person or a group for the good of the community. It is more than a personal gift or talent. A charism is a call to live in a particular way that will serve the church’s mission, the continuation of the work of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit generously bestows charisms on all members of the Church. Have you thought about what your charisms might be? Those of your family? We each have gifts given by God to share that will build up the community, the Body of Christ. What gifts do you and the members of your family bring to the Church?

Turn to Page 149,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.

Vivos en Cristo, Page 299

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

Church Leaders

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 163,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 327

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that Peter was the leader of the Apostles and first Pope, head of the entire Church
- Identify the Apostles as the first twelve leaders called by Jesus
- Recognize the bishops as successors of the Apostles
- Understand that the Pope, bishops, priests, and deacons lead, guide, and make the Church holy

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

Parents, Consider This: *You know when you are in the company of a natural leader. A good leader inspires and motivates a group. She or he can help you to accomplish things you never imagined possible while at the same time holding the goals, limits, and scope of your work clearly in the forefront. The Church needs good leadership to remain unified and to function effectively. Our primary teachers are bishops and priests, whom God calls to leadership by the power of the Holy Spirit. The bishop of Rome, the Pope, has the primary place among all of the bishops. He is the visible sign of unity for the Church throughout 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 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.

- Jesus Is with Us
- The Family of God

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 155,
Church Leaders
Vivos en Cristo, Page 311

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 the first “Mark” of the Church is unity. As the People of God, we are called to live in unity with one another.

Say: Let's listen to the reading from Ephesians that tells us about this unity.



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: The Church and all its members have Good News to share with everyone on earth. Jesus entrusted us, the Church, with his mission.

Invite your child 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 156,
The First Leader
Vivos en Cristo, Page 313



Tell your child that they are about to hear three separate stories from the New Testament in the Bible that tell us about Peter, the Apostle. In each section, read the story in parts: “Peter’s Belief” (Peter/Simon, Narrator, Jesus); “Peter Denies Jesus” (Narrator, Jesus); “Jesus and Peter” (Peter, Narrator, Jesus).

Ask: What did you learn about Peter in these stories?

Play: “Upon This Rock” from the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 20.

Ask: What did the song teach us about Peter?

Read aloud the final paragraph. Go to Catholic Faith Words Box and review the definition of Pope.

Turn to Page 157,
Jesus and Peter
Vivos en Cristo, Page 315

Turn to Page 158,
Chosen to Lead
Vivos en Cristo, Page 317

Tell your child that we need leaders to help us be the best we can be. Tell him/her about someone you know who is a good leader and what he/she helped you to accomplish.

Say: We are going to talk about Church leaders. Today, someone else has the same job that Jesus gave to Peter.

Have your child read the two paragraphs aloud. Tell him/her to listen to discover who does Peter’s work now. (the Pope)

Ask: Who takes the place of Jesus’ Apostles today? (Pope and bishops)
What do you think the responsibilities of a bishop are? (leads and serves a diocese)

Read the definitions for the Catholic Faith Words **Apostolic Succession** and **bishop**. Give your child three index cards. Have your child write the words on one side of the card and the definitions on the other side. Collect the cards and save them for review.

Parents, Consider This: *When we look at the family through the lens of spirituality, we realize that God intends for parents to be the leaders in their family. You lead by word and example. You understand the purpose of the family and so set the goals and priorities of your family life to uphold your purpose. To help you keep your focus and support you in living out your purpose, God gives you the Church. Being able to stay connected to the universal Church through an active connection to your parish is truly a gift.*

Turn to Page 159,
Leaders of the Parish
Vivos en Cristo, Page 319

Read aloud the paragraph.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Help your child learn the names of the pastor and deacon(s) of your parish. (You can find these in your parish bulletin, which are often available online.)

Have your child silently read the paragraph under “Church Members Serve.” As your child reads, ask them to list the different kinds of ministries on a separate sheet of paper. Review their list.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Fill in the blanks substituting the director of your Religious Education Program for the catechist.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 160,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 321

Read aloud the first paragraph to your child. Then have them help you by alternating reading the captions under each photograph. After each caption, stop and discuss what your child sees in the photograph.

★ **Have** your child write what they think is the most interesting thing about the Pope in the space provided. Listen to his/her response and then share your response with your child.

Point out that the Pope leads all of the Church together with the bishops.

Ask: What do you think would be the hardest thing about being the Pope? Add what you think as well.

Reinforce the important leadership that the Pope supplies to all of the Church.

Turn to Page 161,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 323

Read the paragraph about Saint Gregory the Great.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Ask your child how they feel when they are asked to do something they don't want to do.

Turn to Page 163,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 327

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit (see Page 323), 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.

One and Holy

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 173,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 347

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize the Marks of the Church as four characteristics that identify Christ's Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic
- Describe Pentecost as the feast that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit
- Discuss how the Holy Spirit continues to unify the Church and make her holy
- Define the Communion of Saints as everyone who believes in and follows Jesus

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

Parents, Consider This: *How often do you watch family videos about special events? Probably not enough. Those moments are the anchors of our lives; they are the experiences that define us as persons. Baptism is one of those sacred moments in our faith journey that must be remembered often, as it was the moment we were shaped and formed into the Body of Christ. Actually, Baptism is more than an event to be remembered; it defines how we live each day. Imagine some ways to celebrate the anniversary of Baptism for each member of the family; a special meal, a special treat, and, most importantly, a time to retell the story of the day. Maybe even watch that video!*

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.

- Come to Us Holy Spirit
- Around Your Throne

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 165,
One and Holy
Vivos en Cristo, Page 331

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 we use the word *church* to talk about a building, but it's important to remember that the word *Church* (with a capital C) means the baptized people who are disciples of Jesus.

Say: Let's listen to hear what Saint Paul said about 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: Jesus sent his Spirit to the Twelve on the Feast of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit made the Apostles one community and gave them the courage to tell the Good News about Jesus. The Holy Spirit does the same for you.

Invite your child 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 166,
United as One
Vivos en Cristo, Page 333

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Ask your child to read the three captions above the illustration. Pause between each caption to discuss the following:

- what your child sees in the photographs
- which countries the photographs were taken in
- the countries location on the map

Turn to Page 167,
Identifying Characteristics
Vivos en Cristo, Page 335

Read aloud the definitions of the Catholic Faith Words **Marks of the Church, one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.** Give your child five index cards. Have your child write each of the words on the five separate cards. They should add their definitions to the back of each card. Keep the cards for review.

Read the paragraph as your child follows along.

On a separate sheet of paper, have your child draw a bicycle wheel. Ask him/her to write Jesus name on the hub of the wheel. Use the wheel to explain how we are "one." (In Baptism, I become one with Christ. I am a spoke on the wheel. I do not directly relate to someone else. My spoke is not directly connected to another spoke. My spoke connects to another through the hub. We are all connected to each other through Christ.)

Turn to Page 168,
Made Holy
Vivos en Cristo, Page 337

Set the stage for the Scripture story by explaining that the Apostles did not yet feel Jesus' presence after his Ascension.



Proclaim the Scripture story.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Ask: What happened after the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles at Pentecost?

Share with your child a time when the Holy Spirit helped you to do something that you were afraid to do. (stick up for someone being picked on; saying no when a friend asked you to do something wrong)

Point out that the arrival of the Holy Spirit fulfilled Jesus' promise to the Apostles.

Turn to Page 169,
Communion of Saints
Vivos en Cristo, Page 339

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask your child to underline what the Holy Spirit does.

Return to your drawing of the bicycle wheel. Explain that the Holy Spirit works at Baptism to make you one with Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit that guides you to follow Jesus more closely.

Ask your child to write people's names on some of the spokes.

Have your child read aloud the second paragraph. Explain that unity and holiness are not limited to the earthly Church.

Read the last paragraph.

Ask: Whom do you know that belongs to the Communion of Saints?

Return to your bicycle wheel and write some names of the Saints on the empty spokes. For assistance, review the People of Faith from previous lessons.

Activity

On the opposite side of the paper where the bicycle wheel was drawn, have your child write down five questions he/she would like to ask a Saint?

Parents, Consider This: *At the Baptism of your child, you committed yourself to helping your child grow in the understanding of the miracle that had happened in that sacred moment. His/her life was forever joined to Christ. If we continue to reflect on the image of the bicycle wheel, it helps us to understand that there is nothing in our lives that does not flow through Christ. Our connection to our families, friends, neighbors, and strangers happens through our center (hub), Christ, himself. The deeper we grow in relationship to Christ, the more capable we become of living our mission—to serve in his name.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 170,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 341

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Take turns reading one stripe in the chart.

Remind your child that the Saints are special people. They are beautiful examples of how to lead holy lives in service to God and others.

Point out that many Saints led interesting lives and that children can learn a great deal from them.

Turn to Page 171,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 343

Read the paragraph about Saints Perpetua and Felicity.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss a Saint who is important to a member of your family and talk about the special “friendship” between that person and the Saint.

Activity

Ask your child to complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 173,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 347

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit (see Page 323), 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.

Catholic and Apostolic

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 183,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 367

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that Saint Paul was one of the first to take the message of Jesus across many countries
- Explore the Church's mission to announce the Good News of God's Kingdom
- Identify the Church as catholic and apostolic
- Recognize that the Church's mission is to share Jesus' Good News with the people of all nations
- Discover that we are a part of the mission of the Church

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

Parents, Consider This: *The mission of the Church is to proclaim God's reign of love, justice, and peace. Jesus demonstrated how to cooperate with God's reign on Earth by bringing people into communion with him. In reaching out to and serving people, Jesus showed his disciples how to be present to one another. Today, Jesus' followers bring the Church's mission to life in acts of compassion and forgiveness, in works of justice and peace. The mission of the Church begins in your home. You teach your children that the love that is present in your family must extend to the world outside of your home.*

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.

- Gathered as One
- Walk in the Light

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 175,
Catholic and Apostolic
Vivos en Cristo, Page 351

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 the Church has a mission to share Jesus' Good News with the people of all nations. The Church is for everyone.

Say: Let's listen to the words of Saint Paul.



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: You have a mission to bring the Good News of Jesus to everyone through your words and actions. That is part of what it means to be Catholic.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about bringing the Good News of Jesus to others.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 176,
A Man with a Mission
Vivos en Cristo, Page 353

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Alternate reading the next three paragraphs about “Paul’s Mission.”



Complete the gold-star activity.

Look at the illustration of St. Paul on the page. Ask your child to tell you what they see. Ask about the possible meaning of the hand scattering seeds above St. Paul’s head.

You may want to search the internet for a map of the Roman Empire in the first century and locate the following places: Tarsus (city of Paul’s birth), Damascus, Jerusalem (his journey where he met Jesus in the light), and Rome (where Paul was martyred for his faith).

Turn to Page 177,
Sharing God’s Good News
Vivos en Cristo, Page 355

Have your child read the first paragraph.



Tell him/her to listen carefully as you proclaim “Doing God’s Work. While you read, they should think about what the seed was that St. Paul planted. Proclaim the Scripture.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 178,
Universal and Missionary
Vivos en Cristo, Page 357

Share a good work that you have done to help spread the Good News with your child. Emphasize how often actions speak louder than words.

Read aloud the question. Tell your child you will read to find the answer. Alternate reading the four paragraphs with your child.

★ **Complete** the gold-star activity.

Give your child three index cards. Read the Catholic Faith Words definition for **evangelization**, **mission**, and **missionaries**. Tell her/him to write the words on one side of the card and the definitions on the other. Use the cards to review.

Direct attention to the photograph on this page. Read aloud the caption and discuss.

You may want to explore the web for religious orders that work in mission fields. (Maryknoll, Comboni Fathers, Missionaries of Charity, Glenmary Home Missions)

Turn to Page 179,
Sharing with Others
Vivos en Cristo, Page 359

Ask: What do people need in order to be physically healthy? (*food, adequate clothing, housing, medical care*)

Ask: What do people need in order to grow in faith? (*help in learning about God, prayer, the Seven Sacraments*)

Point out that missionaries share all these things with others.

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Ask your child to describe what they see in the photograph. Read the caption under the photograph.

Activity

Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Help your child to fold the paper in thirds as if you were sending a letter. Open the paper and place it width-wide on the table. Help your child write, "I am a missionary," across the top. In the first column, write the word "Pray." In the second column, "Give." In the third column, ask your child to draw her/himself cooperating with God's reign here on Earth.

Parents, Consider This: When you see someone doing something generous or compassionate, you recognize that it is good. Because you are faith-filled, you know that whatever is good begins in God. We cooperate with his goodness; we are his instruments. All baptized Christians share in the mission of the Church. Our words and deeds proclaim the Good News. We show people the face of God. Your children, however, still need to learn that profound truth. They must see you act and then they must hear you tell them why you act. This process of doing and telling is what we also do as we bring Christ to the world. We call this evangelization.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 180,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 361

Read aloud the paragraph.

Focus on the “Partner Parishes” chart. Ask your child to read what’s in the chart. Ask them to summarize the text for you in his or her own words.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 181,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 363

Read the paragraph about Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss what your family can do to help do Jesus’ work here on Earth.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 183,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 367

Parents, Consider This: It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit (see Page 323), 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.

Choose Love

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 197,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 395

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Examine how the Story of Joseph in the Old Testament shows us the importance of forgiving and loving
- Discuss Jesus' command to love your enemies
- Describe the Beatitudes as teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell how to live in God's Kingdom
- Identify that Jesus' New Commandment is to love one another as he has loved us

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

Parents, Consider This: *There are some days when life can feel like a ping-pong game and we are the ball. We simply get batted from one place to another and not much seems like our choice. Yet, to live a moral life, Jesus calls us to be conscious about our choices. What we choose and why we choose to either do it or not must be intentional. Jesus gives us the New Commandment to guide us in our choices. In loving our neighbor, he asks us to forgive. The practice of forgiveness must begin in your family. Your child will never understand the forgiveness of God if he/she has not repeatedly experienced forgiveness from you.*

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.

- Greatest Gift
- Shalom

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 189,
Choose Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 379

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 when we do something loving, it makes us feel good. But, love can sometimes be hard.

Say: How many times a day do you hear the word “love”? It is a wonderful feeling when someone tells us they love us. Listen to these words of Jesus.



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 are asked to sacrifice for others, it can be difficult. Jesus asks even more of us. He challenges us to love our enemy. When we do the difficult things that love asks, we love as God loves.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about sacrifice and love.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 190,
Learning to Forgive
Vivos en Cristo, Page 381

Read aloud these paragraphs to introduce this part of the lesson.

Explain to your child that this story is from the Old Testament, the part of the Bible that tells about the life of God’s People before Jesus was born.



Proclaim the Scripture story.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 191,
The Story of Joseph
Vivos en Cristo, Page 383

Ask your child to read the paragraph after the Scripture story.

Discuss the two purple follow up questions.

Spend some time discussing why it can be more difficult to forgive people in your family than others outside of your family.

Look at the illustrations on this page and on page 190. Have your child tell you who the characters are and what is happening.

Turn to Page 192,
The Way of Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 385

Read aloud the opening paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Read aloud the closing paragraph.

Talk about the difference between forgiving and forgetting. While some hurts we may never forget, forgiveness is a daily choice to let go of the hurt and choose to act in love.

Review the song, “You’ve Got to Love Them,” from the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 7. The lyrics are available at aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Turn to Page 193,
The New Commandment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 387

Direct your child to read the first paragraph. As he/she comes to the highlighted words **Beatitudes**, **mercy**, and **New Commandment**, read their definitions from the Catholic Faith Words Box. Have your child write the words on three separate index cards.

Read aloud the second paragraph. Look at your parish bulletin from last week or search for it online. Find things that your parish does to live the New Commandment.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Until Jesus and God’s covenant, his sacred promise to be in relationship with us was expressed in the Law of Moses. God’s covenant is fulfilled in Jesus who is the new covenant—one that was expressed most fully on the Cross, for it is on the Cross that we see and experience the depth and breadth of God’s love. Jesus’ words and actions give us a law that is written in the hearts of people and flows from the grace and freedom of the Holy Spirit. Jesus’ teachings in the Beatitudes are more than a set of rules. The Beatitudes require a transformation of the heart to love as Jesus did. The Beatitudes are listed on page 317 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section. Find a way to place them at the center of your home.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 194,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 389

Discuss the meaning of the word peace. Explain that peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is related to contentment and love.

Read aloud the paragraphs, alternating with your child.

Ask: During which part of the Mass do you make the sign of peace?

Turn to Page 195,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 391

Read the paragraph about Saint Peter Canisius.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss ways you can show respect and kindness to people you may not like very much.

Turn to Page 197,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 395

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 325), 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.

Live in the Light

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 207,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 415

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Discover that Christians are called by Jesus to be the light of the world
- Be aware that our vocation is God's plan for our lives
- Describe virtues as good spiritual habits that make us stronger and help us do what is right and good
- Explore the Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity and how they help us live in relationship with the Holy Trinity
- Illustrate the need to practice the virtues so they will grow over time

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

Parents, Consider This: *Throughout life, people develop both good and bad habits. Indeed, many people have spent a good number of New Year's Eves dreaming up resolutions for the coming year. Good habits and bad habits do not just happen. Repeated practice reinforces them until, finally, they become automatic. Teaching your children the habit of brushing their teeth or hanging up their clothes helps them to become responsible adults. Teaching your children the habits of faith, hope, and love helps them to become more committed disciples. Acquiring these virtues will enable them to make God's Kingdom visible in this 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 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.

- Share the Light
- Christ is Light

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 we all know how hard it is to see in the dark. Even the littlest bit of light can help us to see.

Turn to Page 199,
Live in the Light
Vivos en Cristo, Page 399

Say: Let's listen to the words of Jesus as he talks about light.



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 helps us to see what we must do so that we can be his light in the world. But just like when we are learning to ride a bike or dance, we must practice. We must practice how to be faith-filled, hope-filled, and loving people.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about how to be Jesus' light in the world.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 200,
The Light of the World
Vivos en Cristo, Page 401

Ask your child to read aloud the opening paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture story. Emphasize that Jesus' words apply to modern times, too.

Read the questions that follow the Scripture and allow your child to respond.

★ **Complete** the gold-star activity.

Read the caption and then invite your child to interpret the photograph at the bottom of the page. (Easter Vigil is the greatest Mass of the Church year, celebrated on Holy Saturday evening. The new Easter candle, representing Jesus as the Light of the World, is welcomed and the light passed.)

Turn to Page 201,
Be a Light
Vivos en Cristo, Page 403

Read the three paragraphs. Ask your child to explain what Jesus meant when he said, "You are the light of the world."

Give your child one index card. Tell her/him to write the Catholic Faith Word, **vocation**, on one side and its definition on the other. Collect the card and hold it for review.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Affirm your child's example and think of some other ways he/she has done loving things in your family or for others.

Turn to Page 202,
The Virtues
Vivos en Cristo, Page 405

Read the first paragraph.

Ask: When do we first receive these virtues? (at Baptism)

Read the next two paragraphs. Afterward, review the definitions for the Catholic Faith Words **virtues**, **Theological Virtues**, and **faith**. Give your child three index cards. Have them write the words on one side and the definitions on the other. Collect the cards for review later.

Turn to Page 203,
The Theological Virtues
Vivos en Cristo, Page 407

Ask your child to place her/his finger on the word **hope**. Read aloud the definition. Repeat this process for the word **charity**. Create two additional vocabulary cards. Collect the cards until time for review.

Ask your child how she/he can grow strong in virtues. (by practicing them)

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Have your child complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: *You are about to begin a conversation with your child about prayer. Your child may not be aware of all the ways that you pray. Share your prayer life with him/her and tell him/her how often you pray for his/her needs. This may also be an opportunity to reflect on the prayer that you do or do not do together as a family. Developing intimacy with God requires communication, just like every other relationship. Help your child develop a sense of security and peace by making prayer an intentional part of your family life. Our common Catholic prayers can be found in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book, beginning on page 320.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 204,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 409

Ask your child to read the text on the page to you. When finished, ask them to tell you what they read in their own words. The last paragraph invites a conversation about prayer in your family life. Be honest. Recognize the prayers you do say. Together, think about ways you can add prayer to your family life.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 205,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 411

Read the paragraph about Saint Genevieve.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How can your family help others in need?

Activity

Complete the Live Your Faith activity with your child. Share with him/her a new time of day you have decided to pray and what will remind you to pray at that time.

Turn to Page 207,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 415

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 325), 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.

Help With Choices

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 217,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 435

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize conscience as an ability given to us by God that helps us make choices about right and wrong
- Define the Precepts of the Church as some of the minimum requirements given by Church leaders for deepening our relationship with God and the Church
- Recall that the Holy Spirit and the teachings of the Church help us to make good choices
- Appreciate receiving God's forgiveness and the grace to help us change in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Turn to Page 209,
Help with Choices
Vivos en Cristo, Page 419

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

Parents, Consider This: *One of the great insults to level at someone, whether you say it or think it, is, "Know it all!" It is so frustrating to interact with someone who believes that he/she is the expert in all things. Humility helps us to understand that we are limited in our own knowledge and perspectives. It is the human condition. To help us overcome our limitedness, God has given us the gift of the Church. United with Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church helps us to know God's truth through her teaching. As Catholics, we form our conscience with the help of the Church as we seek to know, understand, and do God's will.*

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.

- God of Mercy
- Kyrie

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 taught his disciples how to live by loving God and loving others. He asks us to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit so that we can know what is right.

Say: Let's listen for what the Holy Spirit is saying to you in God's Word today.



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: It is sometimes difficult to know what is right. It is also difficult to do what is right. God helps us to know his will through the Church's teaching. Even when we fail, God is waiting to forgive us, to lead us back to him and help us to change.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about knowing what is right.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 210,
Many Choices
Vivos en Cristo, Page 421

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Read aloud the questions and listen to your child tell you how he/she makes choices. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear how he/she discerns what is right and what is wrong.

Go back in the text and ask your child to find highlighted words. Ask her/him to read the definitions of the Catholic Faith Words, **grace**, **conscience**, and **Precepts of the Church**. Give your child three index cards. Have them write the words on one side and the definitions on the other. Collect the cards for review.

Turn to Page 211,
The Church Guides Choices
Vivos en Cristo, Page 423

Read aloud the paragraph.

Look at the "Precepts of the Church" chart. Alternate with your child reading the Precept and how each Precept guides you.

Ask your child to tell you what you have just gone over in his/her own words.

Create a vocabulary card for the Catholic Faith Word, **Precepts of the Church**.

Turn to Page 212,
Changing Directions
Vivos en Cristo, Page 425

Summarize the opening paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Ask your child how Saul changed. (from hurting Jesus' followers to becoming one of them)



Complete the gold-star activity.

Remind your child that people who make selfish choices can change and make better choices. Ask him/her to think about how he/she might be less selfish at home. Discuss some ideas that might help your child handle those situations differently.

Turn to Page 213,
The Sacrament of Penance
and Reconciliation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 427

Read aloud the first paragraph. Distinguish between a sin and an accident or a mistake. Remind your child that the choice to sin is intentional, but that an accident or a mistake is not intentional.

Read aloud the second paragraph. Point out that Jesus and the Church have provided the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as a way of repairing the harm that sin does.

Talk with your child about their experience of the Sacrament. If it has been a long time since he/she has celebrated the Sacrament, make a plan to go as soon as possible. Remember, your child will understand the value of this Sacrament when he/she sees you receive it as well.

Make a vocabulary card for the Catholic Faith Word, **sin**. Add it to the others for review.

Activity

Complete the Connect Your Faith activity. Spend time discussing the long-term consequences for cheating, particularly allowing the teacher to think that you know the material.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 214,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 429

Read aloud the first paragraph. Slowly review the steps for forming your conscience in the "Form Your Conscience" chart.



Complete the gold-star activity. Work with your child to think of a memory trick to help them remember the five words. (Please let Lucy answer respectfully.—Pray, Learn, Listen, Ask, Receive)

Ask: Why is forming your conscience important? Make sure your child knows how important it is to you for him/her to make good choices and why.

Activity

Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Ask him/her to fold it in half. On one side of the fold, have them draw a picture of a child making a good choice and on the other side of the fold, a child making a bad choice.

Parents, Consider This: *While God plants in us the desire to know his will, Saint Thomas Aquinas tells us that conscience is our ability to reason so that we can know God's will. No one has more influence in shaping your child's conscience than you. What he/she will believe about good and evil as an adult is deeply rooted in what he/she hears and sees in your home. How your child connects their choices to their relationship with God is deeply influenced by your teaching. You are not just raising a good person; you are raising a disciple of Jesus Christ.*

Turn to Page 215,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 431

Read the paragraph about Saint Pio.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Ask your child to tell you when he/she has experienced mercy.

Turn to Page 217,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 435

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 325), during your night prayer this week.*



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Sacraments of Initiation

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 231,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 463

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand that people of all ages can be baptized into the Church
- Identify that the Sacraments of Initiation include Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Recall that Baptism removes Original Sin, forgives personal sin, and gives new life in Christ; Confirmation seals and completes Baptism
- Appreciate that Jesus shares himself with us in the Eucharist

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

Parents, Consider This: *In Baptism we are welcomed into the life of the Church and invited to journey toward life with God forever. At our Confirmation, the Sacred Chrism sealed our Baptism and the Holy Spirit strengthened us. At the Table of the Lord, we received the Body and Blood of Christ. As the spiritual leader and primary teacher of faith for your family, encourage everyone to remember that the grace given in these Sacraments is real and can help us with the ups and downs of life.*

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.

- The Seven Sacraments
- If You Believe and I Believe

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 Baptism is the first Sacrament we receive.

Say: Remember that in Baptism, God shares his life with us through Jesus. We become part of the Body of Christ here on Earth. Listen to how Saint Peter spoke to his family in faith.



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: The Sacraments are God’s gift to us to help us to grow as Jesus’ disciples. The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist celebrate membership in the Catholic Church.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about the Seven Sacraments.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 224,
New Life in God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 449

Read aloud the opening question and first paragraph.

Have your child silently read the two paragraphs. Point out the highlighted word, **Sacred Chrism**, and review its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask your child to share impressions of the photograph on the bottom of the page.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 225,
Life in the Church
Vivos en Cristo, Page 451

Direct your child’s attention to the photograph at the top of the page. Read aloud the caption.

Have your child silently read the three paragraphs and then summarize the story for you.

Ask your child to either list on a piece of paper, or share with you verbally, the similarities and the differences found between the celebrations.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Immersing a person in flowing water was the usual way of baptizing in the early Church. Baptism by immersion has been brought back in many parishes today. A Baptismal pool is used for this purpose. Some parishes use temporary pools for the Easter Vigil; others have permanent pools. If at all possible, attend the Easter Vigil together as a family. The Rites of the Easter Vigil are so meaningful and more fully appreciated when experienced firsthand.*

Turn to Page 226,
Church Membership
Vivos en Cristo, Page 453

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Review the highlighted words, **Sacraments of Initiation** and **Eucharist**, and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture story in the Parchment Paper box.

Ask: Who did Peter say Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit was for?
(everyone)

Ask your child to share their impression of the picture at the bottom of the page.

Turn to Page 227,
Receiving and Sharing
God's Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 455

Read aloud the first paragraph. Review the highlighted word, **Real Presence**, and its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 226.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The teaching of the Real Presence is important, but not possible to fully explain. As a family, prioritize participation in Mass. Help your child form a trust in the power of the Eucharist in our lives. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. Ask yourself how the Eucharist nourishes your spiritual life. Discuss this with your child.*

Review the "Sacraments of Initiation" chart with your child. Have your child silently read the "Words and Actions" and tell you what the words and actions are for each Sacrament. Either read aloud the "Effects" column or summarize it for your child.



Do the gold-star activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 228,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 457

Read aloud the opening question and first two paragraphs.

Summarize the bullet points for your child.

Turn to Page 229,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 459

Read the paragraph about Saint John the Baptist.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a Baptism you have seen. Who was baptized? What happened during the Sacrament?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Initiation is a process. The Rites celebrate the process, but we cooperate with grace when we prayerfully continue to nourish our spiritual lives in the regular participation of the Eucharist. Encourage your family as they continue on this journey.*

Turn to Page 231,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 463

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord during your night prayer this week.*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



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Sacraments of Healing

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 241,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 483

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Reflect on the connection between faith and healing
- Recognize that God's forgiveness and healing are given through the Sacraments of Healing
- Understand that in Penance and Reconciliation, you confess your sins to a priest and are forgiven in the name of Christ, while in the Anointing of the Sick, the priest prays that God will send you his healing love

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

Parents, Consider This: *Illness and sin are a very real part of life. Every person in your family will, at one point or another, know the feelings of helplessness, powerlessness, and despair that are part of the human condition. During these times of physical and spiritual need, the Church reaches out to reveal the goodness and power of God's grace. In the Sacraments of Healing, the Church mediates God's forgiveness and healing. Within the Body of Christ, we can find strength, rest, and freedom. These are gifts to your family and will help you have the grace to move through difficult times in life.*

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.

- Heal Us, Lord
- Coming Back Together

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 233,
Sacraments of Healing
Vivos en Cristo, Page 467

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 was sad when he saw people who were hungry, hurt, or sick. He wanted everyone to be well and have what they needed.

Say: In God's Word, we will hear about people who wanted to be close to Jesus.



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: The people believed that Jesus would make them better, that he would heal them. Today, Jesus gives us the healing we need through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 234,
Jesus Heals
Vivos en Cristo, Page 469

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.



Read the Scripture story in the Parchment Paper box. If there are enough people in your household, present it as a play.

Turn to Page 235,
Jesus Gives New Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 471

Complete the reading of the Scripture story.

Ask: Why did Jesus want to help Jairus? (**Jairus had great faith.**) How is Jairus a role model for us? (**When we are troubled, we can remember that Jairus had great faith and that Jesus helped him and his daughter.**)

Turn to Page 236,
Church Membership
Vivos en Cristo, Page 473

Read the opening question and paragraph.

Parents, Consider This: *One of the greatest things we can learn in our family is to make peace with one another after you have wronged or been wronged by another person. Remind your child to recognize their faults and practice humility by asking forgiveness. Point out that, in forgiving, we become more like God. Encourage everyone in your family to leave the past behind and begin anew after reconciling with one another. Model these life practices for your child.*

Review the definition of the highlighted word, **Sacraments of Healing**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read aloud the “Sacraments of Healing” Chart.

Turn to Page 237,
Sin and Sickness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 475

Read aloud the paragraphs.

★ **Do** the gold-star activity.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Most of us usually experience healing for the first time within our families. We fall and scrape our knee. Someone comforts us and applies a Band-Aid. We cry out in the night with a bad dream and someone rushes to our side, assuring us that we are safe. Invite your child to share stories from your family when someone has been sick and recall who cared for them. Emphasize that these healing experiences can be similar to the healing experiences in the Church family.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 238,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 477

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Summarize the bullet points for your child.

Ask: When can you participate in Penance and Reconciliation?
(whenever you need to)

Turn to Page 239,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 479

Read the paragraph about Saint Marianne Cope.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what you do when you are sick and how Jesus can make you feel better.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Your child may wonder why they must confess their sins when God's forgiveness is always available. Explain that the Sacrament of Reconciliation was given by Jesus to his followers to assure them that God is forgiving their sins. Reconciliation allows people to hear the words of God's forgiveness and mercy through the priest. The ways you live forgiveness and mercy in your day-to-day family life is how these gifts of our faith will take root in your child's heart.*

Turn to Page 241,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 483

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord during your night prayer this week.*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



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Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 251,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 503

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand that vows are sacred promises made to or before God
- Explore serving God and community through the Sacraments at the Service of Communion
- Describe Holy Orders as the Sacrament in which baptized men are ordained as deacons, priests, or bishops
- Identify Matrimony as the Sacrament that joins a baptized man and a baptized woman in Christian marriage to serve God

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

Parents, Consider This: *In Baptism, God calls us, as Christians, to holiness and to mission. Whether single, married, or religious, lay or ordained, all of us share in this common priesthood. No Sacrament is an end in itself. Matrimony and Holy Orders call those members into a particular lifestyle of service. In family discussions, point out those ways you see married couples and those in religious life serving God. Remind your child that God gives each of us a unique way to live a vocation of service.*

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.

- All That God Wants You to Be
- For the Fruits of this Creation

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 doing kind and helpful things for others is part of the life of a disciple.

Say: We should always be looking for ways that we can be of service. Listen to what Saint Paul told the people who lived in Galatia.

Turn to Page 243,
Sacraments at the
Service of Communion
Vivos en Cristo, Page 487



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: Serving God and each other is such a necessary part of the life of a baptized Catholic that Jesus gave us two Sacraments to give us the help we need. In the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders, God calls us to honor him by serving others.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 244,
Learning about Service
Vivos en Cristo, Page 489

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Read “The Wedding Story” as a play. Have your child read Samantha’s parts and have a parent(s) read the parts of the parents.

Point out that all families suffer through difficult times. Family members can help one another through the hard times.

Ask: What are some good memories of weddings of family members you have?

Review the definition for the highlighted word, **vows**, in the Catholic Faith Words box. Discuss the difference between a vow and an agreement.

Turn to Page 245,
Sharing Wedding
Memories
Vivos en Cristo, Page 491

Read the story, “Sharing Wedding Memories,” as a play. Have your child read Samantha and Jeremy’s parts and have a parent(s) read the parts of the parents in the story.

Note the highlighted words, **priest** and **deacon**, and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity as a discussion between you and your child.

Turn to Page 246,
Serving God's People
Vivos en Cristo, Page 493

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Review the Catholic Faith Word, **Sacraments at the Service of Communion**, and its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Serving others in life is the work of the entire Christian community. Our children will ultimately be prepared to make a life commitment to some kind of service if they learn, while growing up, to serve others and not expect to be rewarded for that service. Develop an environment in your family that encourages joyful and generous service in your home and in the community.*



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box.

Turn to Page 247,
Sacraments of Service
Vivos en Cristo, Page 495

Have your child silently read the paragraphs.

Review the “Sacraments of Service” chart. Have your child read the “Action” of each Sacrament and you read the “Effects.”

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Invite your child to interview a married couple or a priest. Help your child to arrange this. Consider what questions would be appropriate and would help your child to understand the Sacrament. Encourage your child to ask how the Sacrament of Marriage has helped the couple serve God, or ask the priest how the Sacrament of Holy Orders has helped them serve God.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 248,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 497

Have your child silently read the opening question and the three paragraphs. Ask your child to tell you some of the main points of the section.

Ask: When you serve others, should you be thinking of how it will help you or how it will help the ones you are serving? (**how it will help the ones you are serving**)

Read aloud the captions for each photograph. Between each caption, invite your child to give his or her impression of what's going on in the photographs.

Turn to Page 249,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 499

Read the paragraph about Saint Jean-Baptiste de la Salle.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how your family has served the poor.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Those who are ordained live out their common ministerial priesthood in service to the entire Church, proclaiming the Good News in Word and Sacrament. Consider how your family has been served by this unselfish commitment to the faith community. Discuss some of the concrete ways—presiding at Eucharist, hearing confessions, wisdom shared in homilies, baptizing family members, being visited when sick—your pastor has helped your family.*

Turn to Page 251,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 503

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord during your night prayer this week.*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



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

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.

- 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.*



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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.

- 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.*



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Everlasting Life

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 285,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Reflect on Jesus' Resurrection as proof of his promise of eternal life
- Recognize that the last book of the Bible, Revelation, ends with John's vision of God's everlasting Kingdom
- Understand that the Particular Judgment is the individual judgment by God at the time of a person's death
- Identify the Last Judgment as God's final triumph over evil, when Christ will come again and bring the Kingdom of God to its fullness

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

Parents, Consider This: *Late night TV is filled with invitations to call psychics who will tell you about your future. For some people, knowing what the future holds is a huge concern. Although we know no one really knows what the future holds, Jesus did promise that the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness at the end of time. Someday there will be a new Heaven and a new Earth where injustice, war, and hatred will be no more. Justice, peace, and love will reign. As Christians we live with Jesus' promise to return. He will come again in love, a love that will banish evil once and for all.*

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.

- Seek Ye First
- Now Thank We All Our God

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 277,
Everlasting Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 555

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 when Jesus rose from the dead, we had proof of his promise of eternal life.

Say: Eternal life means that when we die, we too can live forever with God, if we believe and accept his grace in our lives. Listen to Saint John describe the gift of eternal life.



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?

Say: If we are faithful to God, we will live forever with God in happiness. We call that Heaven. If we choose to turn completely away from God, we will be separated from him forever. We call that “Hell.”

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

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about Heaven and everlasting life.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 278,
Cycles of Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 557

Read aloud the first paragraph. Point out that the story on this page tells about both the beginning and the end of life.

Read aloud the story, “The Little Daisy,” using your voice to express the character’s feelings.

Ask: Why did Daisy feel better after learning that flowers would bloom from her seeds?

Ask your child if he/she has heard another story about a death that led to new life. Have them share that story.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 279,
New Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 559

Ask your child to read aloud the text to introduce the Scripture story.



Proclaim the Scripture. Invite your child to close her/his eyes and imagine John’s vision.

Ask how John described the city in his vision. (a holy city of justice, love, and peace; a life with no more tears, sadness, suffering, or death)

Explain that the holy city is John’s way of describing his vision of the new life Christians will have when Jesus returns.

Tell your child that, although death is an ending, it is also a beginning. Share with them about a time when you have suffered the loss of someone you loved. How did God's promise of eternal life bring you comfort and hope?

Remind your child that Jesus promised his followers everlasting life.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 280,
Our Future
Vivos en Cristo, Page 561

Alternate reading the paragraphs with your child. When you get to the highlighted words, **Heaven, Hell, Purgatory,** and **Last Judgment,** go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read their definitions.

Have your child make vocabulary cards and keep them so they can be used for review at the end of the unit.

Turn to Page 281,
The Beginning
and the End
Vivos en Cristo, Page 563

Read aloud these paragraphs.

Remind your child that as followers of Jesus, he/she can look forward to a reunion with God. The Catholic Church looks forward to the time when the Reign of God will come in its fullness.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Thoughts of the Last Judgment can make people uncomfortable. Jesus teaches that God is merciful and compassionate, just and loving. He gave humans free will; they are responsible for their actions. Upon death, it is time to face the ultimate truth. By their actions in this life, especially their acceptance or rejection of the grace and friendship God offers, all people choose everlasting life in Heaven or Hell. Helping your children understand that their choices have consequences that are both immediate but also far reaching, will help them develop wisdom. It will give them a consciousness that this life is only the beginning, and they will be able to welcome the next life with peace, not fear.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 282,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 565

Explain that comforting a person shows that you share his or her feelings of grief, usually because someone the person cared about is very sick or has died.

Read the first two paragraphs aloud.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 283,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 567

Read the paragraph about Saint Joseph.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about the people in your family who have died.

Turn to Page 285,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

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.*



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