

God's Providence

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:

- Recognize that the first creation account teaches the goodness of all God's creation
- Define providence as God's loving care for all things; his will and plan for creation
- Describe Divine Revelation as the way God tells humans about himself and makes his plan known
- Recall that God reveals himself through Sacred Scripture and the Sacred Tradition of the Church

Turn to Page 53,
God's Providence
Vivos en Cristo, Page 107

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

Parents, Consider This: *In Sacred Scripture you see that humanity's history has been filled with times of salvation and grace. In Sacred Tradition you see how people are chosen to celebrate, teach, and serve as God's own family. Your home is the sacred space where your child learns that they are part of God's plan, part of salvation history. Connecting your family to the stories of the people in the Bible (Scripture) and the parish community where you experience the "Church" (Tradition) will help your child grow in the security and peace that comes from belonging.*

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.

- I Sing the Mighty Power of God
- 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 when someone creates something new, they start with a plan or a design. God had a plan as he created the world and everything in it. Listen to what the Bible tells us about God's plan.



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.

Share with your child how awesome it is to think about how God designed everything in creation from an acorn to our human bodies. How powerful and wonderful God is! Ask your child to tell you what in all of creation he/she finds the most awesome. Share what you think.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about God’s creation and his plan for them.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 54,
God’s Creation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 109

Before you read the Scripture, have your child tell what they know about creation from the Bible.

Explain that there are two accounts, two different narratives, of creation in the Bible. You will be reading the first account.



Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box. Invite your child to follow along as you read “The Story of Creation.”

Turn to Page 55,
Vivos en Cristo, Page 111

★ **Do** the gold-star activity. Direct her/him to circle the word “good” every time it appears in the Scripture story. Then have her/him tell you something that they learned about God while listening to the Scripture.

Ask: What is one thing you heard in this story today that made you wonder?

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith Activity. Discuss some of the specific ways that God shows his love for us through creation.

Turn to Page 56,
A Plan of Loving Goodness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 113

Have your child create his/her own packet of vocabulary index cards. Tell your child to write the word **providence** on the front of the card and its definition on the back of the card.

Read the first two paragraphs.



Proclaim “The Call of Jeremiah” in the Parchment Paper box.

Have your child retell the story. Then direct your child’s attention to the picture of Jeremiah.

Ask: What is happening in the picture?

Share your answers to the purple questions with your child. (Perhaps it was to help someone, go back to school, or get married.) (Your heart kept tugging at you, people you trusted kept encouraging you, and/or you asked God in prayer and had peace about what you were about to do.)

Turn to Page 57,
A Plan of Loving Goodness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 115

Have your child write the term **Sacred Scripture** on the front of an index card and its definition on the back of the card. Do the same for the other words found in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Have your child read the first two paragraphs aloud. Now, you read the last paragraph. Check for their understanding of the Catholic Faith Words.

Parents, Consider This: *Jeremiah, the prophet, answered God’s call to speak his truth to the people of Israel—a truth that was not always welcome. In family life we are called to help others in our family know God’s truth, when we speak that truth in love. Because family is the place where we are most known, it is the sacred place where we can help each other grow in holiness, discover God’s plan for us, and become who God wants us to be. Do the members of your family speak God’s truth to each other in love?*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Silently read the first paragraph. Discuss the importance of prayer.

Read numbers 1 and 2 in “Make Your Own Prayer Space.”

Discuss with your child where and how to create that space for him/her. Since example is the best teacher, show him/her your prayer space or discuss where you might create one as well.

Read numbers 3 and 4 in “Make Your Own Prayer Space.” Cut out the text from these numbers and put it in your child’s prayer space.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can become more in tune with creation.

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.

God Is Faithful

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:

- Discuss how death, suffering, ignorance and the inclination to sin all came into the world as a result of Original Sin
- Understand that God always remains faithful and promises salvation, desiring humans to be free and faithful to him
- Describe a covenant as a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans
- Appreciate that God called Abraham, and because of his belief in and trust in God, God established a covenant with him

Turn to Page 63,
God Is Faithful
Vivos en Cristo, Page 127

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

Parents, Consider This: *The stories in Genesis before Abraham convey important religious truths rather than historical events. The story of Adam and Eve shows how sin affects relationships with God. Biblical accounts emphasize that it was humans' choice, not God's, that changed humanity's initial relationship with God. Help your child understand that sin is a choice against God's plan for her/him, a choice against her/his own happiness. Sin ruptures our relationship with God and causes pain in our lives.*

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.

- God Keeps His Promises
- God of Abraham

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 always loves us, even when we sin.

Say: God is forever faithful. Even if our belief in God wavers, he continues to believe in us.



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?

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

Say: Faith is a gift. It is a gift not only to treasure but also to practice and share.

Have your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else they might wonder about God’s faithfulness.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 64,
The First Sin
Vivos en Cristo, Page 129

Direct your child’s attention to the stained glass window and read the caption.

Read the first paragraph aloud and have your child underline the first five books of the Bible.

Open your Bible and after exploring the table of contents, let your child find the title page of each of the books.



Proclaim the Scripture, “In the Garden.”

Ask: How did life change for Adam and Eve after they sinned? *(They felt ashamed; everything got harder; they had to leave the garden and work; jealousy, sadness, fighting and death entered the world.)*

Have your child read the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box and add those definitions to their vocabulary cards.

Turn to Page 65,
Consequences
Vivos en Cristo, Page 131

Direct your child to read the first two paragraphs.



Read and complete the gold-star activity.

Ask your child to recall a bad decision that she/he has made and to recall the consequences of that decision. *(She gossiped about a friend and the friend doesn’t trust her anymore. He made fun of others on his team who are not as talented as he is so the coach benched him.)*

Emphasize that while God always love us, sin is always harmful to ourselves and others and the consequences remain.

Turn to Page 66,
A Sacred Promise
Vivos en Cristo, Page 133

Tell your child that you are now going to explore the story of Abram.

Read the definition for the Catholic Faith Word covenant. Explain that in the Scripture you are going to read, God makes a covenant with Abram.



Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper boxes.

- Give your child a pen and a pencil. Tell your child that as she/he reads, you want her/him to underline in pencil the words of Abram and circle in pen the words of God.

Parents, Consider This: *Faithfulness, constancy, and fidelity all describe the most important and treasured hallmarks of any loving relationship. Spiritual writers suggest that coming to know and experience God's tender faithfulness for us is the life-long challenge of our spiritual journey. Each time you pick your child up from an activity, each night you sit with him/her doing homework, you are helping your child "taste" the faithfulness of God.*

Give your child a sheet of paper and ask her/him to draw 3 or 4 large stars. You do the same. Inside each star, both of you write one thing you believe God wants for you. Share what you wrote.

Turn to Page 67,
God's Covenant
With Abraham
Vivos en Cristo, Page 135

Have your child read the definitions of covenant and faithful in the Catholic Faith Words box. Make two definition cards, one for each word.

Read the first two paragraphs. Emphasize that God made and kept promises.

Ask: How were Abraham and Sarah faithful to God? *(They trusted God and his promises; they obeyed his laws; they made loving choices; they followed his call.)*

Tell your child that Abraham and Sarah's story is important to people of many faiths. Have them read the last paragraph to learn why.

Emphasize the two movements of our life of faith—God reveals himself to us and made us free to respond to his invitation, to be faithful to him.

Ask your child, "How did Jesus remain faithful to his Father?" *(He lived out the Father's will to save us through his life, Death, and Resurrection.)*

Read the caption of the picture and discuss where the Tabernacle that holds the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist, is in your parish Church.

Now would be a great opportunity to listen to "God of Abraham" from the *Songs of Scripture* CD. Make sure you play it in your car this week as you go from stop to stop!

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read the opening paragraph aloud.

Ask your child, “Do you trust that God will answer your prayers?”

Have your child silently read the next two paragraphs.

Parents, Consider This: *It is important to help your child understand that prayer is not magic. When we pray we are not trying to manipulate the will of God to suit our will. Prayer, rather, is entering into the mystery of God’s tender love for us and our capacity to trust that he wills what will make us truly happy—total union with him. Your child will best learn how to pray by hearing you pray for God’s will to be done in your life. Family prayer is critical in shaping a child’s understanding of God.*

Emphasize the importance of being faithful in prayer. God does answer our prayers. However, the answer might not come as quickly as we would like or the answer may not be what we had expected.

Now, read the story aloud together.

Ask: How did God help Jessica? (God helped her to see a way to earn what she wanted.)

Point out the activity directions and ask your child to write about his/her own experience. Remind your child that God gives us everything we need to live and be happy.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Bridget of Sweden.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a time when you waited for God to answer a prayer.

Activity

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

Share with your child your hope that he/she would act as a loyal and trustworthy person. Ask your child how your family can help him/her to remain faithful to God’s invitation to have a relationship with him.

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.

God's Commandments

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:

- God created people to be free and live as his People, and he called Moses to lead his People from slavery to Egypt
- Identify the Ten Commandments as a summary of laws that God gave Moses on Mount Sinai
- Explain that God gave the Ten Commandments to help us be faithful to him and his covenant

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

Parents, Consider This: *Many of us grow up with the notion that rules restrict us. As adults we come to understand that rules help us to be clear about what fits within the boundaries of love, respect, and peace. In the Ten Commandments, the struggling Israelites were presented with the simple wisdom of God's will for them. As parents, when you teach your children by setting and holding boundaries (rules) based on God's laws, you help your child know and live a life that helps her/him grow in right relationship with God and 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 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.

- My Ten Commandments
- Moses, Set Them Free

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 wanted Moses to move his People, who were slaves in Egypt, to freedom.



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?

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

Say: Moses was just a shepherd taking care of his sheep when he noticed the burning bush. He paid attention to hear God and know what God wanted him to do. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments so that his People would know how to live.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about how God speaks to us today and her/him directly.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 74,
From Slavery to Freedom
Vivos en Cristo, Page 149

Read aloud the introduction to the Scripture story.

Review from last session that God created us with free will so that we can choose whether or not to follow God. God created us with free will because he wants us to choose the good—to love him above all things.

Provide your child with a pen and lined paper. Ask her/him to keep a list of the major events of the story—an outline of what is happening.



Proclaim “Joseph and His Brothers.” Pause when she/he begins to write so that she/he does not miss parts of the story.

Look at the picture of the stained glass window. Explain that when people could not read, the Church taught about God’s Word through the art of the windows. Ask your child what part of the story this window tells. Read the caption together.

Share with your child a time when you forgave someone who had harmed you. Ask him/her to share an example with you when he/she had to do the same.

Give your child a piece of blank paper. Ask them to draw the front of your house. In the windows of the house, ask him/her to write the names of some Bible stories that could help teach your family how to live in right relationship with God and others.

Parents, Consider This: You are about to share the story of Moses with your child. As Moses learns about God's love for his People, he also learns how people should live in response to God's love. How does anyone love God in return? They follow his Commandments, for the Commandments outline the boundaries of what love is and what love is not. For your child to be happy, he/she needs to learn that he/she is God's creation. The Commandments are the plan that helps each person learn what God desires for us and from us. Is there a place in your home where the commandments are visible?

Turn to Page 75,
God Calls Moses
Vivos en Cristo, Page 151

Read the first paragraph to your child.



Direct your child to read the Scripture silently.

- Ask: Who was Moses and what did he do?
- Discuss why Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. (God wanted the suffering of the Israelites to stop. He brought them from slavery to freedom.)
- Ask: Joseph also led a group of people from slavery to freedom? Who were those people and how were they slaves? (Joseph's brothers were slaves to their jealousy and greed. Joseph freed them with his forgiveness.)

Turn to Page 76,
Laws to Guide Us
Vivos en Cristo, Page 153

After reading the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box, have your child make vocabulary cards for the terms, **ark of the covenant** and **Ten Commandments**.

Ask your child to think of a time when he/she had a guide. (A vacation, a field trip, a scout leader, a coach)

Ask your child to recall the definition of covenant from Chapter 2. (a sacred promise or agreement between God and his People)

Invite your child to read the text aloud.



Have them complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 77,
The Ten Commandments
Vivos en Cristo, Page 155

Be ready with a piece of lined paper.

Read the first Commandment.

Ask your child to read what the Commandment means from the next column. On the piece of paper, write the number "1." Together, write three ways your family lives or can live the Commandment, remembering that the law is the *minimum* of what love requires. Repeat this process for all Ten Commandments.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read the introductory paragraph.



Complete the gold-star activity. (Answers: 1, 7, 3, 4, 2, 5, 9, 6, 10, 8, 4)

Parents, Consider This: *This session may have caused you to think more deeply about the rules you make and keep in your family. It is important to recognize that all of the energy you spend in holding those boundaries and being consistent about consequences is a holy work. In those moments when you are exhausted, drained, and it would be so much easier to give in, remember to pray for the grace to love your child enough to say “No.”*

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Raymond of Peñafort.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family follows the Ten Commandments.

Activity

Discuss the first part of the Live Your Faith activity.

- Write the number of the Commandment that is not being followed in each of the two pictures.
- Ask your child to draw a picture inside the third box in which he/she is following a Commandment.

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. You may want to play, “God's Laws Make Us Free” from the Songs of Scripture CD as you drive in your car this week.*



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In God's Image

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 dignity of the human person comes from being made in God's image and likeness
- Distinguish the soul as the spiritual part of a human that lives forever
- Define sin as a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the law of God
- Recognize that sin is a failure to love that affects individuals and the whole Church community
- Recall that every person is worthy of respect because he or she is created in God's image and made to love

Turn to Page 87,
In God's Image
Vivos en Cristo, Page 175

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 grow in appreciation of respect for all persons and their human dignity. Human dignity comes first from the fact that all people are creations of God. Therefore, humans are products of love, wisdom, and goodness beyond all understanding. As your family practices respect for others, your child will learn to treat each person he or she meets respectfully.*

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.

- O God, You Search Me
- You Are Near

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 created all people in his image.

Say: What does the term “made in his image” mean? Is it a quality we have been given, the ability to be in relationship, or a purpose we are here to serve? Let's listen and learn.



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: What does it mean to be made in the image of God? The best answer is found in the person of Jesus. He is our model to follow. In him, we see the best example of someone who shows us God’s image. Our challenge is to be the kind of person he was, to relate to God and to others as he did, and to serve as he served—more and more each day.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he or she might wonder about sin or about being made in God’s image.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 88,
Reflect God’s Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 177

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

Ask: What does it mean to be created in the image of God?



Read the Scripture passage aloud.

Tell your child that this passage comes from the story of creation. Explain that people have dignity because they are created in the image of God. Invite your child to silently read the last paragraph and summarize the abilities God gave humans that enable them to make choices for human dignity.

Point out the Catholic Faith Words box. Review the definitions for **human dignity** and **soul** with your child.

Turn to Page 89,
Saint Marianne Cope
Vivos en Cristo, Page 179

Introduce the biography of Saint Marianne Cope by summarizing the first paragraph.

Ask: Do you think it’s possible for a person to give dignity to other people? *(When we treat people with respect, they may come to understand their own dignity.)*

Read aloud the biography of Saint Marianne Cope.

Tell your child that, because all humans are created in God’s image, everyone has dignity and is worthy of respect. Saint Marianne demonstrated this in her work with persons with leprosy. Explain that people incorrectly thought that leprosy was a highly contagious disease, so it was difficult to find people to take care of lepers.

Activity

Invite your child to write a paragraph on a piece of paper in his or her own words about what human dignity means.

Parents, Consider This: *Human beings are the only creatures created in God’s image and likeness because they are the only ones who have an immortal soul. The human body shares in the dignity of this image of God. As a parent, you have many opportunities throughout your child’s life to emphasize the dignity with which his or her body is to be regarded. God created people with the capacity to share in his divine nature. This is the source of human dignity and worth.*

Read the first paragraph to introduce the topic of sin.

Ask: What happens when we act in a loving way? (*people get along, people feel respected, we feel we are living as God wants us to*)

Explain that “failure to love” is one definition of sin. Have your child silently read the second paragraph.

Read aloud the last sentence and introduce the “Personal Sin” chart. Review the chart together.

Read aloud the paragraph. Review the Catholic Faith Words **sin**, **mortal sin**, and **venial sin**.

Refer to the Our Catholic Tradition section of your child’s book (page 318). Read this page together to learn more about human dignity.

Activity

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

Parents, Consider This: *As situations come up in your family life, help your child distinguish sins from accidents. Remind your child that bad things can happen despite people’s good intentions. These are accidents, not sins. Knocking over a vase is not a sin. Knocking it over because you are angry is a sin. For an action to be a sin, the person must intend to do wrong.*

Turn to Page 90,
Created to Be with God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 181

Turn to Page 91,
Love and Respect
Vivos en Cristo, Page 183

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read the paragraphs together.



Do the gold-star activity.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Germaine Cousin.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you can help someone with a disability.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Children learn about dignity from how they are treated and how your child sees you treating others. In this next week, have a conversation as a family about someone you know who you can show special care for.*

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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Living in Community

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:

- Recognize that the mission of God the Son and the Holy Spirit is to bring all people into the love of the Holy Trinity
- Define morality as living in right relationship with God, yourself, and others
- Appreciate that God created all people for one another and we must all work for the common good
- Connect that our love of our neighbor reflects the love of the Holy Trinity

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

Parents, Consider This: *All communities, from your immediate family to entire nations, survive and thrive only when there is recognition of the common good, the needs of the group and all of its members. Your family is the best place to learn this way of thinking. As decisions come up that you need to make as a family, you'll need to make these decisions based on the common good for your whole family.*

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.

- Raise Your Voice for Justice
- Peacemaker

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 97,
Living in Community
Vivos en Cristo, Page 195

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 is three Divine Persons in One God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Say: God loves, not only in Heaven, but also in community, in a true and deepening relationship. The Father gives us Jesus, who in turn, reveals the Father and sends the Spirit.



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: God the Holy Trinity has created us to be like himself—to give ourselves in love to one another. Self-giving love is not always easy, but we do as God wants when we give of ourselves. Real happiness is found in becoming who we were made to be.

Have your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else they might wonder about relationships and living a moral life.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 98,
Created to Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 197

Read aloud the first paragraph. Move to the Catholic Faith Words box and review the definition of the **Holy Trinity**.

Have your child read the last two paragraphs.

Parents, Consider This: *Your loving God always supports you in living by his laws. The relationships that your family has with those in your community—in your parish for example—help you by surrounding you with other believers. The relationships you and your family have with others help you form a correct conscience and develop life-affirming habits.*

Refer to pages 308–309 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child’s book for more information on the Holy Trinity.

Turn to Page 99,
Right and Responsibility
Vivos en Cristo, Page 199

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Tell your child that a community tries to achieve a balance between rights and responsibilities.

Read the second paragraph to introduce the Scripture story.

Ask: What does it mean to be created in the image of God?



Proclaim “The Communal Life.”

Invite your child to imagine what it might have been like to live among the first Christians.

Ask: How is our parish like the early Christians who shared all things in common? (we help people who need food, we share Eucharist together, we contribute to our parish financially)

Turn to Page 100,
Living as Catholics
Vivos en Cristo, Page 201

Ask your child to describe what it means to live a moral life.

Read the first two paragraphs aloud. Point out that the early Christians took Jesus' example as their model and that we still do the same today.

Read the paragraphs under the "Moral Living" section.

Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Word box and identify the definitions for **morality** and the **common good**.

Turn to Page 101,
The Common Good
Vivos en Cristo, Page 203

Read the content on this page aloud to your child.

Activity

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

Parents, Consider This: *Blessed John Paul II, in The Hundredth Year, emphasized the world's interconnectedness. Despite our differences, we are one human family. Discuss as a family how people's actions affect our neighbors. As a family, think of one thing you can do to show kindness to a neighbor, such as greeting each other with a smile or praying for a neighbor who is ill.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Discuss the question, "How should you live as part of a community?"

Read the paragraphs under the question.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Part of living in a community is showing solidarity. As a family, watch for situations in your extended family, neighborhood, or community in which you can show you care. Be alert to situations in which people are suffering from a natural disaster, an illness, or a loss. Help your child find ways to show care and concern, such as writing notes, making cards, or contributing money.*

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Dominic.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how your family works together for the good of each person.

Activity

Do the Live Your Faith activity. Discuss your child's responses.

Parents, Consider This: Share the story of Saint Dominic. He founded a religious order called the Order of Preachers, also known as the Dominicans. The spread of the Rosary is attributed to Saint Dominic. For centuries, Dominicans have helped to spread the Rosary and emphasized the belief in the power of the Rosary. When Saint Dominic was a young student, he gave away his money and sold his clothes and furniture to feed the poor. As a family, say the Rosary together.

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.

Making Good Choices

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:

- Define free will as the God-given ability to choose between good and evil
- Recall that God gives us grace, the Ten Commandments, and the Church to help us make good choices and to deepen our relationship with him
- Understand that knowing God's laws and forming, or strengthening, our conscience will help us make good decisions
- Identify conscience as the God-given ability that helps us judge whether actions are morally good or wrong

Turn to Page 107,
Making Good Choices
Vivos en Cristo, Page 215

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

Parents, Consider This: *We each move along the path of spiritual and moral maturity as we exercise our free will. We each learn from our good choices as well as our mistakes. Free will makes us accountable. God asks us to be part of his plan and lets us choose our responses. Affirm your child's good choices as actions that please you and ways to live as God wishes. Use the opportunity of your child's less than loving choices as teachable moments about the higher purpose to which God invites us.*

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.

- Choices
- Open My Eyes

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.

Say: God created us with the ability to make choices. We have the ability to choose right or wrong. Making right choices is not always easy. That is why God promised to send a wise and understanding Savior who would show us the way to choose.



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: God gives us the freedom to choose and a Savior who shows us how to choose. God also gives us our conscience. When it is properly formed, our conscience can tell us whether a choice we are about to make, or have made, is a wise choice.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about making choices and knowing right from wrong.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 108,
Choices and Consequences
Vivos en Cristo, Page 217

Invite your child to consider the opening question, “What is the proper use of free will?” Then summarize the first paragraph.

Read aloud the story “Julia Decides.”

Ask: What is something that happened because of Julia’s choice?
(She improved and won the award.)

Discuss with your child what consequences might have occurred if another choice had been made in the story.

Turn to Page 109,
Freedom and Responsibility
Vivos en Cristo, Page 219

Tell your child to read the first two paragraphs silently.

Read aloud the last two paragraphs in the section. Emphasize that growing closer to God is a consequence of making good choices.

Direct your child to the highlighted words in the Catholic Faith Words box. Review the definitions for **free will** and **grace**.



Do the gold-star activity.

Refer your child to page 316 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section to learn more information about the Ten Commandments.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: At your child's age, his or her ideas about freedom usually revolve around freedom from rules or restrictions. You can deepen your child's moral understanding by emphasizing our freedom to do something rather than our freedom from something. Especially focus on our freedom to make good choices. As your child develops maturity, he or she will come to grow in responsibility for his or her choices.

Turn to Page 110,
God's Gift of Conscience
Vivos en Cristo, Page 221

Ask your child what he or she thinks is a well-formed conscience. Discuss their response.



Proclaim the Scripture story. Point out that Jewish listeners would have expected the priest and the Jewish leader to help.

Discuss the questions at the end of the story.

Turn to Page 111,
Know the Difference
Vivos en Cristo, Page 223

Invite your child to silently read the first two paragraphs.

Point out the term **conscience** and explain that it is our God-given ability to make good choices.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Within every person is a conscience that moves him or her to make good choices and avoid bad choices. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition feed and inform our ever-growing conscience as we navigate through the various choices of life. Remind your child that the Holy Spirit is always ready to assist us. Our informed conscience brings us closer to God and the Christian community.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Together, discuss what advice you would give a friend in using his or her conscience to make choices.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Invite your child to silently read the first two paragraphs.

Read through the “Making Good Decisions” chart together.

Discuss how the steps might be helpful in making a choice. Walk through a scenario in your child's life where he or she could use these steps to make a decision.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Charles Lwanga.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a time when you followed your conscience.

Activity

Complete the Live Your Faith activity together.

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.*



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

The Beatitudes

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:

- Describe how the Beatitudes guide us to show mercy and be a blessing to others
- Understand that *beatitudo* means “blessing” or “happiness.” God put the desire for happiness inside each of us
- Define the Beatitudes as teachings of Jesus that show the way to happiness and tell how to live in God’s Kingdom now and always
- Connect that because God first blessed us, everyone can be a blessing to others

Turn to Page 121,
Insert Page Head
Vivos en Cristo, Page 243

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

Parents, Consider This: *God has been blessing the world from the beginning. Because you and those in your family are baptized Christians, blessing is your work, too. Your actions, like those of Christ, can be a source of blessing to others. When you ask God’s blessing on a meal or on another person, you acknowledge that it is God who gives all gifts and makes them holy. In the many ways your family lives this understanding, that all of our gifts come from God, your family is living as followers of Christ.*

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.

- Lead Me, Lord
- Love, Jesus, Love

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 not only are we blessed, but we can be a blessing to others.

Say: The Church teaches us that “every baptized person is called to be a ‘blessing’” (CCC 1669). Jesus reminds us that blessing comes from hearing and following God’s Word.



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 woman in the crowd was saying that Mary was blessed because she was the Mother of God. Jesus teaches us that we are all blessed when we listen to God’s Word and follow it.

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,
Jesus Brings God’s Blessing
Vivos en Cristo, Page 245

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Tell your child that God blesses those who care for others.

Point out the word **mercy** and its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Turn to Page 123,
The Beatitudes
Vivos en Cristo, Page 247

Have your child silently read the first two paragraphs.

Explain that when we follow the Beatitudes, we are a blessing to others. We work with God as he builds his Kingdom.

Point out the highlighted words **Beatitudes** and **eternal life** and read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box (page 122).

Review the Beatitudes chart.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 124,
Be a Blessing
Vivos en Cristo, Page 249

Summarize the introductory paragraph and introduce the biography.

Tell your child that Pope John XXIII was known for his simple ways and good nature. He wrote encyclicals that promoted social justice and peace. He convened the Second Vatican Council, although he did not live to see its completion. He was beatified by Blessed Pope John Paul II in 2000.

Turn to Page 125,
Sharing Blessings
Vivos en Cristo, Page 251

Have your child silently read the biography of Blessed Pope John XXIII.

Have your child read the text.

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

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *When you bring peace to another person, you are doing the work of blessing that will bring you true happiness. We live in ways that bring peace to others when we focus more on understanding others than judging them. Think of someone your family might find irritating or difficult to love. Discuss how God might see this person with the eyes of compassion, mercy, and love. Might your family grow in understanding for this person? Peace grows by living peacefully, one relationship at a time.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read aloud the opening question and the two paragraphs.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Everyone faces events that are beyond our control, which can breed uncertainty and even anxiety. In prayer we can share our problems and worries with God. The Holy Spirit can impart a sense of peace and help us deal with life's challenges and concerns. Encourage your family to pray, in their own words, about the worries they have as a way to put their trust in God and to allow God's Holy Spirit to fill their heart with peace.*

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Yi Sung-hun.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how God blesses you and how you can share those blessings with others.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus taught the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount. In light of the Christian message, the Beatitudes reframe the blessings promised to the Israelites. The Beatitudes reflect the way that Jesus lived his life. Jesus' actions brought to the world the peace, love, and justice that God desires. How do you, as a family, live the Beatitudes? Consider focusing, as a family, on living the actions and attitudes exemplified in the Beatitudes.*

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.*



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

Love God and Neighbor

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:

- Describe the Great Commandment as the two-fold command to love God above all and your neighbor as yourself
- Deepen their understanding of the Theological Virtues as gifts from God that help us to believe in him, trust his plan for us, and love him with all our heart, soul, and mind
- Connect that loving God leads to sharing his love with others, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us in the ways to do so

Turn to Page 131,
Love God and Neighbor
Vivos en Cristo, Page 263

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

Parents, Consider This: *You are about to discuss with your child Jesus' teachings of the two greatest Commandments, love for God and love for neighbor. How do we love our neighbor? Wishing someone well or showing common courtesy is a good start, but it is not enough. We are called to show Christian charity to others by caring for their basic needs. How can your family become involved in addressing the issues of poverty and the basic needs of others in your community? Consider one action you can do together as a family to care for someone in need.*

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.

- Whatsoever You Do
- This Is My Commandment

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 being a follower of Jesus means loving God and our neighbor.

Say: Saint Paul often describes what it means to be a follower of Jesus. He helps us understand what it means to have faith in Jesus and to live what we believe.



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: Sometimes people think the word “generous” only describes someone who gives away a lot of money. People are also generous with their time and talents. People with generous hearts see what people need and try to help.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about imitating Christ and being generous.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 132,
The Great Commandment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 265

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture. Have your child repeat aloud the two parts of the Great Commandment. Encourage your child to memorize these verses.

Read aloud the last paragraph. Review a list of the Ten Commandments on page 316 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child’s book.

Tell your child that the first half of the Great Commandment sums up the first three Commandments, which are ways of loving God. The second half sums up the next seven Commandments, which name ways to treat our neighbors.

Turn to Page 133,
Following Jesus
Vivos en Cristo, Page 267

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture “The Rich Young Man.”

Tell your child to imagine how he or she would respond to Jesus’ words.

Have your child silently read the paragraph following the Scripture story.

Ask: Why do you think the young man could not give away his possessions? (because he was very rich and he could not imagine giving away everything) What possession would be hardest for you to give away? Why?

Turn to Page 134,
Love God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 269

Read aloud the opening question and the paragraphs under “Love God.”

Point out the highlighted words **Theological Virtues, faith, hope,** and **charity,** and read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read aloud the paragraph following “Love Others.”

Emphasize that Jesus cared most for those who were poor, helpless, and suffering, and he calls his followers to do the same.

Review the “Theological Virtues” chart. Have your child explain each virtue in his or her own words.

Turn to Page 135,
Acts of Charity
Vivos en Cristo, Page 271

Read aloud the text.

Review the definitions of **Corporal Works of Mercy** and **Spiritual Works of Mercy** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *During family discussions, use language that treats families with dignity. Avoid the overuse of phrases such as, “the less fortunate,” “the needy,” and “the poor.” Remind your child that all families and all people need help at times, and that each person has dignity and worth.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Have your child silently read the opening question and the following two paragraphs. Remind your child that people do God’s work on Earth when they perform the Works of Mercy.

Refer to page 317 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of your child’s book for more information on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Empathy is distinct from sympathy. Empathy requires us to identify with a person rather than only feel sorry for him or her. When we empathize, we understand how someone feels for someone else. Cultivate empathy in your child. Use language that helps your child identify with people who need assistance. Remind your child that, at times, we all will find ourselves in need of another’s help or assistance.*

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Katharine Drexel.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what Works of Mercy your family has done.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

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.*



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

Honoring God

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 the First Commandment teaches us to worship and honor only God, and not to place things or other people before him
- Recognize that the Second Commandment calls us to always use the name of God with reverence
- Define *blasphemy* as the sin of showing disrespect for the name of God, Jesus Christ, Mary, or the Saints
- Appreciate that we observe the Third Commandment through participation in the Sunday Eucharist and rest

Turn to Page 141,
Honoring God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 283

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

Parents, Consider This: *The first three Commandments lay out a surprisingly simple plan for avoiding false gods that can lead us astray in life. But this is not always easy, as it calls us to keep our priorities in order: God comes first. Look at your family calendar. Consider how your family spends time and money. That can be a helpful way to know where your heart is. When we put God first, everything else falls into place.*

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.

- Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- Father, We Adore 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 we give honor and praise to God.

Say: How do we honor God? *(Put first things first. Put God first. Do your best to know love, respect, and serve him first of all.)*



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 respect and give glory to God with both our words and our actions. When we respect and honor him in our lives, everything else will be in good order.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about honoring God and putting him first in our lives.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 142,
Putting God First
Vivos en Cristo, Page 285

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Remind your child that people must honor and respect God because he created everyone and everything.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Ask: Why did it not show respect to God to worship the golden calf? (The golden calf was a graven image or idol, forbidden by the First Commandment. The Hebrew people made this idol, emphasizing their doubt about God’s faithfulness. The gold idol symbolized the people’s greed.)

Turn to Page 143,
The First Commandment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 287

Have your child silently read this section and underline the First Commandment.

Ask: What does the First Commandment remind people to do? (keep God first in all things) What are some things that people place ahead of God? (Explain that these things are not necessarily bad, unless they take attention away from God.)

Point out the highlighted words **worship** and **idolatry** and review their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Worshipping the golden calf was sinful, unlike praying before the image of Saints. The Church honors Saints for their holiness, but worships only God. Prayers are directed to God through the Saints. Statues remind people of Jesus, Mary, and the Saints. The golden calf was thought to be God. Catholics are often asked questions about our relationship with Saints. Be sure your child understands the distinction and can explain it if someone would ask about this.*

Turn to Page 144,
Respecting God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 289

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Tell your child that to take a name “in vain” means to use it with disrespect.

Have your child silently read the next paragraph and learn how he or she is to use God’s name.

Review the word **blasphemy** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read aloud the last paragraph.

 **Do** the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 145,
Keeping the Lord’s Day
Vivos en Cristo, Page 291

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Remind your child that after God created the world, he rested.

Have your child silently read the next paragraph to learn why Sunday is a special day.

Point out the highlighted word **Resurrection** and review its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Review the chart, “The Lord’s Day” to find out how we observe this day.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *In his 1981 encyclical, “On Human Work,” Blessed Pope John Paul II noted that workers have certain rights. They include the right to balance labor and rest, the right to have a weekly day to rest and fulfill religious obligations and spend time with family, and the right to a vacation. Take some time as a family to consider how you honor these human rights in your own family life.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read aloud the first paragraph.



Do the gold-star activity.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Mary Ann of Quito.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you can show respect for the name of God.

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.*



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Called to Serve

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:

- Define vocation as God’s plan for our lives, the purpose for which he made us
- Describe priesthood, consecrated religious life, committed single life, and married life as four distinct ways people respond to God’s call
- Appreciate that all baptized members of the Church are called to serve God and the Church using their gifts and in ways appropriate to their state of life

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

Parents, Consider This: *There has never been a time when God was not in charge. From the first light of creation to this morning’s sunrise, all humans have been under the loving dominion of God. His plan for humans also has existed from the beginning. Humanity was created to live in peace, in justice, and in love. It is in the sacred space of your family that your child will grow to understand what God’s plan is for her/his life will be. Your child’s grand adventure to eternity begins in your arms.*

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.

- Gifts
- Act Justly

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 155,
Called to Serve
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 God called Saul to do his work.

Say: Saul was the first King of Israel. When Samuel told Saul that God had called him to this great work, Saul was overwhelmed. Listen to the Word of God that tells the story of Saul being chosen from among all the men of Israel.



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: Many of the people gathered with Samuel that day had come from long distances. As they waited to see who God had chosen to lead them, they were not expecting to find their leader hiding in the baggage. Saul was afraid. Answering God's call requires courage and a willing heart.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about hearing and responding to God's call.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 156,
God's Call
Vivos en Cristo, Page 313

Read aloud the first paragraph to your child.

Discuss the meaning of the Catholic Faith Word **vocation**. He/she may confuse this with vacation. Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Word box on the opposite page and ask him/her to read the definition to you.

Ask: How wonderful is it to know that God has a plan for you?



Proclaim "The Call of the First Disciples."

Discuss what Jesus meant when he said, "fishers of men."

Share a time when you felt that God really wanted you to do something or make a certain choice. (choosing to marry your spouse, visiting a friend who was sick)

Say: How great it must have been for the first disciples that they could hear Jesus' voice. How hard do you think it was for them to say, "Yes"?

Have your child read the first two paragraphs to discover the vocation of all Christians.

Turn to Page 157,
Vocation and God's Kingdom
Vivos en Cristo, Page 315

Point out and read aloud the definition of **Kingdom of God**. Make vocabulary cards for vocation and **Kingdom of God**.

Summarize the paragraph on “Ways to Respond to God’s Call.” Ask your child to point to pictures of people you are describing as you read.

Tell your child about a priest, religious sister, deacon, or brother who was a model of faith for you.

Invite your child to name people they know who serve God.

Have your child make a vocabulary card for the Catholic Faith Word **vows**.

Turn to Page 158,
Serving the Church
Vivos en Cristo, Page 317

Read the first paragraph, which will introduce your child to the many people who serve the Church in your parish.

Create a vocabulary card for the Catholic Faith Word **laity**.

As you read the titles of those who serve in the “Many Gifts” chart, see how many people in your parish you can name who participate in these ways.

If you have a video from your child’s First Communion, play it and identify those who are serving. When you attend Mass this Sunday, encourage your child to speak with someone who participated in the Mass in any of these ways.

Turn to Page 159,
Venerable Anne de Guigné
Vivos en Cristo, Page 319

Share the story of Venerable Anne de Guigné. Ask your child to listen carefully while you read. Have them underline Venerable Anne de Guigné’s secret to happiness in life.

Read the “Using Your Gifts” paragraph.

Tell your child that Venerable Anne de Guigné has a special gift for prayer, and everyone has his or her own unique gift to share.

Ask your child what gift they believe they can share in order to help build God’s Kingdom here on Earth? Share a gift you believe he/she has.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *As Christians, we do not “invent” ourselves. We discover who God created us to be. God invites you to live a life of meaning and service. Single or married, ordained or layperson, you participate in making the whole world holy. The wonder of this is that you are asked to live your vocation exactly where you are at the moment. Vocation is God’s plan for your life; the purpose for which he made you. Using your gifts to benefit others is answering God’s invitation with an open heart and willing hands. This way of thinking leads us to ask, “What do you think God wants you to do with your life?” instead of saying, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

You may want to share part of your child’s Baptism video with her/him. If you cannot find it or do not have one, share with your child some memories you have of the day.

Read the first paragraph.



Complete the gold-star activity.

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

Read the paragraph about Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Choose one thing your family can do this week to be a sign of God’s love.

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 322), during your night prayer this week.*

Models of Virtue

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:

- Describe a Saint as a person whom the Church declares has led a holy life and is enjoying eternal life with God in Heaven
- Identify Mary as the perfect model of holiness, accepting God's will throughout her life and remaining faithful to him
- Recognize the Immaculate Conception as the truth that God kept Mary free from sin from the first moment of her life
- Recognize that Mary is called the Mother of the Church because she holds her Son's followers close to her heart

Turn to Page 165,
Models of Virtue
Vivos en Cristo, Page 331

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

Parents, Consider This: *Some people are extraordinary. They rise above the norm. Unfortunately, oftentimes in our culture, we only recognize those in sports or the entertainment world who are "extraordinary." Having someone who is a model helps us to aspire to be more than we are at the present moment. That is why the Church has Saints. They are the people who we aspire to become. Introducing your child to the lives of the Saints will help them imagine what holiness is. Find a Saint that shares some of the qualities of your child and place a statue or picture of that Saint in his/her room. Give them something substantial to aspire to!*

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.

- Immaculate Mary
- We Gather Around Your Throne

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 verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God calls all of us to holiness, like the Saints.

Say: We do not become holy because we do so much for God. We are holy because God has done so much for us. Those we call Saints know this. Their faith lights up the way of holiness for us.



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 holiness of all God's People shines in the Saints. As we grow in faith, we can add our light to theirs.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about how to be the light of the world.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 166,
Holy Ones of God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 333

Say: After reading this paragraph, we will know who models faith for us.

Invite your child to silently read the paragraph.

Discuss what Jesus meant when he said, "fishers of men."

Point out the Catholic Faith Words **canonization**, **Saint**, and **Beatification**. Direct your child to read aloud the definitions of each term. Have your child make vocabulary cards for all three terms.

Show your child the location of Italy, and then of Siena, on a map.

Tell your child that you are going to read a story about a woman who lived in Italy many years ago.

Read aloud the biography of Catherine of Siena (continued on page 167).

Turn to Page 167,
Saint Catherine of Siena
Vivos en Cristo, Page 335

Explain that Saint Catherine had a great deal of influence for a woman of her time (1347-1380).

Ask: What do you admire about Saint Catherine of Siena?

Refer the children to page 311 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student book for more about the Saints.

Activity

Read the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child write her/his ideas. Discuss their ideas and then tell your child about someone who was a great teacher of the Church in your life.

Turn to Page 168,
Model of Holiness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 337

Ask: How is Mary a model of holiness?

Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Tell your child to listen to learn about Mary, the greatest Saint of the Catholic Church.

Review the Catholic Faith Word definition of **Mary**.



Have your child proclaim “The Canticle of Mary.”

Explain that many people still call Mary’s canticle (song) by its Latin name, the *Magnificat*.

Listen to “Mary’s Song of Praise” (Track 8) on the *Songs of Scripture* CD. Play that song in your car as you move from activity to activity this week.

Read aloud the first two paragraphs.

Turn to Page 169,
Your Will Be Done
Vivos en Cristo, Page 339

Point out that Mary’s Immaculate Conception makes her unique among all the Saints.



Have your child circle the ways in which Mary is the perfect model of holiness.

Read aloud the definition of **Immaculate Conception**. Have your child create a vocabulary card for the term.

Invite your child to finish reading “Your Will Be Done.”

Ask: Have you ever been given a very big responsibility? What did you say or do?

Read aloud the paragraph “A Guide for You.”

Have your child create a vocabulary card for **patron Saint**.

Activity

On a separate sheet of blank paper, ask your child to write the words “Mary, our Mother,” in a vertical column so they can create an acrostic. Use each letter to think of a word or phrase that describes Mary.

(M, arried to Joseph, A, lways faithful to God)

Parents, Consider This: *It was probably when you became a parent that you started to become more deeply aware of the role a parent plays in a child's life. You developed a capacity to understand the needs of someone who, in the beginning, could not even verbalize them. As Catholics, we hold a special place of honor in the Communion of Saints for Mary. She is our Mother. As a mother, she understands our needs and helps us to understand that our deepest needs and longings can only be satisfied in God. Entrusting yourself and your child to Mary, our mother, can bring you and your child both peace and comfort.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Ask: How can you follow the example of the Saints?

Read aloud the first paragraph. Summarize the second paragraph.

★ **In** the boxes, have your child write a “D” for the things they are doing, a “G” for the things they are growing in, and a “Q” for the things they have questions about.

Encourage your child to name other ways of growing in holiness.

Ask: When have you felt God's love growing within you? Give an example from your own life to start the discussion. *(when I first saw you and knew I would love you forever, when I helped someone in need)*

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Bernadette.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Think of ways your family could be more aware of Mary's presence in your daily lives.

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 322), 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 Teaches

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:

- Identify Peter as the Apostle that Jesus chose to lead the Apostles and the Church
- Recognize that Jesus gave Peter and the Apostles, and their successors the Pope and bishops, the authority to teach and lead in his name
- Identify the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church
- Explain how the Holy Spirit directs the Magisterium in teaching and guiding the Church
- Retell the Precepts of the Church

Turn to Page 175,
The Church Teaches
Vivos en Cristo, Page 351

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

Parents, Consider This: *Are you familiar with the old adage, “education is wasted on the young?” It is a way of expressing that, as we mature, we value learning more. As adults, we know the need and have the desire to know more. How is this translated in our life of faith? Baptism sets us on the journey to grow in learning about Jesus, his words, and his actions. It sets us on the journey of knowing him. We rely on the teaching office of the Church, the Magisterium, to help us to learn God’s revealed truth. When your child sees you continuing to learn about your faith, he/she learns the most valuable lesson of all—faith is a lifelong journey.*

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 Church
- The Family of God

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 sent us the Holy Spirit when he returned to his Father in Heaven.

Say: When Jesus, the Teacher, returned to his Father, he did not leave us on our own.



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: Today, the Holy Spirit, our God-given teacher and guide, continues to give us teachers and leaders to follow.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about Church leaders and teachers.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 176,
Jesus Chooses a Leader
Vivos en Cristo, Page 353

Ask: Whom did Jesus choose as the leader of the Apostles?

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.



Proclaim "You Are the Messiah!"

Ask your child to read aloud the next paragraph.

Tell him/her that Jesus trusted Peter to teach and govern his Church.

Ask: If Jesus asked you the same question he asked Peter, what would you say?

Point out the picture. Ask your child what they see happening in the picture.

Turn to Page 177,
Peter and Jesus
Vivos en Cristo, Page 355

Explain that, although Peter understood that Jesus was the Messiah, he still had more to learn about Jesus.

Read aloud the information under "Peter and Jesus." Emphasize that, even though he denied Jesus, Peter later repented and learned from his mistake.

Help your child find John 21:15-17 in your family Bible. Read the passage to your child.

Ask: What did Jesus mean when he said, "Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep"? (*Take care of my people.*)

Turn to Page 178,
The Church and You
Vivos en Cristo, Page 357

Ask: Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same question three times?

Read aloud this section.

When you get to the highlighted word **Magisterium**, ask your child to find the Catholic Faith Words box and read the definition. Then have your child create a vocabulary card that you can use for review later.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity on the next page and ask your child to complete it.

Parents, Consider This: Research tells us that clear and consistent rules are necessary for children's development. As an adult, you have the capacity to understand the need for and the value of rules. When it comes to living in right relationship with God and others, the laws of the Church help us to understand what is minimally necessary. The true gift of the law is that it helps us to refocus and reprioritize our values and beliefs. As you teach these precepts to your child, let this be an opportunity to reflect on the life of your family and your role as their first and most influential teacher of faith.

Turn to Page 179,
Rules for Living
Vivos en Cristo, Page 359

Ask your child to recall a group in which he/she has membership.

Ask: As a member of this group, what rules must you follow?

Direct your child to read the first paragraph.

Read the Precepts of the Church together and discuss why these are the rules for membership in the Catholic Church.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Summarize the introductory paragraph.

Ask your child to read aloud Precept number 5 on Student Book page 179.

Point out the "Ways to Support Your Parish" chart. Read the boxes one at a time.

Discuss possible responses to how your family can give their time, talents, and money to the Church. Have them write their responses on the lines provided.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Mary Magdalen Postel.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss how much value St. Mary Magdalen put on religious education. She risked her life to save the priests who would teach. How does your family show that it values religious education?

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 322), during your night prayer this week.*



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Family Love

Preparation for the Session

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

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

Parents, Consider This: *For believers and non-believers alike, family is the core of society. It is in the family that a child learns to become a responsible, mature adult who contributes to the good of society. But, for those of us who live in faith, what creates and binds family has everything to do with God's plan. "... the family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God's love for humanity and the love of Christ the Lord for the Church His bride" (Familiaris Consortio, 17). Your love for your wife/husband and for your children reveals God's presence. You communicate that to each other in word and deed and you guard your family from influences that would threaten that love.*

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.

- Right and Just
- Obey Your Parents

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 verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that our families are God's gift to us. Mention how excited you are to be able to talk about your family in this session.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Appreciate that God created humans to live in families and wants family members to love one another
- Understand that the Fourth Commandment teaches children to honor parents and parents to love and share their faith with children
- Understand that the Sixth and Ninth Commandments are about faithful love between husband and wife, but require all of us to be faithful, and act appropriately
- Recognize that the Cardinal Virtues help us to act wisely, use self-control, give God and others their due, and be disciplined in our thoughts and actions

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

Say: Sometimes it may be hard to remember that your family is one of God's gifts to you. Listen to God's Word and hear what he says about honoring our parents.



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 are God's gift to you. You are also a gift to us. There are many ways you can help love grow in our family. The love that grows in our family should be so great that it spills out into the rest of the world.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about God's gift of a family and obeying parents.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 190,
Honor and Respect
Vivos en Cristo, Page 381

Ask your child to read aloud the two paragraphs. Then have your child recite the Fourth Commandment. (**Honor your father and mother.**)

Say: Listen carefully and think of how Mary and Joseph felt when Jesus was missing and when they found him.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Point out the picture on the page. Ask your child to describe how they think Mary and Joseph must have felt when they walked into the Temple and saw Jesus.

Ask: Why is it important for you to obey me?

Turn to Page 191,
Living the Fourth
Commandment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 383

Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph. As your child reads each bullet, stop and give her/him an example of when you have seen or heard her/him act in this way.

At the end of all the bullets, ask your child to circle the two things that she/he thinks they could improve. For the next several weeks, put a bean in a jar when you notice that he/she is making the effort to do better. At the end of the period, show them the jar and talk about how proud you are that he/she is trying to live more lovingly.

Read the second paragraph. When you get to the highlighted word, **Cardinal Virtues**, ask your child to read aloud the definition. Make a vocabulary card for Cardinal Virtues.

Ask: What does it mean to be a good role model? Who has been a good role model for you?

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *In a world where we use the word love in a variety of ways, we need to be clear that, as Christians, we understand that love's meaning is found in God, for God is love. This we know: God's love is freely given, unconditional, eternal, life-giving, and sacrificial. While all of our relationships should express these characteristics of love, in the vocation of marriage, we are called to give and receive love in the most profound and intimate ways. Oftentimes, your child is not given that understanding from their culture. He/she is often taught the exact opposite—that it has no meaning or value. We cannot be silent about God's truth. His/her happiness depends on it.*

Turn to Page 192,
Faithful Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 385

Point out the wedding photo or bring out your own wedding photo from when you were saying your vows.

Talk about what is happening in the picture on the page or what you remember about that moment at your own wedding.

Read aloud the text. Explain that *covet* means to want something that belongs to someone else. Being faithful means to keep your promises.

Ask your child how he/she has been faithful in his/her friendships. Then ask why faithfulness is important in relationships.

Share with your child why the Sacrament of Matrimony is important.

Turn to Page 193,
Virtues and You
Vivos en Cristo, Page 387

Read aloud the last paragraph on page 192 and continue with the next two paragraphs on page 193.

When you come to the highlighted words, **temperance**, **fortitude**, **modesty**, and **chastity**, ask your child to read their definitions from the Catholic Faith Words box. Make a vocabulary card for each term.

Emphasize that we can live the Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments by keeping promises to family, friends, and God.

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

Ask your child to read aloud this section.

Ask: What can families do to be signs of God's love?

Parents, Consider This: For some families, this may be a precious opportunity to reflect on the experience of separation or divorce. It is important to share your own feelings of disappointment and hurt about the loss of the relationship that you believed would be life-giving and forever. Encourage your child to share her/his own feelings about the experience. Tell her/him that it is your prayer that if God calls her/him to be married, she/he will find the happiness that God intended in this sacred vocation.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Recall that the Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments center on family life.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Ask your child to read each heart. After each heart, ask him/her for concrete examples of how to follow each suggestion.



Complete the gold-star activity.

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

Read the paragraph about Blessed Louis Martin and Blessed Marie-Azélie Martin.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- What are some of your favorite things to do together as a family?

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 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.

Respect Life

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:

- Deepen their awareness of human life as sacred and a gift from God from the moment of conception until the time of natural death
- Recognize that all actions that respect and protect life uphold the Fifth Commandment
- Identify actions that deliberately harm human life, including that of the unborn, the sick, and elderly, as grave sins
- Relate the Fifth Commandment to respect and care for our bodies

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

Parents, Consider This: *One of the lessons you consistently try to teach your children is the relationship between their choices and the consequences that flow from them. As parents, we seek to help our children learn the skill of considering consequences. This is an essential part of their growing into adulthood. As Catholics, we understand that our choices have consequences now and for eternity. When God asks us to choose life, he is urging us to understand that doing his will is necessary for our happiness. Because we are his creation, living out our created order is where we find meaning and peace. We do not invent ourselves. We discover who God created us to be.*

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.

- Christ, Our Light
- Loving Others

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 199,
Respect Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 399

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 are called to respect human life.

Say: As Catholics, we are called to respect life—all life. Jesus taught us many things about the precious gift that life is.



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: Did you hear Jesus say how important our words are? They are so important that they can “kill” someone’s spirit, or seriously hurt their feelings. Teasing and bullying are just some of the ways that we show disrespect for life.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about respecting human life or being angry.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 200,
All Human Life is Sacred
Vivos en Cristo, Page 401

Ask your child to read aloud the introduction.

Tell him/her you are going to read about a woman who endured many hardships, but devoted her life to helping others.

Read the story of Margaret of Castello.

Ask your child why someone might spend their life helping people who are sick and dying.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Refer to page 318 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book to find out more about respecting the dignity of all people.

Introduce this part of the lesson by reading aloud the paragraph.

Ask your child to read aloud the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, **sacred**. Make a vocabulary card for sacred.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Turn to Page 201,
All Human Life is Sacred
(cont’d)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 403

Ask: What does God mean when he says, “I have set before you life and death...Choose life”? (Following God is life—happiness and peace. Not following God will bring us unhappiness and suffering in our life.)

Have your child silently read the text to learn about why life is sacred.

Listen to the song, “That You May Live,” Track 9 from the *Songs of Scripture* CD. Lyrics are available at aliveinchrist.osv.com. Discuss the lyrics.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Dealing with anger is a lifelong project. Anger is not something we choose. Like all emotions, it rises up within us. Whether we react or respond to our anger is an issue of morality. One of the ways your child learns how to deal with anger is by watching you deal with yours. Take the time to reflect on your patterns of dealing with this emotion. Be conscious of the need to name the source of your anger, find an appropriate way to channel it, and, finally, let it go. Taking your child through this same process will help him/her learn to live more respectfully toward his/herself and others.*

Turn to Page 202,
Protect and Respect
Vivos en Cristo, Page 405

Tell your children to read the three paragraphs.

Discuss the meaning of the Catholic Faith Word, **murder**. Have your child make a vocabulary card.

Remind your child that the Fifth Commandment gives us help in learning how to respect our own bodies.

Write the word “life” in the middle of a piece of blank paper and circle it. Outside the circle, ask your child to write actions that might be harmful to their body. (smoking, drinking alcohol, not exercising, eating junk food, etc.)

Read the last paragraph silently.

Point out the photo. Ask your child what prayer these children might be praying as they run this race. (God, thank you for my healthy body; God, help me to be responsible for taking care of my body.)

Turn to Page 203,
Avoid Anger
Vivos en Cristo, Page 407

Read the paragraph about anger aloud. Discuss suggestions with your child about what to do when he/she is angry.



Invite your child to proclaim “Love of Enemies.”

Discuss the question at the end of the Scripture story.

Invite your child to share times when he/she has been able to avoid hatred or revenge, even when they were provoked.

Remind your child that forgiveness is a way to show love to others, even to enemies. Most of all, it is a gift you give yourself, so that anger and bitterness do not control you.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Summarize the first paragraph by saying that the Fifth Commandment helps us to live respectfully with others and ourselves.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *One of the most important and beautiful teachings of our Church is that all life is sacred from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. That teaching is based on God's revelation to us that he is the creator of all life. So life, at whatever stage, is a gift from God. It is never too early to teach this truth. Helping your child to understand that life is a gift will help her/him to see her/himself in a different way. When she/he sees others as a gift, you are building the foundation for world peace right in your home.*

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Gianna Molla.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family show respect for all life?

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 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 Truth

Preparation for the Session

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

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

Parents, Consider This: Remember the fable, “The Boy who Cried Wolf?” The phrase, “crying wolf” has come to mean someone who lies. Nothing is worse than dealing with a consistent liar. You never know whether to believe that person or not. Truth builds community by creating trust. It nurtures love by strengthening communication and respect. Wanting your child to grow up to be an honest human being is something you work at daily. All truth begins in God and so the covenant between God and humans, reflected in human relationships, depends on the constancy of truth. Living a truthful life is to live as a witness to God’s truth.

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.

- Spirit, Come Down
- 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 it is important for us to tell the truth.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define a martyr as a person who gives up his or her life to witness to the truth of Christ and the faith
- Recognize God as the source of all truth. His Word and his law call people to live in the truth
- Identify the Eighth Commandment as calling us to be honest in words and actions and forbidding lying, gossip, and any acts against the truth
- Define reparation as an action taken to repair the damage done from sin

Turn to Page 209,
Live in the Truth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 419

Say: Sometimes telling the truth feels hard to do. God’s Word offers us some guidance about speaking the truth.



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: Being a witness for Jesus requires us to speak the truth. When you say, “yes,” to Jesus you say, “no,” to all the things that will take you away from him.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about lying and telling the truth.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 210,
Witness to the Truth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 421

Read aloud the introduction. Tell your child to listen to find out what Saint Thomas More’s dilemma was.

Show your child the location of England on a map. Explain that kings and queens were very powerful during the sixteenth century.

Ask your child to read aloud the letter.

Identify the two choices that Thomas More faced. (to support the king and live or to support the Catholic Church and die)

Ask: What would you do if you were in Thomas’s position? Have you ever had to decide whether to speak the truth, tell a lie, or remain silent? What happened?

Turn to Page 211,
Speak and Act the Truth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 423

Have your child read these two paragraphs to learn about people who stand up for truth. When your child gets to the highlighted word, **martyr**, have them stop and read the definition from the Catholic Faith Words box. Have your child make a vocabulary card for martyr.

Ask them to tell you what it means in their own words.

Tell your child that the Church recognizes many martyrs as Saints.

Explain that early Christians who were killed because of their beliefs are also considered martyrs. Over the centuries, many Catholics have died for their faith.

Ask: Why were Thomas More and others were willing to give up their lives to witness to the truth? (They wanted to remain faithful to Christ; they knew that the truth was important.)

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity by asking your child to tell you three reasons for telling the truth.

Turn to Page 212,
The Eighth Commandment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 425

Read aloud the text. When you get to the highlighted words, **reparation** and **prudence**, read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box. Make a vocabulary cards for these terms.

Ask your child to circle the sentence that states the Eighth Commandment.

Give your child a single sheet of lined paper. Go back to the text and help him/her create a list of all the things the Eighth Commandment teaches us. (forbids lying, stops gossiping, tell the *whole* truth)

Share with your child about some gossip that may have been told about you and how it hurt, or, ask her/him to think of a time when they had to deal with gossip.

Turn to Page 213,
Jesus Is the Truth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 427

Have your child silently read the first paragraph.

Discuss that living in Jesus' truth means more than simply not lying. It is living as a follower of Jesus who *is* the fullness of truth. Our words and actions must witness to the truth of Jesus.



Proclaim the Scripture. Discuss what Jesus meant when he said, "The truth will set you free."

Read aloud the following paragraph. Remind your child that having people trust you is a good consequence of being truthful.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity. Read aloud each situation. After your child has marked his/her response, gesture "thumbs up" if the statement describes living the truth and "thumbs down" if it does not. Discuss ways to make the wrong choices right. Helping your child imagine how to do this increases their capacity to do it in real-life situations.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read the text at the top of the page.

★ **Ask** your child to complete the gold-star activity. When he/she is finished, ask him/her to read each sentence to you.

Ask: Has anyone ever been dishonest with you? How did it make you feel?

Parents, Consider This: *It would be difficult to look at the “Choosing Truth” chart your child is completing and not be challenged by the image of discipleship that these words present. You might consider reprinting and enlarging this chart. It would be a valuable instrument for calling both yourself and members of your family to accountability. The impact of gossip, rumors, and prejudice can be even more far-reaching because of the use of cyberspace. Connecting these behaviors to a refusal of God’s expectations and yours will help your child understand that these are acts against both the common good and his/her own happiness.*

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Joan of Arc.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Tell your child about a time that you shared the truth, even when it was difficult.

Activity

Complete the Live Your Faith activity by creating a slogan about the importance of telling the truth.

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 Love (see Page 325), during your night prayer this week.*



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The Liturgical Year

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:

- Describe the Paschal Mystery as the mystery of Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension through which he saved all humans from the power of sin and everlasting death
- Recognize that the liturgical year is made up of the feasts and seasons of the Church calendar that celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ
- Name the seasons of the Church year as Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Triduum, and Easter

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

Parents, Consider This: *The rhythm of the liturgical seasons matches the cycle of life. During the Church year, the faithful experience the anticipation of Advent; rejoice at the Savior's birth on Christmas; live faithfully in Ordinary Time; grow reflective in Lent; and know suffering, death, and rising to new life in Christ through the Triduum and Easter. As Catholics, we do not simply watch the drama unfold; we are drawn into the reality of God's presence in our lives. Connect these seasons in your home with some small signs of the liturgical seasons (i.e. display an Advent calendar or a purple placemat during Lent).*

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.

- We Proclaim Your Death, O Lord
- A Circle of Colors

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 223,
The Liturgical Year
Vivos en Cristo, Page 447

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.

Say: Time after time, year after year, we offer God heartfelt thanks and praise for sending Jesus. He is our refuge.



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 celebrate Jesus’ life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension at each Mass, and especially during Holy Week and Easter. By joining our life—our good and bad days—with Jesus, we receive the gift of knowing he is with us in each moment of our lives. Jesus is asking us to accept his gift of salvation and to connect ourselves more deeply with him.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Jesus’ life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension and his presence with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 224,
A Time for Everything
Vivos en Cristo, Page 449

Read aloud the opening question and the first paragraph. Tell your child that you are about to read, in your Bible, a poet’s observations about different times and events.



Read the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. Alternate reading lines with your child.

Ask: What message was God giving us through this writer? **(There are different times for different things in our life.)**

Turn to Page 225,
The Paschal Mystery
Vivos en Cristo, Page 451

Have your child silently read the text.

Review the words, **Ascension, Paschal Mystery,** and **liturgical year,** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: Before the beginning of a new liturgical season, have a family discussion about some of the changes that they might see in their parish church environment. For example, what colors and types of decorations might be in your church? At the start of a new liturgical season, take a walk through your parish to see if your family's predictions were correct.

Turn to Page 226,
The Church's Seasons
Vivos en Cristo, Page 453

Read the opening question and summarize the first paragraph.

Read the text about Advent. Point out Advent on a liturgical calendar.

Have your child read the text about Christmas.

Ask: How does our family prepare for Christmas? How does the parish prepare for Christmas during Advent?

Read the section on Lent. Show your child the start and end dates of Lent on a current calendar.

Activity

Have your child choose their favorite liturgical season. On a separate piece of paper, have them write a paragraph about why that liturgical season is their favorite.

Parents, Consider This: In our society, consumerism causes advertisers to anticipate the seasons and try to create, in us, a state of mind to buy things for a particular season. For example, Easter candy will start showing up in stores shortly after Valentine's Day. When experiencing this strategy in stores or on commercials, remind your family that the purpose of ads is to sell things and the purpose of holy days of feasts and seasons are to celebrate the works of God.

Turn to Page 227,
The Liturgical Seasons
(cont'd)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 455

Have your child read the text about Triduum. Then you read the text about Easter. Show the lengths of these seasons on a calendar. Point out that Easter is the second longest season of the Church year. Only Ordinary Time is longer.

Read the text on Ordinary Time. Show your child this season on a calendar and point out that Ordinary Time comes in two parts of the year.

Ask: What is the color green a sign of? (**hope and growth**)

Refer to pages 312–313 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book to learn more about the liturgical year.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Have your child silently read the opening question and two paragraphs.

Read aloud the blocks of text in the “Celebrating the Seasons” chart.



Do the gold-star activity.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Juan Diego.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about when God has shown you a sign of love.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

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 (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.

The Seven Sacraments

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:

- Recognize that God the Father sent his only Son, Jesus, as a sign of his love for all people
- Recognize that each of the Seven Sacraments are effective signs of God's life, instituted by Christ and given to the Church, so that Jesus can continue his saving work in the world
- Begin to develop and understanding that the visible signs and Divine actions in each celebration give grace and allow us to share in God's work
- Identify that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is at the heart of Christian life

Turn to Page 233,
The Seven Sacraments
Vivos en Cristo, Page 467

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

Parents, Consider This: *Signs and symbols are essentials of communication. Signs and symbols point to realities that are greater and richer than the symbols themselves. Sacraments bring about these spiritual realities. The Seven Sacraments are filled with symbols of many types: water, light, fire, darkness, washing, eating, and drinking. Through the Sacraments, believers are enveloped in the mystery of God. As you study this together, invite your family to see the Sacraments and their symbols with new eyes and to understand them afresh.*

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.

- We Come to the Table
- The Supper of the Lamb

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 the Seven Sacraments are signs of God's love for us.

Say: We bless God the Father for sending us his Son, who gave us the Seven Sacraments as powerful signs of God's love for us.



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 celebrate these signs with gladness, for we know that in our celebration, Jesus is present with us. In our celebration, we are made sharers in the life and love of God.

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

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 234,
Present Through Time
Vivos en Cristo, Page 469

Read the opening question and the first two paragraphs. Encourage your child to memorize John 14:6-7 to help to remember that Jesus is the way to the Father.

Read the definition of **Incarnation** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask: What are signs of God’s presence that you have seen today? What do those signs tell you?



Proclaim the Scripture. Ask your child to listen as you tell them about a special sign that God sent the whole world.

Turn to Page 235,
Visible Signs and Divine Action
Vivos en Cristo, Page 471

Read aloud the first paragraph. Ask your child to listen to find out how Jesus is present to followers today.

Have your child to silently read the second paragraph. Review the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, **Seven Sacraments**, on page 234.



Do the gold-star activity.

Call attention to the ribbon of Sacraments at the bottom of pages 234-235. Review the Seven Sacraments.

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity with your child. Share some of your experiences while celebrating the Sacraments.

Parents, Consider This: Your child's First Communion Day was an important day in your family. The mystery of God's Real Presence in the Eucharist is something beautiful and significant that, hopefully, continues to unfold in each of your lives. Pray for that for each person in your family.

Turn to Page 236,
The Eucharist
Vivos en Cristo, Page 473

Read the opening question and introductory paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box.

Ask: Where have you heard these words of Jesus before?

Read aloud the last paragraph.

Turn to Page 237,
Act of Thanksgiving
Vivos en Cristo, Page 475

Read aloud the first paragraph. Tell your child to listen for the word Eucharist and what happens during the celebration of the Sacrament. Review the definition of **Eucharist** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask your child if he or she knows what living the Eucharist means. Explain that Jesus is really present to his followers in the Eucharist and that he expects them to live in a certain way.

Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask your child to recall his or her First Communion and what they remember about that day.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: The Eucharist unites us to Christ. "Living the Eucharist" means continuing Jesus' work in the world. The U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops calls Catholics to live every day "engaged and challenged, encouraged and empowered" in their faith. In your dinner conversation, or at bedtime prayer, ask your child one way he or she might bring Christ's love to the world.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read aloud the opening question and the two paragraphs.



Do the gold-star activity.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about your family's devotion to the Eucharist.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

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 (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.

Healing and Reconciliation

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:

- Explore conversion, turning away from sin and responding to God's love and forgiveness, relating their own lives to the example of Zacchaeus
- Understand that in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we receive God's forgiveness of sins through the Church and are strengthened by grace to make peace and avoid temptation.
- Discover that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick brings Jesus' healing touch to strengthen, comfort, and forgive the sins of those who are seriously ill or close to death

Turn to Page 243,
Healing and Reconciliation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 487

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

Parents, Consider This: *As humans we are fallible and fragile on many levels. God's plan for us is that we will be whole and well, physically and spiritually. God offers us healing grace. He gave the Church the mission of his continued healing by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Sacraments of Healing make us stronger on our journey of faith. We are strengthened when we allow God's mercy and forgiveness to flow in our lives and through our families as we participate in these Sacraments.*

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.

- Salve Regina
- Zacchaeus

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 there is something we can do to feel better after we have hurt someone.

Say: When we do something harmful to someone we love, we feel sorrow and guilt. Looking at the face of the person we hurt helps us realize this. Listen to the Word of God which describes how to have a happy life again.



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 do something harmful to someone else, when we sin, the sorrow we feel is heavy in our hearts. Even though God already knows what we have done, we still need to confess our sins. In telling God, through the priest, our sins, we experience God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about God’s forgiveness and the Sacraments of Healing.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 244,
God’s Forgiveness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 489

Read the opening question and the first paragraph.

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



Proclaim the Scripture story in the Parchment Paper box.

Ask: Why was Zacchaeus unpopular? (He cheated people.) How did Zacchaeus change after he met Jesus? (He repaid those he had cheated and gave money to those who were poor.) Point out that Jesus offered him friendship, and that this led to the change in Zacchaeus.

Ask: Who has taught you the most about forgiveness? What did the person say or do?

Turn to Page 245,
Conversion
Vivos en Cristo, Page 491

Read aloud the first paragraph to reinforce the message of Zacchaeus. Point out the word conversion. Tell your child it mean “a change of heart.”

Ask: Who experienced conversion in the story? (Zacchaeus)

Have your child silently read the second paragraph to learn how the Church continues Jesus’ actions.

Review the highlighted words, **Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation**, **confession**, and **temptation**, and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 244.

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity. Share with your child ways they can show they are sorry and make peace with others.

Turn to Page 246,
The Sacraments of Healing
Vivos en Cristo, Page 493

Read aloud the opening question and the paragraphs. Review any terms that might be unfamiliar to your child. Find the definitions for **sacramental seal**, **penance**, and **absolution** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Forgiving and reconciling are closely related but distinct. Forgiveness involves letting go of sin and accepting God's forgiveness. It means getting past the hurt and anger; it is the choice to change your thoughts, attitudes, and actions toward another person. Reconciliation means restoring the relationship. Reconciliation means bringing friends and families together again. When we reconcile we reconnect to others—and to God. Both forgiveness and reconciling need to be high priorities in order for your family to grow closer to each other and to God.*

Ask: Why is it important to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation? *(It offers us God's forgiveness.)*

Turn to Page 247,
God's Healing Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 495

Read aloud the first paragraph. **Review** the definition for the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** in the Catholic Faith Word's box.

Have your child silently read the second paragraph to introduce the Scripture.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. Read it as a play if possible. Emphasize to your child that God gave Jesus the power to heal people so that people could come to know God's healing love.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Talk with your child about how he or she feels about preparing for this Sacrament.

Summarize the paragraphs.

Ask: What do you think it will feel like after you celebrate this Sacrament?



Do the gold-star activity.

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

Read the paragraph about Venerable Matt Talbot.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a time when you hurt someone and had to ask for forgiveness.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *To examine our conscience requires that we look at our soul and contemplate our character. If we are truly examining our lives, we will admit our flaws and mistakes. We learn this in everyday family life. Be a model of this way of life for your child. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is an opportunity to ask for support in acquiring virtue and a way to receive guidance in becoming a better person.*

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 (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.

A Generous Spirit

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:

- Recognize that being detached from our possessions enables us to work for peace and justice in God's Kingdom
- Identify that the Seventh and Tenth Commandments teach about the right attitude toward material possessions and require generosity
- Name theft, greed, and envy as sins against these Commandments
- Appreciate that God created the world for all creatures and called humans to stewardship

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

Parents, Consider This: *One of the most growing companies in our country is a company that produces storage bins. They provide attractive and practical containers to corral our possessions. If you take a quick walk through your home, basement, and/or garage, are you amazed at the stuff you have accumulated? In our consumeristic culture it is extremely challenging to keep our eyes focused on Jesus and live in accordance with the Seventh and Tenth Commandments. Knowing that greed and envy are often at the heart of violence, forming our children with generosity and unselfishness will transform, not only our homes, but our 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.

- God's Greatest Gift
- Seek Ye First

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 257,
A Generous Spirit
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 verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God has generously given each of us many gifts.

Say: We are a gifted people. The gifts we've been given are meant to be shared.



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 can be generous in all things, not just with things. We can be generous with time, compassion, abilities, and love.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about sharing their gifts and how the Ten Commandments help us to be generous.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 258,
What Really Matters
Vivos en Cristo, Page 517

Ask: If I told you our new neighbor was rich, what would you think about our neighbor? What does Jesus want you to know about riches (material possessions)?

Read aloud or summarize the first paragraph.

Say: You are about to hear a Scripture story about a man who was obsessed about his wealth.



Read the Scripture in parts: the Rich Fool, God, and the narrator.

Ask: "What did the rich fool do when he ran out of space to store his harvest?"

Say: Has your idea of what "rich" means changed after hearing God's Word?

Turn to Page 259,
Poor in Spirit
Vivos en Cristo, Page 519

Have the children listen to discover what Jesus taught about possessions.

Invite them to share what they remember about Jesus and the rich young man (see Matthew 19:16-22).

Ask: What did Jesus tell the rich young man to do? (*leave everything he has and follow him*)

Share with your child something that you really, really wanted when you were a child. Talk about how long after you got it, that it began to lose its importance for you.

Have your child silently read the second and third paragraphs to learn which Beatitude talks about the right attitude toward possessions and dependence on God.

Refer to page 317 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of your child's book for more about the Beatitudes.

You may want to listen to the song, "The Rich Young Man" on the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 15. Lyrics are available at aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Parents, Consider This: *When we think about generous people, our minds may immediately move to those who are extremely wealthy and give large amounts of money to various causes. But living a life of generosity is an intentional choice that is lived out each day. We can be generous with our knowledge, with our time, and with our talents. Generous people may not always feel like doing these things, but their actions are the consequence of a fundamental decision they have made. People sometimes make the choice to contribute to the life of their parish after they have budgeted for everything else. Supporting the Church's work with time, talent, and money should be one of the top priorities in our budgets. This is how we serve the mission of the Church. Be a good example to your children by allowing them to place your family's offering in the collection or by having them accompany you when you volunteer your time or talent.*

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity. As you discuss the right and wrong choices with your child, emphasize that you expect her/him to choose what is right because it is what God asks of us. It will bring her/him happiness and that is what you want for your child more than anything.

Turn to Page 260,
Generosity and Humility
Vivos en Cristo, Page 521

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child listen to find out which two Commandments tell about the right attitude to have toward material possessions.

Invite your child to read aloud the rest of the text on this page.

When you come to the highlighted words, **envy, greed, humility,** and **justice,** go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read their definitions. Ask your child to explain what each word means in his/her own words. You may want to create vocabulary cards.

Explain that almost everyone feels greed or envy at times. Point out that we can overcome these feelings.

Discuss: How and when are you tempted to be envious or greedy? Make sure you share examples from your life.

Turn to Page 261,
Called to Stewardship
Vivos en Cristo, Page 523

Read aloud the first paragraph as a review of the lesson so far.

Invite your child to read aloud the next paragraph.

When you get to the highlighted word, **stewardship**, go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read its definition. Make a vocabulary card.



Proclaim "The Poor Widow's Contribution."

Ask: Why do you think the widow contributed more than the rest?

Discuss what your family does to support your Church and the needs of others.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Read aloud the first paragraph to review the the Seventh and Tenth Commandments.

Explain that when you are generous, you keep these Commandments.

Have your child read aloud the second paragraph.

Ask your child to close their eyes as you read aloud the different suggestions.



In the open sections have your child write some ways to follow these suggestions this week.

Ask: Why do people sometimes forget to be generous?

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Margaret of Scotland.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Is it more difficult to give away something you love?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

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 Prayer (see Page 325), during your morning prayer this week.*



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The Church in the World

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:

- Recognize that the mission of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel and work for the good of all people
- Understand evangelization as sharing the Good News of Jesus through words and actions in a way that invites people to accept the Gospel
- Appreciate that the Church is made up of people of many cultures and they are all united by their belief in Christ
- Explore the work of missionaries as those who spread the Gospel message and Jesus' care for all people to countries around the world

Turn to Page 267,
The Church in the World
Vivos en Cristo, Page 535

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

Parents, Consider This: *One of the most exciting events in a pre-school classroom is "Show and Tell." How many times have you helped your child decide what he/she is going to bring and what he/she wants to say about it? It seems that human beings are naturally inclined to want to share our good news. Couple that with your child's ability to trust that you know about important things and that you love them, and you have the perfect combination for "growing" faith within your child. Your child's missionary is you. Your home is mission territory. When the missionaries of old arrived in a new land, they would often place an altar or crucifix there and "claim" that place for Christ. Place a sacred symbol someplace central in your home and claim your home for Christ.*

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.

- Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ
- The Family of God

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 gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we have the strength to continue his mission.

Say: Jesus does not leave us alone to continue his mission. He promises to be with us always and gives us the powerful gift that is the Holy Spirit.



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 Holy Spirit will help us act as Jesus' witnesses no matter where we may go—even to the ends of the Earth.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about telling others about Jesus or the diversity of the Church.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 268,
Make Disciples of All Nations
Vivos en Cristo, Page 537

Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph to introduce the Scripture story.



Proclaim the "The Commissioning of the Disciples."

Read aloud the last paragraph. When you get to the highlighted words, **Gospel**, **mission**, and **evangelization**, ask your child to find their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box. Then, ask him/her to tell you what each word means in his/her own words.

Ask: What do Catholics and other Christians in communities around the world have in common? (*They are followers of Jesus.*)

Turn to Page 269,
Jesus' Universal Mission
Vivos en Cristo, Page 539

Have your child read the first paragraph silently.

Ask her/him to tell you what Jesus' mission was.

Read aloud the next paragraph.

Ask: In what ways is the Catholic Church diverse worldwide? (*practices, languages, cultures*)

Point out that, amidst the diversity, Catholics are united through the same faith.

Discuss what unites the Church.

Turn to Page 270,
The Church in Bolivia
Vivos en Cristo, Page 541

Discuss what customs you have in your home that may have been handed down to you from your parent's or grandparent's culture.

Show your child the location of Bolivia on a world map.

Read aloud the introductory paragraphs.

Slowly read aloud the rest of the page, pausing to answer any questions that your child may have.

Have your child tell you how the priest in Bolivia is like Saint Paul. (*The priest travels to spread the Word of God.*)

Point out the pictures on the page. Ask what she/he sees in each picture.

Ask: How are the missionaries preaching the Gospel of Jesus in word and deed?

Have your child continue listening as you read aloud.

Ask: What about the missionaries' experience in Bolivia is different from your experience in your parish? (*Our priests do not travel by boat.*)

Explain that a cooperative helps people share what they produce and keeps money in their community. People in power may be afraid that with the help of a cooperative, people will become educated and seek civil rights.

Ask why Catholic Missionaries might help set up cooperatives. (*so people can work together and improve the quality of life for everyone*)

Stress that missionaries build strong communities where people can have what they need to live.

Activity

Ask your child to draw something from Church life in Bolivia and something in your parish that is similar.

Parents, Consider This: *For many people in the world, it is hard to imagine a life without Christ. Because we have been raised in families that taught us about the gift of God's Son, we can tell his story and live in the confidence the promise his life, Death, and Resurrection gave us—life eternal. It is hard for us to imagine, then, that there are still people in this world who have not heard his name. Introducing your children to the stories of missionaries all over the world will help your whole family grow in knowledge and will, and inspire you to be Christ's disciples. It will help you see the importance of supporting the missionary activity of the Church. Research religious communities who are missionaries and share your findings with your child.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Ask: How can you help missionaries spread God's Word?

Tell your child that this page will teach them more about missionaries.

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Ask your child to read the captions that accompany the pictures. Stop after each one and discuss.

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

Ask: If you were a missionary, what work would you like to do and where?

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

Read the paragraph about Blessed Junipero Serra.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family help support the missions?

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 Prayer (see Page 325), during your morning prayer this week.*



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Eternal Life with God

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:

- Define Heaven as the state of eternal happiness with God
- Recognize that the Holy Spirit helps us respond to God's grace and grow in friendship with him so that we can spend eternity with him
- Recognize that at the time of their death they will be judged by God, called the Particular Judgment
- Discuss Jesus' coming in glory at the end of time to judge all the living and the dead and the coming of God's Kingdom in its fullness, called the Last Judgment

Turn to Page 277,
Eternal Life with God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 555

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

Parents, Consider This: *Wouldn't it be horrible to be expected to be as smart as your brother or sister when clearly you did not have the same capacity? Or to work in a place where your boss expected everyone to be a genius when it came to working with technology? We understand that certain people are capable of certain things because they have specific gifts and talents. When we consider the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, however, we believe that, through Baptism and Confirmation, God has given us everything we need to live as his disciples. We are all capable of forgiveness, generosity, and compassion because the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit have been given to us. Our families are the breeding ground of those gifts—a place where they are recognized and affirmed.*

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.

- Holy Spirit
- They'll Know We Are Christians

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.

Say: Living as disciples of Jesus helps us to prepare for eternal life. As we listen to God’s Word today, we will hear how living in this world is connected to 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?

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

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

Say: All choices have consequences. Heaven is the consequence of accepting God’s grace and following Jesus. While you live in this world, trying to love God above all things and love others as Jesus did, God is preparing a home for you in the next world, a place in the fullness of his Kingdom.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about going to Heaven or life in Heaven.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 278,
Being with God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 557

Ask your child what he/she thinks Heaven is like. Share your understanding of Heaven with your child.

Read the text aloud. When you get to the highlighted words, **Heaven** and **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**, ask your child to find their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask her/him to tell you what the definitions mean in her/his own words. You may want to have them make vocabulary cards for these words.

Point out that there is much about Heaven that people will need to wait to understand. Whatever it is like, Heaven will be an experience of love and peace.

Ask: What do you think will be the best thing about Heaven?

Point out that Baptism and Confirmation, which help people grow in friendship with God, are Sacraments of the Holy Spirit.

Turn to Page 279,
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Vivos en Cristo, Page 559

Direct your child’s attention to the chart, “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” Tell your child that this chart tells how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help you grow in friendship with God.

Work through the chart, reading each bar as a sentence: “The gift of ... helps you ...” Stop after each sentence and ask your child how that gift might be used by someone his/her age.

Remind your child that using these gifts will help him/her prepare for the joy of being with God in Heaven.

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity, making sure that you think of a time when your child manifested one of these gifts. Tell her/him how you recognized the Holy Spirit working through her/him.

Turn to Page 280,
The Last Judgment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 561

Parents, Consider This: *Children at this age can understand that our choices are about more than gaining a reward or trying to avoid punishment. They can imagine making a choice that has no seeming reward but is the right thing to do. This becomes an important time, then, for your child to begin to connect his/her choices to happiness in this world and the next. Our choices here on Earth move us towards him or away from him. So as St. Catherine of Sienna would say, “It is heaven all the way to heaven.” Doing God’s will here on Earth helps us grow into communion with him here as we hope and pray for the fullness of communion with him in Heaven.*

Tell your child that everyone has the choice to accept or reject God’s grace and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Read aloud the first paragraph. When you come to the highlighted word, **particular judgment**, have your child find its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box. Have them retell you the meaning in his/her words.

Point out that God welcomes all who love him above all things and that they should love their neighbor as themselves. Read aloud the second paragraph.

Tell your child that those who choose to reject God are separated from him forever. That permanent separation from God is called “Hell.” Make vocabulary cards for the highlighted words, **Purgatory** and **Hell**.

Turn to Page 281,
The Last Judgment
(cont’d)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 563

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child look for the definition of **Last Judgment** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Have your child make a vocabulary card.

Tell your child to listen to find out what will happen to all people at the end of time. Explain that Jesus described the Last Judgment for his followers.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Ask: Who is the king in this story? Who are the righteous?

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Direct your child to read aloud the introductory paragraphs.

Ask your child to tell you about a time when he/she was sorrowful, lonely, or uncertain. Explain that everyone's has felt these emotions sometime in their life.

Read through the suggestions for coping with troubled times in the "Using the Gifts of the Spirit" chart.

★ **Both** of you write about a time when you did the things listed in the chart. Talk about them with each other.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Martin de Porres.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- The choices you make each day help you to prepare for eternal life with God. Name some of the choices your family can make that help you grow closer to him.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

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 Prayer (see Page 325), during your morning prayer this week.*



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