

# Friends of God

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 177,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 355

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize a Saint as someone who loved God very much, did his work on Earth, and is with him in Heaven
- Define the word *holy* as unique and pure; set apart for God and his purposes
- Appreciate that we are part of the family of Saints, connected to the Saints who lived before us and to those who believe in Jesus now

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Along your journey of life, certain people have been your guides. In the same way, the Saints of the Church inspire loving faith and perseverance in all of the members of the Church. Their lives are a living testimony to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Reflect on how you can be a living testimony and an inspiration of faith to others. As a baptized Catholic, you are a part of a holy People, the Communion of Saints. You are called to nourish and sustain faith—your own and that of others.*

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

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



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

- Oh, When the Saints
- We Gather Around Your Throne

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 169,**  
Friends of God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 339

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 holy people trust God.

**Say:** Holy people have always trusted in God. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew to find out what Jesus says about how we should treat others.



**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:** To live as holy people, we need to trust in God and love everyone.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about trusting God and loving others.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 170,**  
Holy People  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 341

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.



**Have** your child underline what the Saints did more than anything.

**Take** out index cards and write the Catholic Faith Words **Saint** and **angel** on them.

**Read** aloud the definitions (on the following page) for both words.

**Emphasize** that everyone is called to be a Saint by loving God and loving others.

**Tell** your child you are about to listen to a story from the Gospel of Luke about Jesus and his friends. Ask her/him to listen for things that Martha and Mary did that showed that they were God’s friends.



**Proclaim** “Martha and Mary” (continued on page 171).

**Turn to Page 171,**  
Family of Saints  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 343

**Read** the first paragraph of “Family of Saints.”

**Use** an index card and write the Catholic Faith Word **holy**. Explain what it means.

**Tell** your child that Catholic artists often point out which of the figures in their pictures are Saints by painting halos (circles) above their heads. Point out the halos in the mosaic of Saint Anthony and Jesus.

**Read** aloud the second paragraph and emphasize that all baptized people are part of the family of Saints.

## Activity

**Look** at the Share Your Faith activity. Tell your child to think about someone you know who serves God. Help him/her write their name in the space provided.

**Turn to Page 172,**  
All Kinds of Saints  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 345

**Ask:** How do Saints show their love?

**Tell** your child that stories about the Saints help him/her learn how to be holy.

**Ask** your child to place a finger next to each Saint as you read aloud “All Kinds of Saints.”

**Have** your child circle a word or words that tell how the Saint showed love for God. (*Mary loves and cares for us as she did for Jesus; Saint Juan Diego went to Mass and shared his story with others; Saint Louis cared for the sick and less fortunate; Saint Kateri devoted her life to prayer, penance, and those who were sick.*)

**Turn to Page 173,**  
All Kinds of Saints (cont’d)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 347

**Ask:** Which of these people would you want to be like? How can you be a holy person?

**Explain** to your child that the Church prays with the Saints. Refer to page 320 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book for more about praying with the Saints.

## Activity

**Work** on the Connect Your Faith activity with your child. Direct your child to the boxes found at the top of each Saint’s picture.

- Tell him/her that they are going to write a number in each box.
- Read each numbered phrase.
- Place the number in the box that best describes the Saint.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 174,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 349

**Ask:** How can you be a Saint?

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

★ **Have** your child place an “X” next to what they already do to be God’s friend.

**Ask:** What is one way that you can show that you are a Saint today?

**Turn to Page 175,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 351

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Dominic.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some good actions that are part of your family life.

## Activity

**Direct** your child to complete the Live Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *This session focused on the Saints as friends of God. Remind your child that being a good friend, as well as choosing good friends, can help them grow in friendship with God. Our choice of companions can contribute to or distract from our ability to show love for God and others. What a valuable lesson to learn at this young age—that every relationship we have flows in and through our relationship with Jesus. A good friend helps you to become all that God created you to be.*

**Turn to Page 177,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 355

**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 during your night prayer this week.*

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.  
Let us pray.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).