

Holy Signs

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 235,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 471

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify the Seven Sacraments as special signs and celebrations that Jesus gave his Church
- Appreciate that the Sacraments celebrate that Jesus is still with us, sharing his life and love
- Recognize that every Sacrament has words and actions we do and things God does that we can't see that bring us life

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

Parents, Consider This: *The Seven Sacraments engage the senses. God uses words, actions, and material elements from the created world to celebrate the mystery of salvation and convey his grace. The celebration of the Sacraments gives glory to God and they are also for our sanctification. They make people holy. Yet, the Sacraments are not magic. We must have the proper inner attitude in order for the Sacraments to be fruitful. As a parent, you can cultivate that inner attitude in your child. Do your best to do this, but also remember in the end all is gift. All is grace.*

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: This song connects the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- The Seven Sacraments

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 227,
Holy Signs
Vivos en Cristo, Page 455

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: Jesus wants us to be close to him. Listen to what he tells 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: Jesus loves us so much he wants our hearts to be one with his. Jesus gives us signs that we are one with him.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what they might wonder about being close to Jesus.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 228,
Signs of Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 457

Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Emphasize God’s love for children.



Proclaim “The Advocate” in the Parchment Paper box.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Signs of God’s love are found throughout the Bible. Noah saw a rainbow in the sky after the great flood as a sign of God’s love. God sent Jesus to show his love. The Holy Spirit came to the Apostles to guide them. Tell these stories in your family. They remind us to look for signs of God’s love for us in our lives.*

Point out the picture. Ask what the picture shows. (a family bringing up the gifts at Mass)

Tell your child that Jesus is with us in a special way at Mass.

Turn to Page 229,
The Sacraments
Vivos en Cristo, Page 459

Ask your child if he or she can name any of the Seven Sacraments. Prompt the response of Baptism and Eucharist. Tell your child you will be learning the names of the other Sacraments.

Read aloud the text on this page.

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

Look at pages 304–305 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section to review the Seven Sacraments.

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child share their responses with you.

Turn to Page 230,
Signs and Celebrations
Vivos en Cristo, Page 461

Parents, Consider This: *In most dioceses, the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and Eucharist are celebrated during a child's second grade year. Talk about the anticipation of these special milestones. Encourage your child by telling them that learning about the Sacraments is how we begin to prepare to celebrate them. Share that the word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving."*

Explain that things you can see, hear, touch, smell, and taste are used to celebrate the Sacraments. Tell your child that these holy things are signs that tell us that God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is there with you. Point out that the Church has Seven Sacraments. Emphasize that Jesus gave us the Sacraments so that we can always know his love and care.

Read the opening question and text aloud.

Turn to Page 231,
Signs and Celebrations
(cont'd)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 463

Point out the three boxes. Explain that the Church has Seven Sacraments. The Seven Sacraments fall into one of three categories. As you move to each box say:

- The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. These three Sacraments celebrate membership in to the Catholic Church.
- The Sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and Penance and Anointing of the Sick. They celebrate God's forgiveness and healing.
- The Sacraments at the Service of Communion celebrate people's commitment to serve God and the community.

Have your child circle the sacraments that they have seen.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 232,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 465

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Review the chart together. Read aloud the names of the Sacraments and invite your child to read the names of the signs and what they stand for.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 233,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 467

Read the paragraph about Mary.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what you know about Mary and the ways you can show devotion to her.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *We usually celebrate the Sacraments in the building of the Church. Visit your church building during a time when services are not taking place. Walk around and point out things that relate to the Sacraments like the altar, the baptismal font, and the sanctuary light.*

Turn to Page 235,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 471

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

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.



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