

We Are Welcomed

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 245,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 491

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify Baptism as the Sacrament that brings new life in God and makes the person a member of the Church
- Name grace as God's gift of sharing in his life and help
- Examine the signs and symbols of Baptism

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

Parents, Consider This: *Think back to when you first realized that your child would be coming into your family. Remember the anticipation and the preparations you made for the arrival of this wonderful gift from God. Like a family, the Church welcomes new members with open arms and open hearts. We each became a member of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is more than a Rite that confers membership. Through Baptism, a person is incorporated into Christ's death and burial, and is born into a new life by the power of the Resurrection. Reflect with your family about when you have most appreciated your faith community.*

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.

- Yes, Lord, I Believe
- We Welcome You Into Our Church

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 237,
We Are Welcomed
Vivos en Cristo, Page 475

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 water is an important sign of life.

Say: Everything needs water to live. Baptism uses water as a sign off our new life. Listen to a reading from the Gospel of Mark that tells us more about Baptism.



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: Baptism is the Sacrament that gives us new life in Christ.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Baptism as a Sacrament or their own Baptism.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 238,
Welcome!
Vivos en Cristo, Page 477

Read aloud the three paragraphs.

Tell your child that at Baptism, holy water is poured on a person's head. Get a bowl and a pitcher of water that your child is able to manipulate.

Have your child pour a small amount of water from the pitcher into the bowl. Explain that Baptism is a welcoming celebration. Have your child pour more water.

Tell your child that through Baptism, a person becomes a member of God's family, the Church. Have your child pour more water into the bowl. Explain that in Baptism, we become children of God. Keep the bowl and water out.

Discuss how you welcome people into your home. How do you make people feel welcome?

Say: You are going to hear a Bible Story about Baptism.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box.

Explain that after Jesus died, he sent his Apostles out into the world to share the Good News and baptize people.

Read aloud the two paragraphs. Pour the remaining water into the bowl and tell your child that the Holy Spirit comes to us through Baptism and gives us the strength to do Jesus' work.

Turn to Page 239,
Welcome! (cont'd)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 479

Review the highlighted words, **Baptism** and **grace**, and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *In Baptism, a person is cleansed of Original Sin and any personal sin. In Baptism, we are welcomed into the Church and we become God's child. We receive grace to lead a holy life. Help your child grasp the multiple meanings of this Sacrament by talking about them. Above all, share that God's life and love are a gift given to us, and we call this gift grace.*

Turn to Page 240,
Becoming Church Members
Vivos en Cristo, Page 481

Invite your child to look at the pictures as you read the captions.

Ask: Which person is the one receiving Baptism? (**the baby**) Who else is shown in the photos? (**the baby's parents, godparents, and the priest**) What objects are used in celebrating Baptism? (**holy water, a candle, a white garment, Sacred Chrism**)

Explain that the container in which people are baptized is called a font. Tell your child you will show the actions and say the words that are most important in Baptism. Refill the pitcher of water. Using the bowl, pour the water three times, once for each member of the Holy Trinity. Do it again and have your child say the words with you as you pour the water.

Turn to Page 241,
Becoming Church Members
(cont'd)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 483

Read aloud the paragraph. Have your child point to the highlighted word, **godparents**. Review its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Talk with your child about his or her godparents. Tell your child why you choose them to be godparents.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 242,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 485

Read aloud the first sentence and draw your child's attention to the chart. Have your child follow along as you read aloud each item. Explain that the boxes list ways to answer the call of Baptism.

Ask: What are some other ways you can be a sign of God's life and love.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 243,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 487

Read the paragraph about Saint Moses the Black.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Ask: Have you been at a Baptism? What did you see?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 245,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 491

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.