

# Forever With God

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 269,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 539

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe Heaven as living and being happy with God forever
- Identify God's desire for everyone to be happy with him forever
- Recognize that following Jesus and obeying God's laws are how we live in love now and forever

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *When your child is this age it may be hard to imagine that in a blink of an eye he/she will be an adult. An important part of being a Catholic parent is keeping your focus on the fact that while you are teaching your child to take his/her first steps, you are also setting him/her on the path to eternal life. Baptism begins our life long journey of growing in union with the Father, through his Son, Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Helping your child to open his/her heart to receive the fullness of what God wants for him/her—life with him forever—is the very reason God has given him/her to you.*

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

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the 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).

- Around Your Throne
- Now Thank We All Our God

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 261,**  
Forever with God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 523

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 teaches us how to be happy.

**Say:** Jesus teaches us how to be happy and live each day of our lives. Listen to what Jesus told his friends about this.



**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 is telling us that if we live with God every day we will be happy. When we love God and do what he asks, we are helping him to build his Kingdom here on Earth.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about the Kingdom of God.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 262,**  
Life Forever with God  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 525

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Remind** your child that Jesus promised his followers life after death.



**Proclaim** the Scripture.

**Tell** your child to listen for Jesus’ promise.

**Ask:** What do you think God’s house is like?

**Turn to Page 263,**  
Happiness Forever  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 527

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Show** your child an index card with the Catholic Faith Word, **Heaven**, written on it.

**Explain** that Heaven is living in happiness with God and the Saints forever.

**Help** your child understand that the phrase Jesus uses in the Scripture story on the previous page—“my Father’s house”—is a symbol for Heaven.

**Ask** your child why “house” is a good word to describe Heaven. (A house is the setting for family happiness.)

**Reinforce** that people who love God, and show it by their words and actions, will have new life with God forever.

## Activity

**Have** your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Because children at this age are literal thinkers, we use images of home and family to help them understand eternal life. Children do recognize love. Being held in an embrace when they need comfort and reassurance, or having the need to be cherished are wonderful examples that you can use to help explain to your child what Heaven is like. Assuring your child that God's love for them goes beyond any words of explanation, will allow them to trust that the people they know who have died are happy with God forever.*

**Turn to Page 264,**  
Happy Forever  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 529

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Tell** your child that God's love is so great that he wants all people to be happy with him after they die.

**Point** out the pictures of the Saints. Ask your child to tell you what they recall about each Saint. If they need help remembering, look back in the People of Faith boxes in previous chapters.

**Explain** that the Saints are in Heaven with Jesus.

**Turn to Page 265,**  
The Way to Heaven  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 531

**Read** the paragraph aloud.

**Tell** your child that whenever he/she shows love for others, they get an idea of the happiness that is Heaven.

**Explain** that when he/she lives as a follower of Jesus, he/she is living like the Saints who are in Heaven with Jesus. Everyone who follows Jesus will be in Heaven with God forever.

**Have** your child draw a picture of someone from your family who helped him/her learn more about following Jesus in the empty frame.

### LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 266,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 533

**Read** the introduction.

**Invite** your child to listen carefully as you read aloud the list of ways we can respond when someone dies. Pause after reading each entry, and invite her/him to restate the information in her/his own words.

**Ask:** What kind words can you say to a friend when someone they love dies?



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 267,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 535

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Emily de Vialar.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share with your child what makes you happy. Ask him/her to share what makes them happy. This would be a great topic to discuss with your entire family at your next family meal.

## Activity

**Have** your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

**Turn to Page 269,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 539

**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 318), during your morning prayer this week.*



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