

# The Holy Family

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 99,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 199

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Identify signs of love expressed in families
- Recognize Jesus as the Son of God and a human being
- Define the Holy Family as the human family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus
- Appreciate that Jesus grew up with Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, praying and learning

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *We all learn from the behaviors and the values we see lived out in others, often from those who are older or come before us. When we observe virtues we admire lived in other families, we may be inspired to cultivate them in our own family. Who has been a model for you and your family? Who do you see as a model of love in family life? The Holy Family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are a model for Catholic families. They lived unselfish love and a faithful observance of faith in family life. The virtues lived in the Holy Family are something to reflect upon and remember.*

**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 helps you 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).

- Joseph was a Good Man
- Family of God

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 91,**  
The Holy Family  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 183

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 our families are a gift from God.

**Say:** Jesus had a family like we do and lived with his family in Nazareth. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.



**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:** Our families are all different. Some families may have many brothers and sisters or none. Some may live in a big city or in the country on a farm.

**Share** the observation of the size of your family and what environment you live in.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about what it was like for Jesus to grow up in Nazareth.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 92,**  
Family Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 185

**Talk** to your child about families. Remind your child that some families are large and some are small. Some children live with their parents and some live with their grandparents. Tell your child that God loves all families.

**Ask:** How can families show love?

**Read** aloud the text.

**Turn to Page 93,**  
Family Love (cont’d)  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 187

**Read** the last section on “David’s Family.”

**Ask:** How are these families different? (Tyler’s dad doesn’t live with him. Laine’s grandmother is coming to visit. David’s family has a dog.)

**Ask:** How is each family showing love? (Tyler’s uncle is talking with him. Laine’s dad is reading a letter from her grandmother. David’s family is having a picnic in the park.)

### Activity

**Do** the Share Your Faith activity. Discuss the second part of the activity with your child.

**Parents, Consider This:** *There is no greater sign of our faith than when we show love. A dimension of love is an ability to be tolerant, to be non-judgmental, and to appreciate diversity. There may be diversity in the kinds of families in our neighborhoods and extended family. It is important that we show care in our conversations and actions towards others so that our children can learn respect for many different kinds of families. God loves all families, and, in doing so, invites us to act with love toward all families.*

**Turn to Page 94,**  
Jesus' Family  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 189

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Ask:** What was Jesus family like? (He grew up in family. He lived with Mary his mother and Joseph, his foster father.)

**Read** the next paragraph on this page. Point out the Catholic Faith Words **Mary** and **Holy Family**. Move to the Catholic Faith Words box and review what it says about those words.

**Tell** your child that Jesus' family shared God's love with each other, just like your family does.

**Turn to Page 95,**  
A Day in Nazareth  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 191

**Read** the introductory paragraph on this page.

**Ask** how Jesus is different from other humans. (He is God's Son. He is God. He is divine.)



**Proclaim** the Scripture story, "The Boy Jesus."



**Do** the gold-star activity. Help your child to complete this activity as needed.

**Parents, Consider This:** *In the busyness of daily life, we can forget how sacred the simple and everyday tasks of life could be if we did them with care for others in mind. Prayerfully think of them as ways to show your love. Think about this the next time you cook a meal, fold clothes, or drive the car pool. Each occasion is an opportunity to make our daily tasks a prayer.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 96,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 193

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Ask:** What are the names of the members of Jesus' human family?

**Discuss** the question, "What was it like for Jesus when he was growing up?"



**Do** the gold star activity. Read the actions on the left aloud. Talk together about which pictures are the best match for each action. Have your child connect the action with its matching picture.

**Turn to Page 97,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 195

**Read** the paragraph about Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how your child is filled with the Holy Spirit.

## Activity

**Do** the Live Your Faith activity. Talk with your child about what they chose to draw.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Children use their religious imagination when they project themselves into the past to learn about Jesus' life. Some ways to foster that skill include asking your child to put him or herself into the story when hearing or reading Scripture. Or, invite your child to draw their ideas about abstract religious concepts such as God or Heaven.*

**Turn to Page 99,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 199

**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 316), 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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).