

About the Bible

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 109,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 219

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Recognize that Jesus told stories like the Lost Sheep to show us how God watches over and guides us, always welcoming us back
- Describe a parable as a short story Jesus told about everyday life to teach something about God
- Identify the Bible as the Church's holy book
- Name two parts of the Bible as the Old Testament and the New Testament

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

Parents, Consider This: *Family stories that are passed down to us are our way of learning about life and how to be a family. We learn little lessons such as home-making skills from grandparent's stories about baking or gardening. We learn larger lessons about such things as courage and the quest for freedom from hearing stories about how our ancestors immigrated to this country. Scripture is a book of family stories. It is a resource that informs and inspires us to know about our family in faith. It is a holy book that has stories about God and about God's love for us. It is a resource that contains nothing less than God's Word to guide us in life.*

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.

- The Good Shepherd
- Jesus' Stories

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 101,
About the Bible
Vivos en Cristo, Page 203

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 told stories to teach about God's love.

Say: Jesus loved to tell stories about God the Father and his Kingdom. He used stories to teach us. Let's listen to the Gospel of Matthew to learn more 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.

Say: The stories of Jesus help us to learn how to follow him. Your life tells a story about another person who follows Jesus—you.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Jesus and the stories he told.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 102,
We Learn from Stories
Vivos en Cristo, Page 205

Read aloud the paragraph.

Tell your child that Jesus used stories about everyday life to teach lessons about God and his love for people.



Proclaim the Scripture story. Have your child recall a time when he or she lost something and how it felt when the lost item was found.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The work of a shepherd involves watchfulness, caring, and courage. In the Old Testament, the image of the shepherd defending his flock was used as a symbol both for God and for Israel’s king. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd, ready to lay down his life for his sheep. The Church refers to herself as God’s flock. There is much in the role of the shepherd that a mother or father can identify with in the way parents care for their family. The stories of Scripture can inspire us in our roles of protector and caretaker of our family.*

Turn to Page 103,
Our Shepherd
Vivos en Cristo, Page 207

Ask your child what lesson Jesus is teaching about God’s love in the story of the Lost Sheep. (Everyone is important to God. God wants us to come back to him even if we get lost.)

Read the section, “Our Shepherd” to your child.

Tell your child that God’s love is great and he is happy when people come back to him.

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity. Then discuss the second part of the activity with your child.

Parents, Consider This: *Forgiveness is a learned process. While teaching responsibility and accountability, Scripture also reminds us to temper that with understanding and forgiveness. As we experience this balance of responsibility and understanding in family life, we are better prepared to live as a Christian outside of our home.*

Turn to Page 104,
Stories about God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 209

Tell your child that a parable is a short story that teaches us something. Jesus told parable stories about everyday life to teach others about God.

Read aloud both paragraphs. Explain that the story that Jesus told about the lost sheep is an example of a parable.



Proclaim the Scripture. Explain that Jesus is the shepherd in the stained glass window and that when Jesus says, "I will lay down my life for the sheep," he means he will do anything for us.

Turn to Page 105,
The Holy Book
Vivos en Cristo, Page 211

Read aloud all three paragraphs.

Point out the Catholic Faith Word box and have your child read the definitions of **Old Testament** and **New Testament**. Explain that these are what we call the two main parts of the Bible.

Show your child a Bible. Tell your child that the Bible contains many smaller books. Explain that the Bible is different from every other book in the world. It is the Church's holy book. Have your child hold the Bible. Show your child some of the different books of the Bible and what they are called.

Say: God speaks to us through the words in the Bible.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The Old Testament used by Catholics contains forty-six books consisting of many literary forms. There are stories, legends, poems, proverbs, laws, and histories. The New Testament contains twenty-seven books, including the four Gospels, which recount the public life of Jesus. When reading the Bible to your child, point out that passage's literary form, such as, this is a poem or this is a historical book.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 106,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 213

Read the first two paragraphs.

Review the section, “Two Parts of the Bible.” Summarize the information for your child.

Ask: What are some of your favorite Bible stories?

Turn to Page 107,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 215

Read the paragraph about Saint Paul of the Cross.

- Share your reaction to the information.
- Talk about what makes your child follow Jesus.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *When sharing Bible stories with your child, make a point of asking the following questions: What does the story mean to you? What can you learn from the story? How can you live the message of the story in your own life?*

Turn to Page 109,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 219

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.