

Church Leaders

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 163,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 327

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that Peter was the leader of the Apostles and first Pope, head of the entire Church
- Identify the Apostles as the first twelve leaders called by Jesus
- Recognize the bishops as successors of the Apostles
- Understand that the Pope, bishops, priests, and deacons lead, guide, and make the Church holy

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

Parents, Consider This: *You know when you are in the company of a natural leader. A good leader inspires and motivates a group. She or he can help you to accomplish things you never imagined possible while at the same time holding the goals, limits, and scope of your work clearly in the forefront. The Church needs good leadership to remain unified and to function effectively. Our primary teachers are bishops and priests, whom God calls to leadership by the power of the Holy Spirit. The bishop of Rome, the Pope, has the primary place among all of the bishops. He is the visible sign of unity for the Church throughout the world.*

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.

- Jesus Is with Us
- The Family of God

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 155,
Church Leaders
Vivos en Cristo, Page 311

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 the first “Mark” of the Church is unity. As the People of God, we are called to live in unity with one another.

Say: Let's listen to the reading from Ephesians that tells us about this unity.



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: The Church and all its members have Good News to share with everyone on earth. Jesus entrusted us, the Church, with his mission.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about God’s life and love and how he shares them with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 156,
The First Leader
Vivos en Cristo, Page 313



Tell your child that they are about to hear three separate stories from the New Testament in the Bible that tell us about Peter, the Apostle. In each section, read the story in parts: “Peter’s Belief” (Peter/Simon, Narrator, Jesus); “Peter Denies Jesus” (Narrator, Jesus); “Jesus and Peter” (Peter, Narrator, Jesus).

Ask: What did you learn about Peter in these stories?

Turn to Page 157,
Jesus and Peter
Vivos en Cristo, Page 315

Play: “Upon This Rock” from the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 20.

Ask: What did the song teach us about Peter?

Read aloud the final paragraph. Go to Catholic Faith Words Box and review the definition of Pope.

Turn to Page 158,
Chosen to Lead
Vivos en Cristo, Page 317

Tell your child that we need leaders to help us be the best we can be. Tell him/her about someone you know who is a good leader and what he/she helped you to accomplish.

Say: We are going to talk about Church leaders. Today, someone else has the same job that Jesus gave to Peter.

Have your child read the two paragraphs aloud. Tell him/her to listen to discover who does Peter’s work now. (the Pope)

Ask: Who takes the place of Jesus’ Apostles today? (Pope and bishops)
What do you think the responsibilities of a bishop are? (leads and serves a diocese)

Read the definitions for the Catholic Faith Words **Apostolic Succession** and **bishop**. Give your child three index cards. Have your child write the words on one side of the card and the definitions on the other side. Collect the cards and save them for review.

Parents, Consider This: *When we look at the family through the lens of spirituality, we realize that God intends for parents to be the leaders in their family. You lead by word and example. You understand the purpose of the family and so set the goals and priorities of your family life to uphold your purpose. To help you keep your focus and support you in living out your purpose, God gives you the Church. Being able to stay connected to the universal Church through an active connection to your parish is truly a gift.*

Turn to Page 159,
Leaders of the Parish
Vivos en Cristo, Page 319

Read aloud the paragraph.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Help your child learn the names of the pastor and deacon(s) of your parish. (You can find these in your parish bulletin, which are often available online.)

Have your child silently read the paragraph under “Church Members Serve.” As your child reads, ask them to list the different kinds of ministries on a separate sheet of paper. Review their list.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Fill in the blanks substituting the director of your Religious Education Program for the catechist.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 160,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 321

Read aloud the first paragraph to your child. Then have them help you by alternating reading the captions under each photograph. After each caption, stop and discuss what your child sees in the photograph.

★ **Have** your child write what they think is the most interesting thing about the Pope in the space provided. Listen to his/her response and then share your response with your child.

Point out that the Pope leads all of the Church together with the bishops.

Ask: What do you think would be the hardest thing about being the Pope? Add what you think as well.

Reinforce the important leadership that the Pope supplies to all of the Church.

Turn to Page 161,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 323

Read the paragraph about Saint Gregory the Great.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Ask your child how they feel when they are asked to do something they don't want to do.

Turn to Page 163,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 327

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit (see Page 323), 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.