

Catholic and Apostolic

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 183,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 367

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that Saint Paul was one of the first to take the message of Jesus across many countries
- Explore the Church's mission to announce the Good News of God's Kingdom
- Identify the Church as catholic and apostolic
- Recognize that the Church's mission is to share Jesus' Good News with the people of all nations
- Discover that we are a part of the mission of the Church

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

Parents, Consider This: *The mission of the Church is to proclaim God's reign of love, justice, and peace. Jesus demonstrated how to cooperate with God's reign on Earth by bringing people into communion with him. In reaching out to and serving people, Jesus showed his disciples how to be present to one another. Today, Jesus' followers bring the Church's mission to life in acts of compassion and forgiveness, in works of justice and peace. The mission of the Church begins in your home. You teach your children that the love that is present in your family must extend to the world outside of your home.*

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.

- Gathered as One
- Walk in the Light

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 175,
Catholic and Apostolic
Vivos en Cristo, Page 351

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 Church has a mission to share Jesus' Good News with the people of all nations. The Church is for everyone.

Say: Let's listen to the words of Saint Paul.



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: You have a mission to bring the Good News of Jesus to everyone through your words and actions. That is part of what it means to be Catholic.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about bringing the Good News of Jesus to others.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 176,
A Man with a Mission
Vivos en Cristo, Page 353

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Alternate reading the next three paragraphs about “Paul’s Mission.”



Complete the gold-star activity.

Look at the illustration of St. Paul on the page. Ask your child to tell you what they see. Ask about the possible meaning of the hand scattering seeds above St. Paul’s head.

You may want to search the internet for a map of the Roman Empire in the first century and locate the following places: Tarsus (city of Paul’s birth), Damascus, Jerusalem (his journey where he met Jesus in the light), and Rome (where Paul was martyred for his faith).

Turn to Page 177,
Sharing God’s Good News
Vivos en Cristo, Page 355

Have your child read the first paragraph.



Tell him/her to listen carefully as you proclaim “Doing God’s Work. While you read, they should think about what the seed was that St. Paul planted. Proclaim the Scripture.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 178,
Universal and Missionary
Vivos en Cristo, Page 357

Share a good work that you have done to help spread the Good News with your child. Emphasize how often actions speak louder than words.

Read aloud the question. Tell your child you will read to find the answer. Alternate reading the four paragraphs with your child.

★ **Complete** the gold-star activity.

Give your child three index cards. Read the Catholic Faith Words definition for **evangelization**, **mission**, and **missionaries**. Tell her/him to write the words on one side of the card and the definitions on the other. Use the cards to review.

Direct attention to the photograph on this page. Read aloud the caption and discuss.

You may want to explore the web for religious orders that work in mission fields. (Maryknoll, Comboni Fathers, Missionaries of Charity, Glenmary Home Missions)

Turn to Page 179,
Sharing with Others
Vivos en Cristo, Page 359

Ask: What do people need in order to be physically healthy? (*food, adequate clothing, housing, medical care*)

Ask: What do people need in order to grow in faith? (*help in learning about God, prayer, the Seven Sacraments*)

Point out that missionaries share all these things with others.

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Ask your child to describe what they see in the photograph. Read the caption under the photograph.

Activity

Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Help your child to fold the paper in thirds as if you were sending a letter. Open the paper and place it width-wide on the table. Help your child write, "I am a missionary," across the top. In the first column, write the word "Pray." In the second column, "Give." In the third column, ask your child to draw her/himself cooperating with God's reign here on Earth.

Parents, Consider This: When you see someone doing something generous or compassionate, you recognize that it is good. Because you are faith-filled, you know that whatever is good begins in God. We cooperate with his goodness; we are his instruments. All baptized Christians share in the mission of the Church. Our words and deeds proclaim the Good News. We show people the face of God. Your children, however, still need to learn that profound truth. They must see you act and then they must hear you tell them why you act. This process of doing and telling is what we also do as we bring Christ to the world. We call this evangelization.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 180,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 361

Read aloud the paragraph.

Focus on the “Partner Parishes” chart. Ask your child to read what’s in the chart. Ask them to summarize the text for you in his or her own words.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 181,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 363

Read the paragraph about Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss what your family can do to help do Jesus’ work here on Earth.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 183,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 367

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.