

# Choose Love

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 197,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 395

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Examine how the Story of Joseph in the Old Testament shows us the importance of forgiving and loving
- Discuss Jesus' command to love your enemies
- Describe the Beatitudes as teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell how to live in God's Kingdom
- Identify that Jesus' New Commandment is to love one another as he has loved us

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *There are some days when life can feel like a ping-pong game and we are the ball. We simply get batted from one place to another and not much seems like our choice. Yet, to live a moral life, Jesus calls us to be conscious about our choices. What we choose and why we choose to either do it or not must be intentional. Jesus gives us the New Commandment to guide us in our choices. In loving our neighbor, he asks us to forgive. The practice of forgiveness must begin in your family. Your child will never understand the forgiveness of God if he/she has not repeatedly experienced forgiveness from 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 lesson.
- *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).

- Greatest Gift
- Shalom

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 189,**  
Choose Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 379

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 when we do something loving, it makes us feel good. But, love can sometimes be hard.

**Say:** How many times a day do you hear the word “love”? It is a wonderful feeling when someone tells us they love us. Listen to these words of Jesus.



**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:** When we are asked to sacrifice for others, it can be difficult. Jesus asks even more of us. He challenges us to love our enemy. When we do the difficult things that love asks, we love as God loves.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about sacrifice and love.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 190,**  
Learning to Forgive  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 381

**Read** aloud these paragraphs to introduce this part of the lesson.

**Explain** to your child that this story is from the Old Testament, the part of the Bible that tells about the life of God’s People before Jesus was born.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 191,**  
The Story of Joseph  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 383

**Ask** your child to read the paragraph after the Scripture story.

**Discuss** the two purple follow up questions.

**Spend** some time discussing why it can be more difficult to forgive people in your family than others outside of your family.

**Look** at the illustrations on this page and on page 190. Have your child tell you who the characters are and what is happening.

**Turn to Page 192,**  
The Way of Love  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 385

**Read** aloud the opening paragraph.



**Proclaim** the Scripture.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Read** aloud the closing paragraph.

**Talk** about the difference between forgiving and forgetting. While some hurts we may never forget, forgiveness is a daily choice to let go of the hurt and choose to act in love.

**Review** the song, “You’ve Got to Love Them,” from the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 7. The lyrics are available at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

**Turn to Page 193,**  
The New Commandment  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 387

**Direct** your child to read the first paragraph. As he/she comes to the highlighted words **Beatitudes**, **mercy**, and **New Commandment**, read their definitions from the Catholic Faith Words Box. Have your child write the words on three separate index cards.

**Read** aloud the second paragraph. Look at your parish bulletin from last week or search for it online. Find things that your parish does to live the New Commandment.

## Activity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Until Jesus and God’s covenant, his sacred promise to be in relationship with us was expressed in the Law of Moses. God’s covenant is fulfilled in Jesus who is the new covenant—one that was expressed most fully on the Cross, for it is on the Cross that we see and experience the depth and breadth of God’s love. Jesus’ words and actions give us a law that is written in the hearts of people and flows from the grace and freedom of the Holy Spirit. Jesus’ teachings in the Beatitudes are more than a set of rules. The Beatitudes require a transformation of the heart to love as Jesus did. The Beatitudes are listed on page 317 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section. Find a way to place them at the center of your home.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 194,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 389

**Discuss** the meaning of the word peace. Explain that peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is related to contentment and love.

**Read** aloud the paragraphs, alternating with your child.

**Ask:** During which part of the Mass do you make the sign of peace?

**Turn to Page 195,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 391

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Peter Canisius.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss ways you can show respect and kindness to people you may not like very much.

**Turn to Page 197,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 395

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 325), 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).