

# Families Teach Love

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 81,**  
the Family + Faith page.

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

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Appreciate that families teach us how to care for, respect, and help one another
- Recognize the importance of Mary as the Mother of God and our Mother, too
- Connect the words Elizabeth used to greet Mary with the Hail Mary
- Identify the Catholic family as the domestic Church where we experience love, and learn about God and how we pray and live as Catholics

**Parents, Consider This:** *Family is the place where we first learn we are loved and we learn how to love. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it this way: “The first school of Christian life is the Christian family” (CCC 1657). The family shapes a child’s primary image of God. It does so faithfully when it mirrors God’s life and love in the perfect love that flows between the three Persons of the Holy Trinity. Your child learns this from you when you display a loving relationship that results in the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of a daughter/son.*

**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 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).

- The Family of God
- All Over the World

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 73,**  
Families Teach Love

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 one of God’s first gifts to us. They take care of all the things we need. Most importantly, they help us to live as God’s People. We have another family as well.

**Say:** Let’s listen to this story about 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:** Jesus helps us to understand that our families belong to a bigger family we call the Church. Learning how to love each other in our family helps us understand how to love other people in the world. God uses our families to teach us important lessons.

**Invite** the children 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 74,**  
A Model for Our Families

**Read** aloud the question. Ask your child how she/he knows that she/he is cared for in your family? How can our family show more care for each other? (Listen to your child’s answers. They may surprise you.) Make sure you discuss how important it is for family members to spend time together.

**Find** the highlighted Catholic Faith Words **Visitation** and **Mary**. Ask your child to read aloud the definitions and then write the word and definitions on separate index cards.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story. Ask your child what the Scripture tells about how Mary and Elizabeth felt. (happy to be together, grateful for God’s blessings, full of wonder about the changes happening in their lives)



Read the directions for the gold-star activity and then help your child complete the activity.

**Discuss** the illustration. Mary’s response to Elizabeth is called the Magnificat. You may want to play “Mary, O Blessed One” (Track 17) from the *Songs of Scripture* CD Grades 1-3.

**Turn to Page 75,**  
The Greatest Mother

**Read** aloud the paragraph and the question that follows.



Complete the prayer. If you need help, turn to page 321 to find the Hail Mary. Pray the prayer together.

## Activity

**Read** aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child write one of the ways your family cares for each other that you discussed at the beginning of the lesson.

**Turn to Page 76,**  
The Church of the Home

**Read** the first three paragraphs together.

**Ask** your child which family members taught them about safety rules and how to care for pets.

**Read** aloud the fourth paragraph.

**Ask:** What is something you have learned about the Catholic Church in our family?

**Have** your child find the highlighted Catholic Faith Word **domestic Church**. Read the definition out loud. On an index card write the vocabulary word on one side, and its definition on the other.

**Turn to Page 77,**  
Communities of Love

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs.

**Ask** your child what he/she thinks authority means. Reinforce that authority means the right or power to enforce rules or give orders. Note that the power to make decisions is based on responsibility for the good of all.

**Explain** that families are part of the Church.

★ **Read** aloud the directions for the gold-star activity and then complete the activity.

**Read** aloud “God Loves Everyone.”

**Ask:** Why is it sometimes hard to obey someone who is responsible for you? What can you do to overcome that difficulty?

### LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 78,**  
Our Catholic Life

**Read** aloud the question.

**Remind** your child that respect is honoring God and other people.

★ **Read** aloud the directions in the green box and then complete the activity.



**Turn to Page 79,**  
People of Faith

**Read** the paragraph about Blessed Luigi and Maria.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can help each other be Saints. (i.e. calling out the best in each other)

## Activity

**Read** the directions for the Live Your Faith activity. On a separate sheet of paper, help your child name four or five scenes that will tell his/her story. On the other side of the paper help him/her section the paper into the number of boxes he/she will need to tell the story. Direct your child to finish the work.

**Parents, Consider This:** *The one simple truth that God shares with us in the first pages of Scripture is that he is our creator and we are his creation. When we hear people say, "What does faith have to do with my life?" it is indeed a testimony to how far human beings can stray from the truth that God has created us for relationship with himself and others. Our families are sacred for two reasons; in our families we experience the love of God for us through one another and in our families we are formed by word and action to bring Christ to the world. When you lose sight of that amidst the daily blur of everyday life, pray for the grace to remember and see. Pray the words of Scripture "Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive," (2 Chronicles 7:15) and see the difference.*

**Turn to Page 81,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321) 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).