

The Good News

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 129,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 259

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recall that the Gospel message is the Good News of God's Kingdom and his saving love
- Identify the Gospels as the four books in the New Testament that tell the stories of Jesus' life
- Describe the Kingdom of God as the world of love, peace, and justice that is in Heaven and is still being built on earth
- Recall that in his miracles and parables, Jesus teaches that God's Kingdom is here and to come

Turn to Page 121,
The Good News
Vivos en Cristo, Page 243

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

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus came to proclaim the reign of God founded on love, justice, and peace. When we act in the name of Jesus, with compassion, justice, forgiveness, and love, within our family or out in the world, we help to realize the Kingdom and proclaim the Good News. Be aware of how the words and actions in your home can proclaim the Good News of the Gospel. Speak with love to each other, be quick to forgive, act fairly, and pray for peace.*

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.

- When We Praise You
- Act Justly

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

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 God sent Jesus, his Son, to teach us about God's Kingdom.

Say: In the Kingdom of God there will be peace and justice. Peace comes to many people when they know they are forgiven. Jesus helped us to understand the Kingdom through many different stories of God's forgiveness.



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: We see many times in the Gospel that people who are sick and suffering come to Jesus. He makes them well. He heals them. Healing is another sign of God’s Kingdom.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about healing.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 122,
The Gospel Message
Vivos en Cristo, Page 245

Read the text aloud.

Ask: What is the Good News that Jesus shared? (Possible response: **God loves his People and saves them from the power of sin and everlasting death.**)

Read together the definition for the word **Gospel** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Turn to Page 123,
Jesus’ Message
Vivos en Cristo, Page 247

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask: Where did Jesus begin his ministry? (**Nazareth**)

Tell your child that you will hear a story about how Jesus surprised people in his hometown. Point out that in Jesus time, many people did not understand that Jesus was the Son of God.



Proclaim God’s Word.

Ask: Why were the people surprised by Jesus’ message? (**they didn’t expect him to be from Nazareth**)



Do the gold-star activity.

Read the final paragraph.

Have your child put a finger on the word **Messiah**. Read its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: The word *Gospel* comes from the Old English “*godspel*”—*god* meaning “good” and *spel* meaning “tale.” The four Gospels were written thirty to sixty years after Jesus’ Resurrection. The authors recognized the importance of writing the story of Jesus so that future generations could know and believe in him. Tell the stories of Jesus life in your family. That is how your child will also come to know and believe in him.

Turn to Page 124,
The Kingdom of God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 249

Read the first three paragraphs.

Ask: What were the signs of the Kingdom during Jesus time on Earth?
(his teaching and miracles)

Have your child find the words **Kingdom of God** and **miracles** and read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 125,
Parables
Vivos en Cristo, Page 251

Read the first paragraph and help your child read the definition of **parable** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Ask: Why did Jesus use parables to teach? (Parables use comparisons and ideas that people can understand to explain difficult concepts.)

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 126,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 253

Read aloud the intro question and the text.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Jesus’ Good News is a message of hope. His message to his disciples was to take the Corporal Works of Mercy seriously, that is, to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, and bury the dead. We give hope to others by these actions. Consider something your family can do this week to extend mercy to others.

Turn to Page 127,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 255

Read the paragraph about Saint Isaac Jogues.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about ways you can tell someone about Jesus.

Turn to Page 129,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 259

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.