

The Church Teaches

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:

- Identify Peter as the Apostle that Jesus chose to lead the Apostles and the Church
- Recognize that Jesus gave Peter and the Apostles, and their successors the Pope and bishops, the authority to teach and lead in his name
- Identify the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church
- Explain how the Holy Spirit directs the Magisterium in teaching and guiding the Church
- Retell the Precepts of the Church

Turn to Page 175,
The Church Teaches
Vivos en Cristo, Page 351

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

Parents, Consider This: *Are you familiar with the old adage, “education is wasted on the young?” It is a way of expressing that, as we mature, we value learning more. As adults, we know the need and have the desire to know more. How is this translated in our life of faith? Baptism sets us on the journey to grow in learning about Jesus, his words, and his actions. It sets us on the journey of knowing him. We rely on the teaching office of the Church, the Magisterium, to help us to learn God’s revealed truth. When your child sees you continuing to learn about your faith, he/she learns the most valuable lesson of all—faith is a lifelong journey.*

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.

- The Church
- The Family of God

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 Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit when he returned to his Father in Heaven.

Say: When Jesus, the Teacher, returned to his Father, he did not leave us on our own.



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: Today, the Holy Spirit, our God-given teacher and guide, continues to give us teachers and leaders to follow.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about Church leaders and teachers.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 176,
Jesus Chooses a Leader
Vivos en Cristo, Page 353

Ask: Whom did Jesus choose as the leader of the Apostles?

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.



Proclaim "You Are the Messiah!"

Ask your child to read aloud the next paragraph.

Tell him/her that Jesus trusted Peter to teach and govern his Church.

Ask: If Jesus asked you the same question he asked Peter, what would you say?

Point out the picture. Ask your child what they see happening in the picture.

Turn to Page 177,
Peter and Jesus
Vivos en Cristo, Page 355

Explain that, although Peter understood that Jesus was the Messiah, he still had more to learn about Jesus.

Read aloud the information under "Peter and Jesus." Emphasize that, even though he denied Jesus, Peter later repented and learned from his mistake.

Help your child find John 21:15-17 in your family Bible. Read the passage to your child.

Ask: What did Jesus mean when he said, "Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep"? (*Take care of my people.*)

Turn to Page 178,
The Church and You
Vivos en Cristo, Page 357

Ask: Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same question three times?

Read aloud this section.

When you get to the highlighted word **Magisterium**, ask your child to find the Catholic Faith Words box and read the definition. Then have your child create a vocabulary card that you can use for review later.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity on the next page and ask your child to complete it.

Parents, Consider This: Research tells us that clear and consistent rules are necessary for children's development. As an adult, you have the capacity to understand the need for and the value of rules. When it comes to living in right relationship with God and others, the laws of the Church help us to understand what is minimally necessary. The true gift of the law is that it helps us to refocus and reprioritize our values and beliefs. As you teach these precepts to your child, let this be an opportunity to reflect on the life of your family and your role as their first and most influential teacher of faith.

Turn to Page 179,
Rules for Living
Vivos en Cristo, Page 359

Ask your child to recall a group in which he/she has membership.

Ask: As a member of this group, what rules must you follow?

Direct your child to read the first paragraph.

Read the Precepts of the Church together and discuss why these are the rules for membership in the Catholic Church.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Summarize the introductory paragraph.

Ask your child to read aloud Precept number 5 on Student Book page 179.

Point out the "Ways to Support Your Parish" chart. Read the boxes one at a time.

Discuss possible responses to how your family can give their time, talents, and money to the Church. Have them write their responses on the lines provided.

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

Read the paragraph about Saint Mary Magdalen Postel.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss how much value St. Mary Magdalen put on religious education. She risked her life to save the priests who would teach. How does your family show that it values religious education?

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 322), 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.