

Family 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:

- Appreciate that God created humans to live in families and wants family members to love one another
- Understand that the Fourth Commandment teaches children to honor parents and parents to love and share their faith with children
- Understand that the Sixth and Ninth Commandments are about faithful love between husband and wife, but require all of us to be faithful, and act appropriately
- Recognize that the Cardinal Virtues help us to act wisely, use self-control, give God and others their due, and be disciplined in our thoughts and actions

Turn to Page 189,
Family Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 379

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

Parents, Consider This: *For believers and non-believers alike, family is the core of society. It is in the family that a child learns to become a responsible, mature adult who contributes to the good of society. But, for those of us who live in faith, what creates and binds family has everything to do with God's plan. "... the family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God's love for humanity and the love of Christ the Lord for the Church His bride" (Familiaris Consortio, 17). Your love for your wife/husband and for your children reveals God's presence. You communicate that to each other in word and deed and you guard your family from influences that would threaten that love.*

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.

- Right and Just
- Obey Your Parents

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 verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that our families are God's gift to us. Mention how excited you are to be able to talk about your family in this session.

Say: Sometimes it may be hard to remember that your family is one of God's gifts to you. Listen to God's Word and hear what he says about honoring our parents.



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 are God's gift to you. You are also a gift to us. There are many ways you can help love grow in our family. The love that grows in our family should be so great that it spills out into the rest of the world.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about God's gift of a family and obeying parents.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 190,
Honor and Respect
Vivos en Cristo, Page 381

Ask your child to read aloud the two paragraphs. Then have your child recite the Fourth Commandment. (**Honor your father and mother.**)

Say: Listen carefully and think of how Mary and Joseph felt when Jesus was missing and when they found him.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Point out the picture on the page. Ask your child to describe how they think Mary and Joseph must have felt when they walked into the Temple and saw Jesus.

Ask: Why is it important for you to obey me?

Turn to Page 191,
Living the Fourth
Commandment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 383

Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph. As your child reads each bullet, stop and give her/him an example of when you have seen or heard her/him act in this way.

At the end of all the bullets, ask your child to circle the two things that she/he thinks they could improve. For the next several weeks, put a bean in a jar when you notice that he/she is making the effort to do better. At the end of the period, show them the jar and talk about how proud you are that he/she is trying to live more lovingly.

Read the second paragraph. When you get to the highlighted word, **Cardinal Virtues**, ask your child to read aloud the definition. Make a vocabulary card for Cardinal Virtues.

Ask: What does it mean to be a good role model? Who has been a good role model for you?

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *In a world where we use the word love in a variety of ways, we need to be clear that, as Christians, we understand that love's meaning is found in God, for God is love. This we know: God's love is freely given, unconditional, eternal, life-giving, and sacrificial. While all of our relationships should express these characteristics of love, in the vocation of marriage, we are called to give and receive love in the most profound and intimate ways. Oftentimes, your child is not given that understanding from their culture. He/she is often taught the exact opposite—that it has no meaning or value. We cannot be silent about God's truth. His/her happiness depends on it.*

Turn to Page 192,
Faithful Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 385

Point out the wedding photo or bring out your own wedding photo from when you were saying your vows.

Talk about what is happening in the picture on the page or what you remember about that moment at your own wedding.

Read aloud the text. Explain that *covet* means to want something that belongs to someone else. Being faithful means to keep your promises.

Ask your child how he/she has been faithful in his/her friendships. Then ask why faithfulness is important in relationships.

Share with your child why the Sacrament of Matrimony is important.

Turn to Page 193,
Virtues and You
Vivos en Cristo, Page 387

Read aloud the last paragraph on page 192 and continue with the next two paragraphs on page 193.

When you come to the highlighted words, **temperance**, **fortitude**, **modesty**, and **chastity**, ask your child to read their definitions from the Catholic Faith Words box. Make a vocabulary card for each term.

Emphasize that we can live the Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments by keeping promises to family, friends, and God.

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

Ask your child to read aloud this section.

Ask: What can families do to be signs of God's love?

Parents, Consider This: For some families, this may be a precious opportunity to reflect on the experience of separation or divorce. It is important to share your own feelings of disappointment and hurt about the loss of the relationship that you believed would be life-giving and forever. Encourage your child to share her/his own feelings about the experience. Tell her/him that it is your prayer that if God calls her/him to be married, she/he will find the happiness that God intended in this sacred vocation.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

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

Recall that the Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Commandments center on family life.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Ask your child to read each heart. After each heart, ask him/her for concrete examples of how to follow each suggestion.



Complete the gold-star activity.

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

Read the paragraph about Blessed Louis Martin and Blessed Marie-Azélie Martin.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- What are some of your favorite things to do together as a family?

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 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.