

Respect Life

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 207,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 415

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Deepen their awareness of human life as sacred and a gift from God from the moment of conception until the time of natural death
- Recognize that all actions that respect and protect life uphold the Fifth Commandment
- Identify actions that deliberately harm human life, including that of the unborn, the sick, and elderly, as grave sins
- Relate the Fifth Commandment to respect and care for our bodies

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

Parents, Consider This: *One of the lessons you consistently try to teach your children is the relationship between their choices and the consequences that flow from them. As parents, we seek to help our children learn the skill of considering consequences. This is an essential part of their growing into adulthood. As Catholics, we understand that our choices have consequences now and for eternity. When God asks us to choose life, he is urging us to understand that doing his will is necessary for our happiness. Because we are his creation, living out our created order is where we find meaning and peace. We do not invent ourselves. We discover who God created us to be.*

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.

- Christ, Our Light
- Loving Others

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 199,
Respect Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 399

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 we are called to respect human life.

Say: As Catholics, we are called to respect life—all life. Jesus taught us many things about the precious gift that life is.



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: Did you hear Jesus say how important our words are? They are so important that they can “kill” someone’s spirit, or seriously hurt their feelings. Teasing and bullying are just some of the ways that we show disrespect for life.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about respecting human life or being angry.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 200,
All Human Life is Sacred
Vivos en Cristo, Page 401

Ask your child to read aloud the introduction.

Tell him/her you are going to read about a woman who endured many hardships, but devoted her life to helping others.

Read the story of Margaret of Castello.

Ask your child why someone might spend their life helping people who are sick and dying.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Refer to page 318 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book to find out more about respecting the dignity of all people.

Introduce this part of the lesson by reading aloud the paragraph.

Ask your child to read aloud the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, **sacred**. Make a vocabulary card for sacred.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Turn to Page 201,
All Human Life is Sacred
(cont’d)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 403

Ask: What does God mean when he says, “I have set before you life and death...Choose life”? (Following God is life—happiness and peace. Not following God will bring us unhappiness and suffering in our life.)

Have your child silently read the text to learn about why life is sacred.

Listen to the song, “That You May Live,” Track 9 from the *Songs of Scripture* CD. Lyrics are available at aliveinchrist.osv.com. Discuss the lyrics.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Dealing with anger is a lifelong project. Anger is not something we choose. Like all emotions, it rises up within us. Whether we react or respond to our anger is an issue of morality. One of the ways your child learns how to deal with anger is by watching you deal with yours. Take the time to reflect on your patterns of dealing with this emotion. Be conscious of the need to name the source of your anger, find an appropriate way to channel it, and, finally, let it go. Taking your child through this same process will help him/her learn to live more respectfully toward his/herself and others.*

Turn to Page 202,
Protect and Respect
Vivos en Cristo, Page 405

Tell your children to read the three paragraphs.

Discuss the meaning of the Catholic Faith Word, **murder**. Have your child make a vocabulary card.

Remind your child that the Fifth Commandment gives us help in learning how to respect our own bodies.

Write the word “life” in the middle of a piece of blank paper and circle it. Outside the circle, ask your child to write actions that might be harmful to their body. (smoking, drinking alcohol, not exercising, eating junk food, etc.)

Read the last paragraph silently.

Point out the photo. Ask your child what prayer these children might be praying as they run this race. (God, thank you for my healthy body; God, help me to be responsible for taking care of my body.)

Turn to Page 203,
Avoid Anger
Vivos en Cristo, Page 407

Read the paragraph about anger aloud. Discuss suggestions with your child about what to do when he/she is angry.



Invite your child to proclaim “Love of Enemies.”

Discuss the question at the end of the Scripture story.

Invite your child to share times when he/she has been able to avoid hatred or revenge, even when they were provoked.

Remind your child that forgiveness is a way to show love to others, even to enemies. Most of all, it is a gift you give yourself, so that anger and bitterness do not control you.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 204,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 409

Summarize the first paragraph by saying that the Fifth Commandment helps us to live respectfully with others and ourselves.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *One of the most important and beautiful teachings of our Church is that all life is sacred from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. That teaching is based on God's revelation to us that he is the creator of all life. So life, at whatever stage, is a gift from God. It is never too early to teach this truth. Helping your child to understand that life is a gift will help her/him to see her/himself in a different way. When she/he sees others as a gift, you are building the foundation for world peace right in your home.*

Turn to Page 205,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 411

Read the paragraph about Saint Gianna Molla.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family show respect for all life?

Turn to Page 207,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 415

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.