

Live in the Truth

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 217,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 435

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define a martyr as a person who gives up his or her life to witness to the truth of Christ and the faith
- Recognize God as the source of all truth. His Word and his law call people to live in the truth
- Identify the Eighth Commandment as calling us to be honest in words and actions and forbidding lying, gossip, and any acts against the truth
- Define reparation as an action taken to repair the damage done from sin

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

Parents, Consider This: Remember the fable, “The Boy who Cried Wolf?” The phrase, “crying wolf” has come to mean someone who lies. Nothing is worse than dealing with a consistent liar. You never know whether to believe that person or not. Truth builds community by creating trust. It nurtures love by strengthening communication and respect. Wanting your child to grow up to be an honest human being is something you work at daily. All truth begins in God and so the covenant between God and humans, reflected in human relationships, depends on the constancy of truth. Living a truthful life is to live as a witness to God’s truth.

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.

- Spirit, Come Down
- Jesus Is the Word

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 209,
Live in the Truth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 419

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 it is important for us to tell the truth.

Say: Sometimes telling the truth feels hard to do. God’s Word offers us some guidance about speaking the truth.



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: Being a witness for Jesus requires us to speak the truth. When you say, “yes,” to Jesus you say, “no,” to all the things that will take you away from him.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about lying and telling the truth.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 210,
Witness to the Truth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 421

Read aloud the introduction. Tell your child to listen to find out what Saint Thomas More’s dilemma was.

Show your child the location of England on a map. Explain that kings and queens were very powerful during the sixteenth century.

Ask your child to read aloud the letter.

Identify the two choices that Thomas More faced. (to support the king and live or to support the Catholic Church and die)

Ask: What would you do if you were in Thomas’s position? Have you ever had to decide whether to speak the truth, tell a lie, or remain silent? What happened?

Turn to Page 211,
Speak and Act the Truth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 423

Have your child read these two paragraphs to learn about people who stand up for truth. When your child gets to the highlighted word, **martyr**, have them stop and read the definition from the Catholic Faith Words box. Have your child make a vocabulary card for martyr.

Ask them to tell you what it means in their own words.

Tell your child that the Church recognizes many martyrs as Saints.

Explain that early Christians who were killed because of their beliefs are also considered martyrs. Over the centuries, many Catholics have died for their faith.

Ask: Why were Thomas More and others were willing to give up their lives to witness to the truth? (They wanted to remain faithful to Christ; they knew that the truth was important.)

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity by asking your child to tell you three reasons for telling the truth.

Turn to Page 212,
The Eighth Commandment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 425

Read aloud the text. When you get to the highlighted words, **reparation** and **prudence**, read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box. Make a vocabulary cards for these terms.

Ask your child to circle the sentence that states the Eighth Commandment.

Give your child a single sheet of lined paper. Go back to the text and help him/her create a list of all the things the Eighth Commandment teaches us. (forbids lying, stops gossiping, tell the *whole* truth)

Share with your child about some gossip that may have been told about you and how it hurt, or, ask her/him to think of a time when they had to deal with gossip.

Turn to Page 213,
Jesus Is the Truth
Vivos en Cristo, Page 427

Have your child silently read the first paragraph.

Discuss that living in Jesus' truth means more than simply not lying. It is living as a follower of Jesus who *is* the fullness of truth. Our words and actions must witness to the truth of Jesus.



Proclaim the Scripture. Discuss what Jesus meant when he said, "The truth will set you free."

Read aloud the following paragraph. Remind your child that having people trust you is a good consequence of being truthful.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity. Read aloud each situation. After your child has marked his/her response, gesture "thumbs up" if the statement describes living the truth and "thumbs down" if it does not. Discuss ways to make the wrong choices right. Helping your child imagine how to do this increases their capacity to do it in real-life situations.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 214,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 429

Read the text at the top of the page.

★ **Ask** your child to complete the gold-star activity. When he/she is finished, ask him/her to read each sentence to you.

Ask: Has anyone ever been dishonest with you? How did it make you feel?

Parents, Consider This: *It would be difficult to look at the “Choosing Truth” chart your child is completing and not be challenged by the image of discipleship that these words present. You might consider reprinting and enlarging this chart. It would be a valuable instrument for calling both yourself and members of your family to accountability. The impact of gossip, rumors, and prejudice can be even more far-reaching because of the use of cyberspace. Connecting these behaviors to a refusal of God’s expectations and yours will help your child understand that these are acts against both the common good and his/her own happiness.*

Turn to Page 215,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 431

Read the paragraph about Saint Joan of Arc.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Tell your child about a time that you shared the truth, even when it was difficult.

Activity

Complete the Live Your Faith activity by creating a slogan about the importance of telling the truth.

Turn to Page 217,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 435

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.