

A Generous Spirit

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 265,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 531

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that being detached from our possessions enables us to work for peace and justice in God's Kingdom
- Identify that the Seventh and Tenth Commandments teach about the right attitude toward material possessions and require generosity
- Name theft, greed, and envy as sins against these Commandments
- Appreciate that God created the world for all creatures and called humans to stewardship

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

Parents, Consider This: *One of the most growing companies in our country is a company that produces storage bins. They provide attractive and practical containers to corral our possessions. If you take a quick walk through your home, basement, and/or garage, are you amazed at the stuff you have accumulated? In our consumeristic culture it is extremely challenging to keep our eyes focused on Jesus and live in accordance with the Seventh and Tenth Commandments. Knowing that greed and envy are often at the heart of violence, forming our children with generosity and unselfishness will transform, not only our homes, but our world.*

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.

- God's Greatest Gift
- Seek Ye First

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 257,
A Generous Spirit
Vivos en Cristo, Page 515

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 God has generously given each of us many gifts.

Say: We are a gifted people. The gifts we've been given are meant to be shared.



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 can be generous in all things, not just with things. We can be generous with time, compassion, abilities, and love.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about sharing their gifts and how the Ten Commandments help us to be generous.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 258,
What Really Matters
Vivos en Cristo, Page 517

Ask: If I told you our new neighbor was rich, what would you think about our neighbor? What does Jesus want you to know about riches (material possessions)?

Read aloud or summarize the first paragraph.

Say: You are about to hear a Scripture story about a man who was obsessed about his wealth.



Read the Scripture in parts: the Rich Fool, God, and the narrator.

Ask: "What did the rich fool do when he ran out of space to store his harvest?"

Say: Has your idea of what "rich" means changed after hearing God's Word?

Turn to Page 259,
Poor in Spirit
Vivos en Cristo, Page 519

Have the children listen to discover what Jesus taught about possessions.

Invite them to share what they remember about Jesus and the rich young man (see Matthew 19:16-22).

Ask: What did Jesus tell the rich young man to do? (*leave everything he has and follow him*)

Share with your child something that you really, really wanted when you were a child. Talk about how long after you got it, that it began to lose its importance for you.

Have your child silently read the second and third paragraphs to learn which Beatitude talks about the right attitude toward possessions and dependence on God.

Refer to page 317 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of your child's book for more about the Beatitudes.

You may want to listen to the song, "The Rich Young Man" on the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 15. Lyrics are available at aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Parents, Consider This: *When we think about generous people, our minds may immediately move to those who are extremely wealthy and give large amounts of money to various causes. But living a life of generosity is an intentional choice that is lived out each day. We can be generous with our knowledge, with our time, and with our talents. Generous people may not always feel like doing these things, but their actions are the consequence of a fundamental decision they have made. People sometimes make the choice to contribute to the life of their parish after they have budgeted for everything else. Supporting the Church's work with time, talent, and money should be one of the top priorities in our budgets. This is how we serve the mission of the Church. Be a good example to your children by allowing them to place your family's offering in the collection or by having them accompany you when you volunteer your time or talent.*

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity. As you discuss the right and wrong choices with your child, emphasize that you expect her/him to choose what is right because it is what God asks of us. It will bring her/him happiness and that is what you want for your child more than anything.

Turn to Page 260,
Generosity and Humility
Vivos en Cristo, Page 521

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child listen to find out which two Commandments tell about the right attitude to have toward material possessions.

Invite your child to read aloud the rest of the text on this page.

When you come to the highlighted words, **envy, greed, humility,** and **justice,** go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read their definitions. Ask your child to explain what each word means in his/her own words. You may want to create vocabulary cards.

Explain that almost everyone feels greed or envy at times. Point out that we can overcome these feelings.

Discuss: How and when are you tempted to be envious or greedy? Make sure you share examples from your life.

Turn to Page 261,
Called to Stewardship
Vivos en Cristo, Page 523

Read aloud the first paragraph as a review of the lesson so far.

Invite your child to read aloud the next paragraph.

When you get to the highlighted word, **stewardship**, go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read its definition. Make a vocabulary card.



Proclaim "The Poor Widow's Contribution."

Ask: Why do you think the widow contributed more than the rest?

Discuss what your family does to support your Church and the needs of others.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 262,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 525

Read aloud the first paragraph to review the the Seventh and Tenth Commandments.

Explain that when you are generous, you keep these Commandments.

Have your child read aloud the second paragraph.

Ask your child to close their eyes as you read aloud the different suggestions.



In the open sections have your child write some ways to follow these suggestions this week.

Ask: Why do people sometimes forget to be generous?

Turn to Page 263,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 527

Read the paragraph about Saint Margaret of Scotland.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Is it more difficult to give away something you love?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 265,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 531

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning Prayer (see Page 325), during your morning prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.