

The Church in the World

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 275,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 551

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that the mission of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel and work for the good of all people
- Understand evangelization as sharing the Good News of Jesus through words and actions in a way that invites people to accept the Gospel
- Appreciate that the Church is made up of people of many cultures and they are all united by their belief in Christ
- Explore the work of missionaries as those who spread the Gospel message and Jesus' care for all people to countries around the world

Turn to Page 267,
The Church in the World
Vivos en Cristo, Page 535

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

Parents, Consider This: *One of the most exciting events in a pre-school classroom is "Show and Tell." How many times have you helped your child decide what he/she is going to bring and what he/she wants to say about it? It seems that human beings are naturally inclined to want to share our good news. Couple that with your child's ability to trust that you know about important things and that you love them, and you have the perfect combination for "growing" faith within your child. Your child's missionary is you. Your home is mission territory. When the missionaries of old arrived in a new land, they would often place an altar or crucifix there and "claim" that place for Christ. Place a sacred symbol someplace central in your home and claim your home for Christ.*

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.

- Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ
- 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 gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we have the strength to continue his mission.

Say: Jesus does not leave us alone to continue his mission. He promises to be with us always and gives us the powerful gift that is the Holy Spirit.



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: The Holy Spirit will help us act as Jesus' witnesses no matter where we may go—even to the ends of the Earth.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about telling others about Jesus or the diversity of the Church.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 268,
Make Disciples of All Nations
Vivos en Cristo, Page 537

Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph to introduce the Scripture story.



Proclaim the "The Commissioning of the Disciples."

Read aloud the last paragraph. When you get to the highlighted words, **Gospel**, **mission**, and **evangelization**, ask your child to find their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box. Then, ask him/her to tell you what each word means in his/her own words.

Ask: What do Catholics and other Christians in communities around the world have in common? (*They are followers of Jesus.*)

Turn to Page 269,
Jesus' Universal Mission
Vivos en Cristo, Page 539

Have your child read the first paragraph silently.

Ask her/him to tell you what Jesus' mission was.

Read aloud the next paragraph.

Ask: In what ways is the Catholic Church diverse worldwide? (*practices, languages, cultures*)

Point out that, amidst the diversity, Catholics are united through the same faith.

Discuss what unites the Church.

Turn to Page 270,
The Church in Bolivia
Vivos en Cristo, Page 541

Discuss what customs you have in your home that may have been handed down to you from your parent's or grandparent's culture.

Show your child the location of Bolivia on a world map.

Read aloud the introductory paragraphs.

Slowly read aloud the rest of the page, pausing to answer any questions that your child may have.

Have your child tell you how the priest in Bolivia is like Saint Paul. (*The priest travels to spread the Word of God.*)

Point out the pictures on the page. Ask what she/he sees in each picture.

Ask: How are the missionaries preaching the Gospel of Jesus in word and deed?

Have your child continue listening as you read aloud.

Turn to Page 271,
The People and the Mission
Vivos en Cristo, Page 543

Ask: What about the missionaries' experience in Bolivia is different from your experience in your parish? (*Our priests do not travel by boat.*)

Explain that a cooperative helps people share what they produce and keeps money in their community. People in power may be afraid that with the help of a cooperative, people will become educated and seek civil rights.

Ask why Catholic Missionaries might help set up cooperatives. (*so people can work together and improve the quality of life for everyone*)

Stress that missionaries build strong communities where people can have what they need to live.

Activity

Ask your child to draw something from Church life in Bolivia and something in your parish that is similar.

Parents, Consider This: *For many people in the world, it is hard to imagine a life without Christ. Because we have been raised in families that taught us about the gift of God's Son, we can tell his story and live in the confidence the promise his life, Death, and Resurrection gave us—life eternal. It is hard for us to imagine, then, that there are still people in this world who have not heard his name. Introducing your children to the stories of missionaries all over the world will help your whole family grow in knowledge and will, and inspire you to be Christ's disciples. It will help you see the importance of supporting the missionary activity of the Church. Research religious communities who are missionaries and share your findings with your child.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 272,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 545

Ask: How can you help missionaries spread God's Word?

Tell your child that this page will teach them more about missionaries.

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Ask your child to read the captions that accompany the pictures. Stop after each one and discuss.

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

Ask: If you were a missionary, what work would you like to do and where?

Turn to Page 273,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 547

Read the paragraph about Blessed Junipero Serra.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family help support the missions?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 275,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 551

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.