

Eternal Life with God

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 285,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define Heaven as the state of eternal happiness with God
- Recognize that the Holy Spirit helps us respond to God's grace and grow in friendship with him so that we can spend eternity with him
- Recognize that at the time of their death they will be judged by God, called the Particular Judgment
- Discuss Jesus' coming in glory at the end of time to judge all the living and the dead and the coming of God's Kingdom in its fullness, called the Last Judgment

Turn to Page 277,
Eternal Life with God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 555

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

Parents, Consider This: *Wouldn't it be horrible to be expected to be as smart as your brother or sister when clearly you did not have the same capacity? Or to work in a place where your boss expected everyone to be a genius when it came to working with technology? We understand that certain people are capable of certain things because they have specific gifts and talents. When we consider the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, however, we believe that, through Baptism and Confirmation, God has given us everything we need to live as his disciples. We are all capable of forgiveness, generosity, and compassion because the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit have been given to us. Our families are the breeding ground of those gifts—a place where they are recognized and affirmed.*

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.

- Holy Spirit
- They'll Know We Are Christians

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.

Say: Living as disciples of Jesus helps us to prepare for eternal life. As we listen to God’s Word today, we will hear how living in this world is connected to eternal life.



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: All choices have consequences. Heaven is the consequence of accepting God’s grace and following Jesus. While you live in this world, trying to love God above all things and love others as Jesus did, God is preparing a home for you in the next world, a place in the fullness of his Kingdom.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about going to Heaven or life in Heaven.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 278,
Being with God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 557

Ask your child what he/she thinks Heaven is like. Share your understanding of Heaven with your child.

Read the text aloud. When you get to the highlighted words, **Heaven** and **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**, ask your child to find their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask her/him to tell you what the definitions mean in her/his own words. You may want to have them make vocabulary cards for these words.

Point out that there is much about Heaven that people will need to wait to understand. Whatever it is like, Heaven will be an experience of love and peace.

Ask: What do you think will be the best thing about Heaven?

Point out that Baptism and Confirmation, which help people grow in friendship with God, are Sacraments of the Holy Spirit.

Turn to Page 279,
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Vivos en Cristo, Page 559

Direct your child’s attention to the chart, “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” Tell your child that this chart tells how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help you grow in friendship with God.

Work through the chart, reading each bar as a sentence: “The gift of ... helps you ...” Stop after each sentence and ask your child how that gift might be used by someone his/her age.

Remind your child that using these gifts will help him/her prepare for the joy of being with God in Heaven.

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity, making sure that you think of a time when your child manifested one of these gifts. Tell her/him how you recognized the Holy Spirit working through her/him.

Turn to Page 280,
The Last Judgment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 561

Parents, Consider This: *Children at this age can understand that our choices are about more than gaining a reward or trying to avoid punishment. They can imagine making a choice that has no seeming reward but is the right thing to do. This becomes an important time, then, for your child to begin to connect his/her choices to happiness in this world and the next. Our choices here on Earth move us towards him or away from him. So as St. Catherine of Sienna would say, “It is heaven all the way to heaven.” Doing God’s will here on Earth helps us grow into communion with him here as we hope and pray for the fullness of communion with him in Heaven.*

Tell your child that everyone has the choice to accept or reject God’s grace and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Read aloud the first paragraph. When you come to the highlighted word, **particular judgment**, have your child find its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box. Have them retell you the meaning in his/her words.

Point out that God welcomes all who love him above all things and that they should love their neighbor as themselves. Read aloud the second paragraph.

Tell your child that those who choose to reject God are separated from him forever. That permanent separation from God is called “Hell.” Make vocabulary cards for the highlighted words, **Purgatory** and **Hell**.

Turn to Page 281,
The Last Judgment
(cont’d)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 563

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child look for the definition of **Last Judgment** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Have your child make a vocabulary card.

Tell your child to listen to find out what will happen to all people at the end of time. Explain that Jesus described the Last Judgment for his followers.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Ask: Who is the king in this story? Who are the righteous?

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 282,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 565

Direct your child to read aloud the introductory paragraphs.

Ask your child to tell you about a time when he/she was sorrowful, lonely, or uncertain. Explain that everyone's has felt these emotions sometime in their life.

Read through the suggestions for coping with troubled times in the "Using the Gifts of the Spirit" chart.



Both of you write about a time when you did the things listed in the chart. Talk about them with each other.

Turn to Page 283,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 567

Read the paragraph about Saint Martin de Porres.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- The choices you make each day help you to prepare for eternal life with God. Name some of the choices your family can make that help you grow closer to him.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 285,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

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.