

God Is Faithful

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 71,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 143

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Discuss how death, suffering, ignorance and the inclination to sin all came into the world as a result of Original Sin
- Understand that God always remains faithful and promises salvation, desiring humans to be free and faithful to him
- Describe a covenant as a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans
- Appreciate that God called Abraham, and because of his belief in and trust in God, God established a covenant with him

Turn to Page 63,
God Is Faithful
Vivos en Cristo, Page 127

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

Parents, Consider This: *The stories in Genesis before Abraham convey important religious truths rather than historical events. The story of Adam and Eve shows how sin affects relationships with God. Biblical accounts emphasize that it was humans' choice, not God's, that changed humanity's initial relationship with God. Help your child understand that sin is a choice against God's plan for her/him, a choice against her/his own happiness. Sin ruptures our relationship with God and causes pain in our lives.*

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 Keeps His Promises
- God of Abraham

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 God always loves us, even when we sin.

Say: God is forever faithful. Even if our belief in God wavers, he continues to believe in us.



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?

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Faith is a gift. It is a gift not only to treasure but also to practice and share.

Have your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else they might wonder about God’s faithfulness.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 64,
The First Sin
Vivos en Cristo, Page 129

Direct your child’s attention to the stained glass window and read the caption.

Read the first paragraph aloud and have your child underline the first five books of the Bible.

Open your Bible and after exploring the table of contents, let your child find the title page of each of the books.



Proclaim the Scripture, “In the Garden.”

Ask: How did life change for Adam and Eve after they sinned? *(They felt ashamed; everything got harder; they had to leave the garden and work; jealousy, sadness, fighting and death entered the world.)*

Have your child read the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box and add those definitions to their vocabulary cards.

Turn to Page 65,
Consequences
Vivos en Cristo, Page 131

Direct your child to read the first two paragraphs.



Read and complete the gold-star activity.

Ask your child to recall a bad decision that she/he has made and to recall the consequences of that decision. *(She gossiped about a friend and the friend doesn’t trust her anymore. He made fun of others on his team who are not as talented as he is so the coach benched him.)*

Emphasize that while God always love us, sin is always harmful to ourselves and others and the consequences remain.

Turn to Page 66,
A Sacred Promise
Vivos en Cristo, Page 133

Tell your child that you are now going to explore the story of Abram.

Read the definition for the Catholic Faith Word covenant. Explain that in the Scripture you are going to read, God makes a covenant with Abram.



Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper boxes.

- Give your child a pen and a pencil. Tell your child that as she/he reads, you want her/him to underline in pencil the words of Abram and circle in pen the words of God.

Parents, Consider This: *Faithfulness, constancy, and fidelity all describe the most important and treasured hallmarks of any loving relationship. Spiritual writers suggest that coming to know and experience God's tender faithfulness for us is the life-long challenge of our spiritual journey. Each time you pick your child up from an activity, each night you sit with him/her doing homework, you are helping your child "taste" the faithfulness of God.*

Give your child a sheet of paper and ask her/him to draw 3 or 4 large stars. You do the same. Inside each star, both of you write one thing you believe God wants for you. Share what you wrote.

Turn to Page 67,
God's Covenant
With Abraham
Vivos en Cristo, Page 135

Have your child read the definitions of covenant and faithful in the Catholic Faith Words box. Make two definition cards, one for each word.

Read the first two paragraphs. Emphasize that God made and kept promises.

Ask: How were Abraham and Sarah faithful to God? *(They trusted God and his promises; they obeyed his laws; they made loving choices; they followed his call.)*

Tell your child that Abraham and Sarah's story is important to people of many faiths. Have them read the last paragraph to learn why.

Emphasize the two movements of our life of faith—God reveals himself to us and made us free to respond to his invitation, to be faithful to him.

Ask your child, "How did Jesus remain faithful to his Father?" *(He lived out the Father's will to save us through his life, Death, and Resurrection.)*

Read the caption of the picture and discuss where the Tabernacle that holds the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist, is in your parish Church.

Now would be a great opportunity to listen to "God of Abraham" from the *Songs of Scripture* CD. Make sure you play it in your car this week as you go from stop to stop!

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 68,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 137

Read the opening paragraph aloud.

Ask your child, “Do you trust that God will answer your prayers?”

Have your child silently read the next two paragraphs.

Parents, Consider This: *It is important to help your child understand that prayer is not magic. When we pray we are not trying to manipulate the will of God to suit our will. Prayer, rather, is entering into the mystery of God’s tender love for us and our capacity to trust that he wills what will make us truly happy—total union with him. Your child will best learn how to pray by hearing you pray for God’s will to be done in your life. Family prayer is critical in shaping a child’s understanding of God.*

Emphasize the importance of being faithful in prayer. God does answer our prayers. However, the answer might not come as quickly as we would like or the answer may not be what we had expected.

Now, read the story aloud together.

Ask: How did God help Jessica? (God helped her to see a way to earn what she wanted.)

Point out the activity directions and ask your child to write about his/her own experience. Remind your child that God gives us everything we need to live and be happy.

Turn to Page 69,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 139

Read the paragraph about Saint Bridget of Sweden.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a time when you waited for God to answer a prayer.

Activity

Read the directions for the Live Your Faith activity. Have your child complete the activity.

Share with your child your hope that he/she would act as a loyal and trustworthy person. Ask your child how your family can help him/her to remain faithful to God’s invitation to have a relationship with him.

Turn to Page 71,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s
Pray prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 143

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Our Father (see Page 321) 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.