

In God's Image

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 95,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 191

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Recognize that dignity of the human person comes from being made in God's image and likeness
- Distinguish the soul as the spiritual part of a human that lives forever
- Define sin as a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the law of God
- Recognize that sin is a failure to love that affects individuals and the whole Church community
- Recall that every person is worthy of respect because he or she is created in God's image and made to love

Turn to Page 87,
In God's Image
Vivos en Cristo, Page 175

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

Parents, Consider This: *You are about to help your child grow in appreciation of respect for all persons and their human dignity. Human dignity comes first from the fact that all people are creations of God. Therefore, humans are products of love, wisdom, and goodness beyond all understanding. As your family practices respect for others, your child will learn to treat each person he or she meets respectfully.*

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.

- O God, You Search Me
- You Are Near

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 created all people in his image.

Say: What does the term “made in his image” mean? Is it a quality we have been given, the ability to be in relationship, or a purpose we are here to serve? Let's listen and learn.



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: What does it mean to be made in the image of God? The best answer is found in the person of Jesus. He is our model to follow. In him, we see the best example of someone who shows us God’s image. Our challenge is to be the kind of person he was, to relate to God and to others as he did, and to serve as he served—more and more each day.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he or she might wonder about sin or about being made in God’s image.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 88,
Reflect God’s Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 177

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

Ask: What does it mean to be created in the image of God?



Read the Scripture passage aloud.

Tell your child that this passage comes from the story of creation. Explain that people have dignity because they are created in the image of God. Invite your child to silently read the last paragraph and summarize the abilities God gave humans that enable them to make choices for human dignity.

Point out the Catholic Faith Words box. Review the definitions for **human dignity** and **soul** with your child.

Turn to Page 89,
Saint Marianne Cope
Vivos en Cristo, Page 179

Introduce the biography of Saint Marianne Cope by summarizing the first paragraph.

Ask: Do you think it’s possible for a person to give dignity to other people? *(When we treat people with respect, they may come to understand their own dignity.)*

Read aloud the biography of Saint Marianne Cope.

Tell your child that, because all humans are created in God’s image, everyone has dignity and is worthy of respect. Saint Marianne demonstrated this in her work with persons with leprosy. Explain that people incorrectly thought that leprosy was a highly contagious disease, so it was difficult to find people to take care of lepers.

Activity

Invite your child to write a paragraph on a piece of paper in his or her own words about what human dignity means.

Parents, Consider This: *Human beings are the only creatures created in God’s image and likeness because they are the only ones who have an immortal soul. The human body shares in the dignity of this image of God. As a parent, you have many opportunities throughout your child’s life to emphasize the dignity with which his or her body is to be regarded. God created people with the capacity to share in his divine nature. This is the source of human dignity and worth.*

Read the first paragraph to introduce the topic of sin.

Ask: What happens when we act in a loving way? (*people get along, people feel respected, we feel we are living as God wants us to*)

Explain that “failure to love” is one definition of sin. Have your child silently read the second paragraph.

Read aloud the last sentence and introduce the “Personal Sin” chart. Review the chart together.

Read aloud the paragraph. Review the Catholic Faith Words **sin**, **mortal sin**, and **venial sin**.

Refer to the Our Catholic Tradition section of your child’s book (page 318). Read this page together to learn more about human dignity.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: *As situations come up in your family life, help your child distinguish sins from accidents. Remind your child that bad things can happen despite people’s good intentions. These are accidents, not sins. Knocking over a vase is not a sin. Knocking it over because you are angry is a sin. For an action to be a sin, the person must intend to do wrong.*

Turn to Page 90,
Created to Be with God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 181

Turn to Page 91,
Love and Respect
Vivos en Cristo, Page 183

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 92,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 185

Read the paragraphs together.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 93,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 187

Read the paragraph about Saint Germaine Cousin.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you can help someone with a disability.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Children learn about dignity from how they are treated and how your child sees you treating others. In this next week, have a conversation as a family about someone you know who you can show special care for.*

Turn to Page 95,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 191

Parents, Consider This: *It is important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be (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.