

Making Good Choices

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 115,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 231

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Define free will as the God-given ability to choose between good and evil
- Recall that God gives us grace, the Ten Commandments, and the Church to help us make good choices and to deepen our relationship with him
- Understand that knowing God's laws and forming, or strengthening, our conscience will help us make good decisions
- Identify conscience as the God-given ability that helps us judge whether actions are morally good or wrong

Turn to Page 107,
Making Good Choices
Vivos en Cristo, Page 215

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

Parents, Consider This: *We each move along the path of spiritual and moral maturity as we exercise our free will. We each learn from our good choices as well as our mistakes. Free will makes us accountable. God asks us to be part of his plan and lets us choose our responses. Affirm your child's good choices as actions that please you and ways to live as God wishes. Use the opportunity of your child's less than loving choices as teachable moments about the higher purpose to which God invites us.*

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 lesson.
- *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.

- Choices
- Open My Eyes

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: God created us with the ability to make choices. We have the ability to choose right or wrong. Making right choices is not always easy. That is why God promised to send a wise and understanding Savior who would show us the way to choose.



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: God gives us the freedom to choose and a Savior who shows us how to choose. God also gives us our conscience. When it is properly formed, our conscience can tell us whether a choice we are about to make, or have made, is a wise choice.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about making choices and knowing right from wrong.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 108,
Choices and Consequences
Vivos en Cristo, Page 217

Invite your child to consider the opening question, “What is the proper use of free will?” Then summarize the first paragraph.

Read aloud the story “Julia Decides.”

Ask: What is something that happened because of Julia’s choice?
(She improved and won the award.)

Discuss with your child what consequences might have occurred if another choice had been made in the story.

Turn to Page 109,
Freedom and Responsibility
Vivos en Cristo, Page 219

Tell your child to read the first two paragraphs silently.

Read aloud the last two paragraphs in the section. Emphasize that growing closer to God is a consequence of making good choices.

Direct your child to the highlighted words in the Catholic Faith Words box. Review the definitions for **free will** and **grace**.



Do the gold-star activity.

Refer your child to page 316 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section to learn more information about the Ten Commandments.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: At your child's age, his or her ideas about freedom usually revolve around freedom from rules or restrictions. You can deepen your child's moral understanding by emphasizing our freedom to do something rather than our freedom from something. Especially focus on our freedom to make good choices. As your child develops maturity, he or she will come to grow in responsibility for his or her choices.

Turn to Page 110,
God's Gift of Conscience
Vivos en Cristo, Page 221

Ask your child what he or she thinks is a well-formed conscience. Discuss their response.



Proclaim the Scripture story. Point out that Jewish listeners would have expected the priest and the Jewish leader to help.

Discuss the questions at the end of the story.

Turn to Page 111,
Know the Difference
Vivos en Cristo, Page 223

Invite your child to silently read the first two paragraphs.

Point out the term **conscience** and explain that it is our God-given ability to make good choices.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Within every person is a conscience that moves him or her to make good choices and avoid bad choices. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition feed and inform our ever-growing conscience as we navigate through the various choices of life. Remind your child that the Holy Spirit is always ready to assist us. Our informed conscience brings us closer to God and the Christian community.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Together, discuss what advice you would give a friend in using his or her conscience to make choices.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 112,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 225

Invite your child to silently read the first two paragraphs.

Read through the "Making Good Decisions" chart together.

Discuss how the steps might be helpful in making a choice. Walk through a scenario in your child's life where he or she could use these steps to make a decision.

Turn to Page 113,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 227

Read the paragraph about Saint Charles Lwanga.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a time when you followed your conscience.

Activity

Complete the Live Your Faith activity together.

Turn to Page 115,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 231

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.