

# The Body of Christ

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 183,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 367

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize the many ways the Church uses to communicate God's truths
- Define the Epistles as Letters written by Paul and several other Apostles to the new Christian communities they established
- Note that there are two main creeds of the Church—Nicene and Apostles'
- Identify the Marks of the Church—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic—as essential characteristics that distinguish Christ's Church and her mission

**Turn to Page 175,**  
The Body of Christ  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 351

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Did your parents ever say to you as you were walking out the door, "Don't forget whose name you have?" It was a way of reminding us that wherever we went, we took our family's name, the family's reputation, the things the family stood for, out the door with us. In much the same way, as members of the Church, we take our family identity with us wherever we go. That is why knowing the essential characteristics of the Church—one, holy, catholic and apostolic—is crucial. Bringing others to Christ through the Church is the call of our Baptism.*

**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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- Yes, Lord, I Believe
- 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:** Saint Luke describes the early Church community in a way that makes people want to be a part of that community. Listen to how the early Christians lived.



**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:** Most of our experience as Church comes from living in a parish. The word *parish* comes from a word that means “being close together.” When you think about community, Church, and parish, think about the many ways of being close together as the Body of Christ.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about the Church community

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 176,**  
Keeping in Touch  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 353

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Discuss** what sorts of information people need to share.

**Ask** your child what kind of information he/she gets over the Internet. Share the advantages and disadvantages of getting information over the Internet, rather than in person.

**Silently** read the information under “Sharing God’s Word Today.”

**Ask:** Do you think it is a good idea to share Jesus’ message through social media? What ideas do you have that could make young people your age pay attention to that message?

**Turn to Page 177,**  
Letters of the New Testament  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 355

**Ask** your child to read aloud the two paragraphs.

**Remind** her/him that during the days of the early Church, sending letters and communicating through messengers were the only means of contacting someone far away.

**Ask:** Have you heard the word *Epistles* before? Read aloud the definition of **epistles** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

## Activity

**Read** aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity and complete the activity. Choose a passage yourself. Share your favorite passage and your reasons for choosing it.

**Turn to Page 178-179,**  
Marks of the Church  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 357-359

**Explain** to your child that she/he will learn about the Marks of the Church on the next two pages.

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

★ **Have** your child underline a time when we hear the Marks of the Church during Mass.

**Begin** the paragraphs that explain the Marks of the Church. Alternate reading the paragraphs. As you finish each Mark, ask your child to look up the Scripture citation from the “What Scripture Says” box on page 178. Read the quote directly from the Bible.

**Discuss** how the Scripture relates to the paragraph you just read.

### LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 180,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 361

★ **Direct** your child to read the first two paragraphs and complete the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Have you ever been in a room when someone walks in and you get a whiff of a lovely fragrance? Their scent made you pay attention. You noticed. In his Epistle to the Corinthians, Saint Paul says, “... we are the aroma of Christ.” When we walk into the room, people should notice because we bring Christ. As your child matures in faith, it is becoming more and more critical to connect what she/he believes with their words and actions. It may be helpful to be more intentional in your language when you reflect with your child. There is a difference between saying, “You cannot be so mean,” and, “Is what you are doing helping your sister (classmate) see Jesus?”*

**Turn to Page 181,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 363

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Jude.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Jesus asks us to be his friends. How can your family grow in friendship with Jesus?

**Turn to Page 183,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let’s Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 367

**Parents, Consider This:** *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit (see Page 324), 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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).