

Sin and Forgiveness

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 217,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 435

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Examine the consequences of venial sin
- Recall the conditions necessary for a sin to be considered mortal
- Begin to understand the need to obey the certain judgment of an informed conscience
- Recognize that through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, God forgives us and restores us to his friendship

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

Parents, Consider This: *Worrying about the decisions your child will make can keep you up at night. From the friends she/he chooses, to the healthy foods she/he will not eat, you do your best to influence her/his choices. You want what is best for your child. God wants what is best for us. He is our Creator and he has created us equipped with the desire to know his will. The development of a Christian conscience comes from an awareness of the demands and values of the Gospel that God expects of all people. With a well-formed conscience and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, people can discern what is truly right and good. Help your child become aware of God's urgings within her/him.*

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.

- You Alone
- Coming Back Together

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 209,
Sin and Forgiveness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 419

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: In today's Scripture reading, Peter wanted to show Jesus how much he had learned about forgiveness. Peter expects to know the answer when he asks Jesus a question about forgiving others.



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: Peter thought that forgiving someone seven times was pretty generous. Jesus responded by using a common figure of speech that everyone would recognize as meaning “immeasurable.” When Jesus said “seventy-seven times,” he was saying that forgiveness must be offered without limit. Peter’s heart had some growing to do—as do ours.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about forgiveness.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 210,
Your Relationship with God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 421

Read aloud the first paragraph. Alternate reading the rest of the text on the page.

Ask your child to point out the difference between mortal and venial sin. (Mortal sin is a serious and deliberate act that rejects God; venial sin is less serious.)

Give your child examples of a venial sin and a mortal sin. (Lying about homework, taking a pencil from your sister’s supplies/murder, stealing someone’s life savings) To make sure he/she understands the difference between the types of sins, encourage your child to come up with a few examples of their own.

Review definitions of **sin**, **venial sin**, and **mortal sin**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Turn to Page 211,
God’s Mercy
Vivos en Cristo, Page 423

Remind your child that parables teach religious truths.



Tell your child to silently read the Scripture passage. When he/she has finished reading, ask him/her to point out the details that are the same in the first and second paragraphs. (The one owing money begs for mercy.) Then ask how the second incident differs from the first. (The servant does not follow the example of mercy set by his master.)

Emphasize that we are to forgive one another as God forgives us.

Activity

Read the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Take the time to discuss with each other, the ways that you show forgiveness as a family. Make suggestions for dealing with the hurt or anger that you feel when you are harmed. This is one of the most valuable lessons your family teaches.

Turn to Page 212,
Making Things Right
Vivos en Cristo, Page 425

This part of the lesson will review what the Church teaches about an informed conscience. The importance of this teaching cannot be emphasized enough as you help your child to make good decisions.

Read the first two paragraphs aloud. Ask your child to retell what you read in his/her own words.

Review the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, **conscience**.

Read aloud the text in the next section. Then have your child silently read the “Celebrating the Sacrament” chart.

Ask your child to look at the pictures at the top of pages 212 and 213 and identify which steps are probably occurring in each.

Pray the Act of Contrition (found in the yellow box), together.

Parents, Consider This: *There are moments in our lives when we believe the worst about ourselves; moments when we think we are unforgivable. At Mass, we are reminded that throughout the history of salvation, God never abandoned those who had sinned or failed to keep their covenant with him. There is no sin that cannot be touched by God’s mercy when sinners turn their hearts back to him. God has given us the gift of the Sacrament of Penance. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, people experience and celebrate God’s mercy and forgiveness by confessing their sins and pledging to do what is right and good.*

Turn to Page 213,
Effects of the Sacrament
Vivos en Cristo, Page 427

Ask your child to read aloud the text and then name the benefits of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (friendship with God is restored or healed; reconciliation with the Church; freedom from the threat of hell; peace and strength to do what is right and good)

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 214,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 429

Read aloud the introductory paragraphs.

Explain that a conscience must be exercised to remain informed.

Ask your child to tell you what is happening in the cartoon story to the left. Help him/her to imagine what decision the girl might be making.

Turn to Page 215,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 431

Read the paragraph about Saint Margaret of Cortona.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Do people in your family find it easy or difficult to admit they were wrong and to say, “I’m sorry.”

Activity

Discuss the moral dilemmas presented in the Live Your Faith activity. Clearly tell your child what you would hope he/she might do. Tell your child the kind of person you want him/her to be.

Turn to Page 217,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 435

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Love (see Page 325), 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.