

Lives of Service

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 241,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 483

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Discuss how Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet, though surprising, was a sign of his love and a model of serving others
- Define vocation as the purpose for which God made us and a call to love and serve God and others
- Recognize that Holy Orders confers a sacred authority and charism for serving the faithful by teaching, leading people in worship, and pastoral governing
- Describe consecrated life as a state of life lived in community and characterized by the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience

Turn to Page 233,
Lives of Service
Vivos en Cristo, Page 467

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

Parents, Consider This: *When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, he gave an example of the Christian way of life. God calls each baptized person in a unique way to respond to Jesus' invitation to serve by living a Christian vocation. Some men and women respond to God's call by living in religious communities. Some men, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, are consecrated to serve God as bishops, priests, and deacons. These are important roles and special ways to serve. Is there a way for your family to show appreciation to someone you know who serves in this way? Your support is important to encourage them in their vocation.*

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.

- I Will Choose Christ
- I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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 gives each of us gifts—gifts for service. Let's read today's Scripture passage to hear more about these gifts.



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: Having gifts and using gifts are two different things. We need to listen to God in order to hear what he wants us to do—how he calls us to serve others—with our gifts.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about using their gifts for God’s glory.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 234,
Called to Serve
Vivos en Cristo, Page 469

Summarize the paragraph to introduce the Scripture story.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. Ask your child how they believe they would have reacted if they had been among Jesus’ disciples. Discuss how the disciples appear to be reacting in the painting.

Explain to your child that, in Jesus time, people often traveled on foot. It was an act of hospitality for a host to provide for the washing of a guest’s feet. The host provided servants to wash the feet of guests or water so that guests could wash their own feet. Have your child explain to you what Jesus wanted his disciples to understand when he washed their feet. Reinforce the concept that Christians must be willing to perform acts of service.

Turn to Page 235,
The Cost of Serving Others
Vivos en Cristo, Page 471

Have your child silently read the first two paragraphs.

Read aloud the text in the “Your Vocation” section. Review the highlighted word, **vocation**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask: What are the four types of vocations named? (*ordained priesthood, religious life, married, committed single life*)

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity. Brainstorm some career choices with your child. Discuss the ways these careers might serve others.

Parents, Consider This: Jesus modeled our call to love and serve God and others. Vocation is the purpose for which God made us and why we answer his call. Talk about the various vocations of relatives and friends in your family and how they are serving God and others. Note the variety of ways those you love serve others and God. Each is given unique ways to serve.

Turn to Page 236,
Living the Call
Vivos en Cristo, Page 473

Have your child silently read the text.

Ask: Who participates in the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

Together, name or find out the names of the bishop(s), priests(s), and deacon(s) who serve your parish. Review the roles of bishop, priest, and deacon. Interview one if possible.

Read the text under “Consecrated Life.” Tell your child to look for what living a consecrated life means. Discuss what this means after reading this section. Encourage your child to tell you what they know about the highlighted words, **Holy Orders**, **Magisterium**, and **consecrated religious life**, in the text. Have your child silently read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Turn to Page 237,
The Evangelical Counsels
Vivos en Cristo, Page 475

Explain that members of religious communities profess vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Read aloud the sacred promises in the chart, “The Evangelical Counsels.”



Do the gold-star activity.

Tell your child that the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit help them to live out their own life of service. Turn to page 318 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of the book to review them.

Summarize the paragraph and have your child name someone in ministry who has served them by helping them know more about Jesus.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: Consider examples of charisms people in your family might have, such as love for animals, caring for those who are elderly or of children, respect for the environment, or talent for fixing things around the house. Marvel at the many gifts God gives us.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 238,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 477

Read aloud the opening paragraphs. Invite your child to name some ways to serve Jesus by helping others.



Proclaim the Scripture passages.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 239,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 479

Read the paragraph about Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you use your call to share the love of Jesus with others.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 241,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 483

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord during your night prayer this week.*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.