

Sharing God's Love

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 251,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 503

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand that a baptized man and woman make a permanent covenant of love in the Sacrament of Matrimony
- Recognize that this Sacrament helps a man and woman grow in love and holiness and prepare a home for children
- Identify Matrimony as a Sacrament at the Service of Communion
- Discuss why the family is called the domestic Church
- Explore the virtues of temperance, chastity, and modesty as a way of honoring the Sixth and Ninth Commandments

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

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus gave special honor to the relationship between a man and a woman in marriage. Men and women are created in the image of God, and their union in marriage mirrors the relationship God has with his People. Faithful Christian families are privileged communities because they are blessed by God and have committed themselves to live in God's image. The Christian family is often called the "domestic Church." A Christian family shares in bringing Christ's love to the world. How does your family live Christ's love?*

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.

- Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ
- From Today

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 verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: The Holy Trinity is a God of relationship. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are the perfect communion of love. Since we are made in God's image, human beings are made to be in relationship with him and one another.

Turn to Page 243,
Sharing God's Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 487



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: Made in the image of the God of love and faithfulness, many men and women are called to a vocation of a faithful lasting love.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Catholic marriage.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 244,
Together in Holiness
Vivos en Cristo, Page 489

Read the opening question and paragraph. Remind your child that good marriages are based on friendship.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. If possible, read it as a play with the parts of narrator, Mary, Jesus, and the headwaiter.

Discuss the question that follows the reading.

Turn to Page 245,
Matrimony
Vivos en Cristo, Page 491

Read aloud the two paragraphs in the “Matrimony” section. Have your child circle the text that tells why marriage is a Sacrament and underline the two purposes of marriage.

Review the definitions of the highlighted words, **Matrimony** and **domestic Church**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Have your child silently read the text under “Sacraments of Service.” Have your child look for the promises people make when they marry one another.

Together, brainstorm qualities that make a good marriage. After your discussion, make a list of them. Create a paper chain of the most important qualities of a strong marriage by writing these ideas on slips of paper and connecting them in the form of a chain.

Parents, Consider This: The words of consent in the Sacrament of Matrimony are these: "I _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and bad, in sickness and health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life." Use these words as a basis for discussion. Talk about how these promises connect to friendship and to a relationship with God. Think of those you know who seem to live these vows. Point out how they are a living example that can inspire us.

Turn to Page 246,
A Domestic Church
Vivos en Cristo, Page 493

Read aloud the text.

Ask: In what ways is a family a domestic Church? (The Church has concern for all her members, the family has concern for all its members; we serve one another in Church and in families; we are called to love in both the Church community and family community.)

Turn to Page 247,
Sharing God's Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 495

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Turn to page 315 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book. Read aloud the Sixth Commandment and the Ninth Commandment. Invite your child to read silently the remainder of the content on page 247 and to identify ways to live out these Commandments.

Talk about the highlighted virtues, **temperance**, **chastity**, and **modesty**. Read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 246. Write each word on a separate index card. After your child has reviewed their definitions, give your child the cards and have them hold up the word that matches the definition that you read aloud.

Discuss the meaning of these words and ask your child to define each of them in his or her own words.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: Virtues are habits that become part of our character if they are practiced long enough and are integrated into the values we live in our words and actions. Continue to point out examples of people you know who live the virtues of temperance, chastity, and modesty. Lifting up those who live these virtues will encourage the members of your family to live them, too.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 248,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 497

Read aloud the first paragraph. Tell your child that you are going to learn how to promote harmony within your family using advice from the Letter to the Ephesians.

★ Do the gold-star activity after reading through the “Ways to Harmony” chart.

Turn to Page 249,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 499

Read the paragraph about Saint Henry II.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about ways your family works for justice.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 251,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 503

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.