

# Christian Unity

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 275,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 551

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Appreciate Jesus' desire for unity among his believers
- Examine the Catholic Church's desire to bring all Christians together in unity
- Explore the Protestant Reformation as a separation from the Church led by Martin Luther
- Recognize that the ecumenical movement looks for ways to help Christians work toward unity

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *Many communities celebrate Folk Festivals or Nationality Days. During those celebrations, we honor and appreciate the distinctions that make that culture or people unique. At the same time, we recognize that, as diverse as we are, we are one in our humanity. The oneness that Christ desired for his People has been thwarted throughout the centuries for various reasons. In a world that is so diverse, it is important for all Christians to remember that, through our Baptism, we are one—one in Christ Jesus. Helping your child to appreciate the oneness of all Christians and, yet, at the same time, teaching them to value the distinction of being a Catholic Christian is part of your mission as a Catholic parent.*

**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).

- One Spirit, One Church
- They'll Know We Are Christians

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 267,**  
Christian Unity  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 535

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 his prayer in the garden on the night before he died, Jesus showed his concern regarding unity once he returned to the Father. Saint Paul echoed that concern regarding the growth of the Church.

**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:** Jesus tells his disciples of his great desire for them to be one. We believe that all baptized people are one because we belong to the Body of Christ, yet there are many divisions among Christians. It is our hope that all Christians will soon be one again.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about disunity among Christians.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 268,**  
Unity and Division  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 537

**Ask** your child to read the introduction to the lesson.

**Proclaim** the Scripture passage.

**Ask:** Where are you mentioned in this Scripture passage? (*those who will believe in me, meaning Jesus’ followers*)



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Read** the last paragraph as a summary of Jesus’ prayer for unity.

**Ask:** Why do you think unity was so important to Jesus?

**Turn to Page 269,**  
The Story Continues  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 539

**Read** the introductory text aloud. Then have your child silently read the two paragraphs under “More Divisions.” Have them identify the two major divisions that occurred in the Church. Ask him/her to name and describe the two divisions.

**Draw** attention to the highlighted words, **schism** and **Protestant Reformation**, and review their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Turn to Page 270,**  
New Hope  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 541

**Read** aloud the first paragraph.

**Ask** your child to give examples of Protestant communities. (Possible responses: Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Baptist, and Methodist)

Ask them to tell you who among your friends and relatives belong to Protestant denominations.

**Have** your child read aloud the next two paragraphs. Tell your child to read the definition of the Catholic Faith Word, **ecumenism**.

**Ask:** How can you be respectful of other people's beliefs?

**Turn to Page 271,**  
Ecumenism Today  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 543

**Tell** your child to underline the main idea in each paragraph as he/she follows along with the reading in the book.

**Read** aloud the first paragraph. Ask your child to point to the issues that were addressed by the Second Vatican Council.

**Read** aloud the second paragraph. Have your child identify the steps toward unity outlined by the bishops. (talking, praying, and serving together)

## Activity

**Have** your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *While ecumenism has been a great gift to the Church in the past decades, there is a subtle danger when we think, "We are all Christians, so there must not be too much of a difference among us." Each Christian denomination has its own creed, its own set of beliefs. While many of our beliefs we hold in common, there are sometimes small—sometimes big—differences. That is why it's critical to not only know, but be able to articulate, your Catholic faith so that you can first share it with your children and then respectively with your neighbor.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 272,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 545

**Read** aloud the introduction.

**Have** your child read the bold print in the "Steps to Unity" chart and you respond with the information in the second column. Pause after reading each step and its accompanying example.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 273,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 547

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Charles Borromeo.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family try to learn and understand about beliefs that are different than yours?

**Turn to Page 275,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 551

**Parents, Consider This:** *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning Prayer (see Page 325), during your morning 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).