

A New Creation

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 285,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define apocalyptic literature as a type of writing that claims to reveal what humans cannot see
- Recognize that God will triumph over evil when Christ comes again in glory
- Explore the resurrection of the body and life everlasting as being central tenets of the Catholic faith
- Reflect on the things that can help deepen our trust in God's promise of eternal life, like virtues, the Sacraments, and the Church

Turn to Page 277,
A New Creation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 555

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

Parents, Consider This: *Within your lifespan, how many times have you heard the end of the world was imminent? Some person or group is always calling us to pay attention for the time is near. Life is short. Time is limited. What is really important? Whether we are reflecting on our own death or the end of the world, Christians do so with joy. We trust that the God of love—who created us in love—wants us to live in response to his love, so that someday we will live in the fullness of his love. Meditate on that truth and live each day in your family as if it were your last on Earth.*

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.

- Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- Lord of All Hopefulness

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: In the Nicene Creed, we pray, “I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” Until the new world arrives, we strive to live holy lives as “we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ” (*Roman Missal*).



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: Hope is the virtue that trusts God will act on our behalf. It is not wishful thinking, but the sure conviction that God will keep his promise of a new creation where we will enjoy happiness with him forever.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about the end of our lives.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 278,
The Triumph of Good
Vivos en Cristo, Page 557

Read aloud the first paragraph. Discuss the difference between literal and symbolic language. Ask your child to give you examples of each.

Have your child read aloud the rest of the text. Stop at the highlighted word, **apocalyptic literature**, and have them read the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask: How does apocalyptic literature differ from most books that you have read? *(It uses numbers and symbols to help convey a message.)*

Ask the children why the Holy Spirit inspired John to write the Book of Revelation. *(to encourage Christians in a time of persecution)*



Have your child locate Revelation 21:1-4 in your Bible. Read the Scripture passage.

Ask: What is God’s message for us today?

Listen to the Song, “New Jerusalem,” on the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 22. You can find the lyrics at aliveinchrist.osv.com. Discuss the lyrics and ask your child to tell you what he/she understands the image of the New Jerusalem to mean.

Turn to Page 279,
Unveiling the Future
Vivos en Cristo, Page 559

Read aloud all three paragraphs. Tell your child to follow along in the book as you read. Then use the “Key to Revelation” and reread the text. Discuss the images mentioned.

Invite your child to share ideas about why the symbols were used. (The symbols were important because those who might want to harm Christians would not understand the meaning of the book, but Christians facing persecution would understand its meaning.) Sacred Scripture is not always easy for us to understand the first time we read it. Go to page 304 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book and read "How to Better Understand Scripture."

Discuss the difference between the Bible and a history book.

Activity

On a separate sheet of paper ask your child to write a list of the evils in the world that she/he would like God to conquer.

Parents, Consider This: *There are some news stories we read or news reports we hear that make us wonder, "What is this world coming to?" Or, we learn of places in the world where people are suffering and dying because of natural disasters or disease and we might wonder, "How can this be?" We may even ask what kind of world are we creating and leaving for our children and grandchildren? All we can do is hope. Hope, however, is not a wish. It is a gift from God that helps us to trust that God can redeem all evil. It is a virtue that helps us trust that God has created us for life eternal and will offer us the grace to receive it.*

Remind your child that we believe God has the power to conquer all evil and that the time will come when God will defeat every evil.

Alternate reading aloud the paragraphs.

Ask: How does our belief in the Resurrection affect how you feel about the people we love who have died? How should it affect the way we live today?

Remind your child that the Resurrection is the foundation for all Christian living and future hope. We believe that our bodies will also rise to new life. While we do not know what form it will take, we will once again be body and soul.

Look at the illustration of the Resurrection. Talk about what the women must have felt like before they went to the tomb and after they left the tomb.

Invite your child to silently read the text.

Tell him/her to look for ideas and images of what the new creation will be like. Point out that the Church is the beginning of the New Jerusalem on Earth.

Turn to Page 280,
Hope for the Future
Vivos en Cristo, Page 561

Turn to Page 281,
New Creation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 563

Read the definitions of the words, **Resurrection** and **new creation**, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask your child what the “new Jerusalem” would look like here on Earth. What would be the indicators that evil had been conquered once and for all and that we were truly living in the Reign of God? Share what would make you most happy in this “new city.”

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 282,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 565

Tell your child that they may hear some people talk about the end of the world. They talk about destruction and pain. Catholics emphasize God’s desire for us to live with him forever. On this page you will be continuing to discuss our hope for the future.

Read aloud the first two paragraphs.

Discuss the difference between ordinary hopes and the Christian hope of everlasting life.

Have your child read aloud the next three paragraphs.

Discuss with your child examples of how you both can practice the suggestions in your everyday lives.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 283,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 567

Read the paragraph about Saint John the Evangelist.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss how your family follows Jesus as you live your daily lives.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 285,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 571

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.