

Disciples in Community

Preparation for the Session

This session has parts that will take place at different times. You will gather with your child for Part 1: Invite. Your child will then work independently on Part 2: Discover, and you will read that section of the chapter on your own as well. Finally, you will come together again later in the week for Part 3 to review and complete the In Summary & Live section.

Parents, Consider This: *One of the great challenges of the Christian life is to learn to be our authentic self while also being a follower of Jesus. To the modern mind, this can sometimes seem to be a contradiction. We place a great deal of value on being an “individual” and on living as an “independent” person. It can be a little frightening to face how truly dependent we are on God. It may also be difficult for us to understand how God will help us to become the person we were meant to be if we are open to his grace. We can gain insight into how to be a disciple by learning how Jesus worked with the Apostles and their individual personalities. For example, Peter was, at times, impulsive, stubborn, indecisive, and cowardly, but Jesus chose him to lead his Church. It might be helpful to reflect upon how the impulsive and cowardly Peter could be transformed into the Peter who was the first and fearless leader of our Church. This transformation can give us hope in how God can help and strengthen us to become his disciple, a follower of Jesus, and also help us grow into our full individual human potential.*

Children at This Age: *Young people of this age often struggle with the conflicting values of establishing their own unique leadership styles or going along with the crowd. Among their peers, they might even perceive leadership as an aggressive behavior. Teaching and modeling gentle, virtue-driven leadership shows them other possible ways to lead besides dominating. Your child is watching what you do as well as what you say. Be an example of joyful living out of discipleship, and your son/daughter will have an opportunity to learn how to be a Christian leader in his/her own life.*

In this chapter, your child will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that Saint John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of Christ and led people to Jesus
- Analyze why the first disciples followed Jesus
- Describe the importance of the Apostles in continuing Jesus’ ministry
- Discover sources that contain the official teachings of the Church
- Identify the characteristics of a disciple in the world today
- Recall the Church’s rich and varied tradition of prayer

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 171,
Disciples in Community

Make sure you have a Bible, writing tools for both of you, and some paper.

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 Together make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the first two lines of the leader prayer. Have your child read the Psalm verses. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Explain that our prayer today challenges us to be a disciple of Jesus.

Say: Jesus provides the perfect image of what it means to love God and spread the Good News of his love to others. In today’s reading, we are called to be an example to others of Jesus’ love.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word ritual you learned in the Introduction Session.

- Proclaim the Scripture 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.

Say: The disciples believed so strongly in Jesus and his message that they responded wholeheartedly to his command to spread the Good News of God’s Kingdom to everyone.

Now, look at the *Have you ever thought...* box.

Invite your child to respond to the questions found in the box in the Student Book, also listed here:

- What motivated the first disciples? *(This question invites your child to imagine the relationship the first disciples had with Jesus. You might discuss how Jesus made the disciples feel, his compassion, his miracles, and how he treated everyone—even those others rejected.)*
- Who can you help to follow Jesus? *(Answers might include friends, family, even strangers. Anyone can be touched by our authentic faith and love.)*

Ask what else your son/daughter might wonder about God’s Word and what it means to us today.

Turn to Page 172,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions and complete the chart on page 172. When he/she is finished, share a few things that take priority in your life and ask your child to share a few things that are a priority in his/her life.

Preview the Catholic Faith Words at the top of the page. Ask your child what she/he thinks the words mean. The definitions can be found in the glossary at the end of the Student Book.

Turn to Page 173

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, discuss what you and your child believe Jesus invited you to do as a second grader and what Jesus is inviting you to now.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 174–179. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

Be sure to read these pages as well. Doing so will give you insight into chapter topics and will help you engage your child in later discussions.

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 179,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 180

Direct your daughter/son to silently read Our Catholic Life.

Parents, Consider This: In the *Our Catholic Life* section of this chapter, your child will be reading about how prayer connects us to God. The text invites your child to consider the difference between finding a place to pray and finding the quiet space inside of ourselves to simply “be” with God. This form of prayer is called *contemplative prayer*. Often this can be very challenging for active people. They may feel they are “doing nothing.” But this practice can help us listen deeply to how God speaks to us in a very personal way. If you choose to engage in contemplative prayer, you may want to start out trying it for short periods for time. People often find this can be an important and valuable spiritual practice. It requires learning to be still and listening more than speaking in our interaction with God.

Ask: How is the experience of contemplative prayer different from other types of prayer? (It is silent and intense, and our ability to do it can grow over time.)

Say: Now let’s read about Saint Theodore who committed her life to teaching, healing, and caring for the needy. Though she experienced many hardships and challenges, her faith did not waver.

Read aloud *People of Faith*.

Say: We have learned about contemplative prayer and about how Mother Theodore drew strength and helped others face fears by reminding them that with Jesus we should not fear. Let’s look at the List activity. We are both going to do this activity and then we’ll talk about it.

Once you have both thought of someone you personally know who is a true follower of Jesus, share some of the qualities you see in this person.

Conclude the session by praying the Evening Prayer on Page 386.



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