

Source of Life

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: *The gift of salvation comes through Jesus Christ. It is because of God's love for each of us that he sent his Son to redeem us. God left us the Church to continue to teach, guide, and help us. Your child is still learning what this means, and it may be daunting to him/her to think that he/she could spread the faith in any systematic and effective way. Help your child see that it is not his/her responsibility to proselytize about the faith (that is, verbally persuade someone into conversion). It is enough for your son/daughter to send a message from his/her everyday life about what he/she believes. Help your child connect the acts of service within your family and community with what he/she is learning about the teachings of our faith. In that way, he/she will discover how we act as faithful people. The words of faith will follow the experience of faith. In this chapter, you and your son/daughter will be learning about Baptism and the ways the Church helps us grow closer to God through the Sacraments, prayer, and sharing faith with those who do not know God's love.*

Children at This Age: *Younger adolescents can be very focused on their immediate surroundings and the issues that dominate their current environment. They may not readily see the connection between their local world and the global reality. They may feel conflicted between cynicism and idealism. Faith calls us to be people of hope and to believe in God's power to bring light and love to any place we find ourselves. Providing healthy, practical avenues for your son/daughter to serve in response to local needs can help nurture the virtue of hope. Encourage your child to build a relationship with God. Prayer will nourish that relationship and help each of us answer God's call to bring love and truth to others.*

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

- Explain that God helps us learn to use our free will to choose what is good
- Recognize that Jesus is the Mediator who brings us to salvation
- Express that faith and Baptism are necessary for salvation
- Describe how the Church is catholic, or universal
- Identify the process of purification we must go through before we can enter Heaven
- Explore the relationship between a deep prayer life and the call to live a life of love and truth

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 195,
Source of Life

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. Have your child take the role of leader and read aloud the prayer. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Say: Let’s listen to the Scripture reading and recall that God sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles at Pentecost so that they could proclaim the Good News to the ends of the Earth!



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: We are all called to continue this mission and invite others to know and love Jesus. The Holy Spirit continues to help guide us on our faith journey.

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:

- How does the Holy Spirit strengthen the Church to spread the Good News of salvation? (*The Holy Spirit comes upon us at Baptism and strengthens us in Confirmation. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit guide and fortify us to live and share our faith.*)
- How much does faith have to do with everyday life? (*If we appreciate the gift faith is, it will influence and affect every choice we make in our lives. It can inspire us to pray, to read the Bible, and to love and serve others.*)

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

Turn to Page 196,
Getting Started

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph.

Read the directions for the web on page 196 and ask your daughter/son to write in her/his answers. When your child is finished, invite her/him to share what she/he wrote. Add any additional ideas of your own.

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 197

Point out that just as the Church continues Jesus' mission, we are also called to continue Jesus' work.

Have your child read the instructions for the List activity. Work together to brainstorm some things that your child's school or your parish does for others in the community. Discuss how your family is or can be involved in these types of activities.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 198–203. 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 203,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Alternate reading the copy with your child.

Turn to Page 204

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 the Church, these days, encourages leaders to share the message of faith through blogs, podcasts, and other forms of social media. In fact, the Papal Conclave that elected Pope Francis in 2013 was covered in the media and the Pope's first message was covered by social networks. The Church has the responsibility to use every means of reaching people with a message of faith. How wonderful that she has been able to reach millions more people by engaging in these new ways of communicating. However, those who communicate on behalf of the Church must be vigilant in making sure that the authentic message of the Church is presented faithfully.*

Ask: How would you present the Church’s message through social media? *(Share some examples like contributing to a blog about faith or following a leader in your parish on social media and Tweeting his/her posts.)*

Say: The world and the ways we communicate with each other are changing quickly. This gives us more opportunities than ever to learn about people from different cultures and various parts of the world and share our faith in ways that are relevant to them. It also opens us up to influences that can lead us away from our faith and developing a sound moral life. We must use the gifts of technology to bring us closer to God and learn more about the good work the Church does all over the world.

Point out the brief story on Saint Lorenzo Ruiz and explain how he held fast to his faith even in the face of persecution.

Invite your son/daughter to read aloud the People of Faith text.

Say: Saint Lorenzo Ruiz held onto his love for the Church and shared his faith even though the price was high. Today, the Church encourages us to share the message of God’s love and his Kingdom in new ways. The Text activity will give us an opportunity to practice this.

Invite your child to read aloud the directions for the activity.

Once you have each thought of a text message you could send out about the work of your parish community, share them with one another.

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.