

# Respecting 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:** *Who among us does not recall some of the hurtful things that were said to us as middle-school children? That we can often remember what was said and even who said it, speaks to the impact that words can have on us. Because at this age young people have not yet begun to understand the consequences our words bear, they need a great deal of guidance to keep them from causing irreparable harm. We must make intentional choice to make our homes a place where we teach our children human dignity. Human dignity finds its source in our belief that God creates every person in his image. While your child might get the message outside your home that some lives are worth less than others, this is simply not God's truth. It is important to ask yourself, are your words and actions respectful of all people starting with each other in your home? Do you hold your child accountable when he/she acts contrary to this truth?*

**Children at This Age:** *Your daughter/son has probably had some personal experience with bullying and/or gossiping in her/his school. He/she sees how some students seem to be valued more or less than others. This is often the area where the most energy, fear, and, sometimes, tears are focused. This happens because younger adolescents are more inclined to notice others for their differences rather than their commonalities. They tend to form judgments based on appearance, talents, or personality traits. For these reasons, your home should be a safe place where your child is valued, affirmed, and supported with words and actions. This is an important time to clearly communicate what the Church believes about human life and dignity.*

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

- Explain that each human life has value because we are made in God's image
- Identify murder as an action that violates the sacredness of human life
- Explore the aspects of the Fifth Commandment that deal with anger and vengeance
- Examine why the Church advocates for the rights of others on life issues
- Examine the ways in which we do not show respect for our own lives or the lives of others
- Explain why scandal harms individuals and society
- Identify the basic rights people need to grow and mature

## PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 223,  
Respecting 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. Proclaim the opening lines of the leader prayer; have your child read the Psalm verse. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

**Explain** that all life is a gift—that we each are works of art, and God’s desire is that we treat all life the way he does, with great dignity and respect.

**Say:** This week we will focus on that truth that every human life is precious to God. We are called to respect and care for our own lives and the lives of others, just as Jesus did. Let’s listen to God’s Word and hear him speak to us about choosing life.



**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:** Because we are made in God’s image, we must respect and care for every human life.

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 does it mean to *always* choose life? (*We choose what will uphold our own and every person’s value and dignity.*)
- What does it mean to respect and value *all* human life? (*In our everyday choices, we respect the dignity of each person and we work for justice for those who need our help, especially the unborn.*)

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

**Turn to Page 224,**  
Getting Started

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.

**Direct** your child to complete the chart according to the instructions in the box directly above it. Invite him/her to share what he/she wrote, keeping in mind that the purpose of this exercise is simply to check your child's understanding as you begin the chapter.

**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 225**

**Explain** the activity on this page by illustrating an example from your own life of trying to stand in the shoes of another person. This is an important habit for your child to develop—being able to seek to understand where another person is coming from.

**Have** your child think of a person who faces different challenges, and then together list the challenges that person and/or his/her family might face.

**Think** of a specific action your family could take to support that person and his/her family.

## PART 2: Discover

**Direct** your child to independently complete pages 226–231. 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 questions 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 231,**  
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 232**

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

**Parents, Consider This:** Sometimes, when we watch the evening news, it's easy to think: "People today have no respect for life." Whether the story is about a terrorist group or people who shoot their own family members because they are angry or hurt, our minds are boggled and our hearts are troubled. Many parents worry about the kind of world their children will inherit. We should take great comfort in the fact that through the ages the Catholic Church has stood for the fundamental right to life for every human being. Use the events of the world to help your child reflect on the right to life from conception until natural death—a conversation that must be ongoing in your home. Evil gains strength when it is not confronted by truth. You stand in the line of the prophets when you speak God's truth both in your home and in your community.

**Invite** your child to read aloud the story of Saint Martin de Tours.

**Ask:** What do you think motivated Martin, at the age of fifteen, to be so generous?

**Complete** the List activity together. Was it hard to come up with answers? Discuss whether our current culture seems to respect life.

**Conclude** the session by praying the Hail, Holy Queen on Page 384.



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student & Family section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).