

# Called by God

## 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.

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

- Discuss the role of family in teaching us to hear God's call, and respond to him in faith and love
- Examine how a Catholic family is a domestic Church—a holy community of love, grace, and prayer
- Identify the laity's role in being witnesses to Christ
- Explain the process of discerning a vocation
- Name ways we can share in Jesus' mission
- Compare and contrast the parish priesthood and a priest in consecrated religious life
- Explore the vows taken by those in consecrated religious life

**Parents, Consider This:** *For your child, high school is looming on the horizon and with it the dawning awareness that she/he will soon be leaving childhood behind. When asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" the response can no longer be "a superhero" or "a princess." As your child begins to consider how to make her/his way in the world, it is important for you to help her/him understand that growing in maturity also means growing in holiness. The question should no longer be, "What do I want to be?" but "What is God calling me to become?" With your guidance, your child will see signs of God's call through the gifts or talents she/he has been given, the opportunities that arise, and/or through the observations of other trusted people. Remind your daughter/son that each of us is called to use our gifts and abilities for the glory of God rather than for ourselves. Every Christian is invited to listen to Jesus' call and to follow him, using our personal gifts to serve him and his Church. When we do this, when we reach our fullest potential, we will find happiness, which is what our loving Creator wants for us.*

**Children at This Age:** *For better or worse (and probably both), young people at this age tend to identify themselves by the qualities others see and name in them. While your son or daughter may have revealed some of his/her gifts at an early age, other personal abilities and gifts may just be beginning to blossom. Remember, your child needs affirmation by you and others in positions of authority to help reinforce his/her positive abilities and qualities and to help him/her discover how these gifts and talents can be used to serve God.*

## PART 1: Invite

**Turn to Page 291,**  
Called by God

**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 and pray the leader prayer and Psalm verse. Invite your daughter/son to respond with the part marked “All.”

**Remind** your child that God calls us, and that God hears us when we call on him.

**Say:** Today we are going to consider the ways God calls us— because he does indeed call each of us to use our gifts to bring his life and love to the world. So let’s prepare ourselves to hear his voice in his sacred Word.



**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:** Each of us is called by God to share our time, talent, and treasure with others to reveal his Kingdom on Earth.

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 be called by God? (*You have been “designed” by God to be part of his plan for salvation.*)
- How can your gifts serve God and make a difference for others? (*When you work to uncover and live God’s plan for you, using the gifts he gave you, you will discover that you were made to be a gift to the world.*)

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

**Turn to Page 292,**  
Getting Started

**Read** the first paragraph.

**Direct** your child to read the directions for the chart. Instead of having him/her complete the chart independently, work on this together. Remember, this activity was set up to help you assess the understanding and assumptions that your son/daughter currently has.

**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 293**

**Invite** your child to silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper.

When you both are finished, share your answers with each other. Your child will probably be interested to hear who has influenced you.

## PART 2: Discover

**Direct** your child to independently complete pages 294–299. 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 299,**  
In Summary

*When you return,* review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet; after each one is read, discuss with your child how we can help others answer these particular calls.

**Turn to Page 300**

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *When you think of “the church,” what are the first images that come to your mind? For many adults, our minds go to the hierarchy of the Church in Rome or at least the leadership of the parish where we worship. And yet, the Holy Spirit continues to ask us to claim our baptismal identity and understand that we are the Church. Vatican II reemphasized the role of the laity in the Church. We are reminded that while the ordained serve the people of the Church, we, the laity, are sent out to serve the world. It is our responsibility to bring Christ to others through our attitudes, words, and actions, especially to those who may never have heard God praised in a Church, heard his Word proclaimed, or received his Sacraments. We live in God’s Kingdom, and by our transparent witness to the Gospel, we invite others to know Him.*

**Ask:** How can we help continue Christ’s mission on Earth?

**Discuss** some possible answers with your child.

**Point** out the People of Faith box. Explain that certain events in Saint Anthony’s life helped him to discern his vocation.

**Invite** your child to read aloud the text.

**Share** that many Catholics (and even non-Catholics) are familiar with Saint Anthony because we have, or we know someone who has, asked him to intercede when something is lost.

**Read** the instructions and questions for the Identify activity. Ask your child what he/she thinks God has created him/her for. Share your thoughts on how you use your gifts and talents now, and perhaps some ideas on what gifts you might be using twenty years from now.

**Conclude** the session by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit 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).