

Act with Justice

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:

- Define justice as giving God what is due to him and giving others what is due to them as children of God made in his image and possessing equal human dignity
- Discover that to live in God's Kingdom, people must choose to believe, to have faith, and to make the necessary changes in their lives
- Identify people of the Kingdom of God by the actions that work toward what is just, peaceful, and loving
- Explain why solidarity is a Christian virtue
- Describe how being poor in spirit can be connected to the Tenth Commandment

Parents, Consider This: *The anthem of adolescence may well be: "That's not fair." Whether it is being cut from a team, a grade received, or something you did for a sibling and not for her/him, sometimes, in your child's eyes, life may seem overwhelmingly unfair. Truth be told, it often is. As a Catholic parent, not only must you help your child negotiate these difficult life situations, but you are the first line in teaching your child that there is a bigger issue—the issue of justice. Justice is giving God what he is due and giving others what is due to them as beings created in God's image. Point out that we cooperate with God as he builds his Kingdom when we stand up for what is right and fair in the smallest moments of our everyday lives. This can include defending or befriending those who are lonely, unpopular, teased, or bullied. Engaging your child in conversations about injustices in the world (and possible solutions) allows him/her to move away from self-absorption and personal wants and toward a focus on the needs of others.*

Children at This Age: *You may have noticed that your daughter/son can sometimes bounce back and forth between great self-absorption and a concern for others. Helping your child develop the capacity to think beyond himself/herself is often difficult in a culture that is always encouraging us to look out for number one. However, affirming his/her virtuous qualities may lead to more generous attitudes and actions. Raising awareness of the injustices that people suffer daily in this world will also help your child keep perspective on the difference between what is fair and what is just.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 303,
Act with Justice

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.”

Explain that it is not enough to believe; we need to act on what we believe. Our Lord is a just Lord, and he loves just deeds.

Say: Justice is at the heart of a disciple. Jesus calls his disciples to see as he sees so that injustice can be named and challenged through words and actions. Let’s take a glimpse into what God’s Kingdom is like by reading his 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: The Bible makes it very clear that we are not only to recognize Jesus in those who are in need, but also to help them. This helps to build up the Kingdom of God. In this chapter, we are going to see the connection between God’s desire for justice and his expectation of us.

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

Invite your child to respond to the questions listed here:

- Is a just world possible? (**Because of Jesus’ Resurrection, we believe that all evil can be defeated by God’s power and love. So, yes, a just world is possible.**)
- What do we owe people in need? (**whatever it takes so that they can live free from worry about food, shelter, clothing, medical care, freedom to worship, and work**)

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

Turn to Page 304,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph and the instructions for the chart.

Direct your child to complete the chart, and then discuss the words or terms he/she chose. If your child is finding the process difficult, help him/her come up with some words or phrases.

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 305

Have your child complete the Write activity in her/his book, while you complete it on a separate piece of paper. (Note: This exercise is meant to help your child start thinking about the chapter objectives. At the end of the chapter, you should notice an increase in understanding.)

When you both are finished, share with one another your story or some of the situations you wrote about.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 306–311. 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 311,
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 312

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

Parents, Consider This: *In the Our Catholic Life text, your child is reading about some of the ways the Church uses social media. When thinking about social media, cyberbullying is an important topic that may come to mind, as it is a huge reality in today's world. Almost every child knows someone who has been a victim of this form of injustice. Looking at a screen (as on a cell phone) as opposed to someone's face when saying hateful things lessens the capacity to see the damage that these words are causing. Teaching your child how to handle strong feelings appropriately is essential at this age. Actually walking her/him through a process that leads your child to think before responding as opposed to simply reacting to unjust situations is a lesson of maturity that will benefit all of her/his present and future relationships.*

Ask: What is one thing you could share online this week about the Catholic Church or our parish?

Help your child come up with something appropriate to post.

Read the story of Pope Leo XIII.

Say: Pope Leo did much to help build God's Kingdom. Following the example of Jesus in his pursuit of justice and peace, he used his diplomatic skills to help settle troubles between and within various nations.

Research, together, how Pope Leo XIII worked for justice for the Catholics in Germany.

Review the process of assessing injustice in the world, presented in the Identify activity. Keeping in mind that injustice can sometimes seem so overwhelming that it can immobilize us, remind your child that it is important for us to remain hopeful and to think about the small ways we can act for justice.

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.