

The Word of God in Sacred Scripture

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: *Communication is essential in any relationship. The better you become at listening, the more able you are to respond with understanding. Communication will be essential in your relationship with your child as he/she enters adolescence and as new challenges face both your child and you. The same is true in our relationship with God. Scripture is one of the ways we believe we can hear God's voice. Developing the skill of listening to God's Word and MAKING time to give to him is essential in growing deeper in relationship with God.*

Children at This Age: *At this age, young people are beginning to be concerned about establishing friendships that run deeper than those they had with the playmates of their childhood. They want to be able to share their thoughts and feelings with their friends. They want to be understood by you. Because you will be learning about people of faith in the past, your child will need help in making the connection between his/her life and the lives of those who have gone before us. Help your son/daughter understand how the decisions, good and bad, of past generations affect the world we live in today.*

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

- Explain Divine Inspiration as God's direction and guidance of the human writers of Scripture
- Contrast the content of the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Recognize the literary forms contained in the Bible
- Analyze the literal sense and spiritual sense of Scripture
- Distinguish the different major emphases presented by the four Evangelists in their respective Gospels
- Identify the development of the Gospels from the Person of Jesus to the written Word
- Recognize that God's "voice" in the proclamation of Scripture and our response comprise a dialogue
- Examine the role of conscience in our lives

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 63,
The Word of God in
Sacred Scripture

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: God’s Word is at the heart of our faith. It is alive; it is light on our journey to God; it shows us how to live; it brings us joy. Let’s listen as God speaks to us through Sacred Scripture.



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: God reveals himself to us through Sacred Scripture. His Word “lights our paths” and strengthens us to make better choices.

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 is the Word of God living? (*It not only recounts how God worked in the past, but also how he will work in our lives today.*)
- How can you learn more about God? (*by reading his Word and books that help us to understand Scripture (commentaries); also through prayer, spiritual reading, and the Sacraments*)

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

Turn to Page 64,
Getting Started

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask your child to complete the chart. Afterwards, talk about what he/she has written and prompt some additional people, places, or events that either of you might know.

Turn to Page 65

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.

Direct your child to find the first and the third Scripture passages and answer the questions in the book. You find the second reference and record your thoughts on a separate piece of paper. Remind your child that the word (e.g., Hebrews) is the name of the book. The first number (4) is the chapter, and the third number (12) is the beginning verse. If there is another number, it marks the end of the verses that you are to read. When you both are finished, discuss your answers.

Say: This week you are going to learn new things about the Word of God. I hope that they will help you understand the importance of listening for God's voice in your life.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 66–71. 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 71,
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 72

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

Parents, Consider This: *In the Our Catholic Life text, your child will be invited to consider that the Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom helps us to discover God's purpose and plan for our life. At this stage of development, your child is beginning to wonder about this very thing. Perhaps changing your normal conversation from “What do you want to do with your life?” to “What do you think God's plan is for you?” will help both of you remember that true happiness comes from living out the will of God.*

Open your Bible to the book of Psalms and read Psalm 139:1–6. Ask your child to tell you what he/she thinks the writer of this Psalm meant. Share with your child what it means to you that God knows you more intimately than any person could.

Say: Saint Matthew was one of Jesus’ Apostles. A lot of what we know about Jesus comes from the Gospel of Matthew.

Direct your child to read aloud the brief story of Matthew in the People of Faith box. Ask your child to share a time when other people may have misjudged her/him. Discuss what you do when something like that happens. Connect this conversation back to Psalm 139 and the point that God knows our innermost being.

Using Psalm 139 as a pattern, ask your child to write a six-line psalm, on a separate sheet of paper, asking God for help in discovering his plan for him/her. On another sheet of paper, write your own six-line psalm asking God for the help your child needs to discover God’s plan for him/her. Share your psalms with one another. You may want to post your psalms in a place where you will both be reminded to pray or reflect on them often.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Faith on Page 387.



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