

Holy Spirit, Comforter and Guide

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: *One thing that distinguishes a person of faith is the ability to recognize God's power and presence in the challenges, decisions, and difficulties of life. Often a person of faith will express how he or she invited God to help during this challenging time. Christians hold the belief that the same Holy Spirit present at Pentecost with the frightened disciples of Jesus following his Death is present to us today when we open our hearts and minds to him. The Holy Spirit is perhaps the most mysterious of the three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity, which is why we tend to make use of our traditional symbols and signs (i.e., dove, wind, and fire) to assist us in understanding or explaining the Holy Spirit. As you cover this chapter with your son or daughter, you will be reminded that we are never alone. Even in what may seem the most difficult or lonely times in our lives, the Holy Spirit comforts us, strengthens us, and supports us every moment. We need only to accept this gift that we might find in the spiritual garden of prayer we cultivate, as we raise our hearts and minds to God and ask the Holy Spirit to fill our lives with wisdom, strength, and grace.*

Children at This Age: *It is important that children this age find and learn to identify with appropriate role models. Adolescents are often attracted to role models who seem independent of or outside of established societal norms and traditional authority figures. Some seventh-graders also admire those with the capacity to speak out against the status quo. They may feel someone like that would understand them better than others. You can help your son/daughter find individuals that they can relate to who stand up for the vulnerable, the poor, and those who seek justice. If their respect for counter-cultural role models is appropriately challenged, it can foster an appreciation for Jesus, the ultimate counter cultural witness and the ultimate teacher of unselfish love.*

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

- Explain why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as an Advocate
- Identify the Church as the Body of Christ
- Recognize that the members of the Church serve as the hands and feet of Jesus
- Examine the Holy Spirit as the source of gifts and talents
- Identify the Holy Spirit as the Comforter
- Understand why we call on the Saints to intercede for us
- Recognize the relationship between prayer and spiritual growth
- Explore how the Holy Spirit guides us through others, Sacred Tradition, and prayer

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 115,
Holy Spirit,
Comforter and Guide

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 the Father is with us and helps to guide us every day through his gifts to us—God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us to help us to live according to his Father’s will.



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 the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as his everlasting love, to help us on our faith journey and in our daily lives.

Ask: What difference does it make in your life to know that God is always with you to lead you back to him for all eternity?

Discuss the question.

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 keeps you going when things are very difficult? *(This might be a very personal answer such as a trusted friend or family member, the inspiration of a specific hero, the practice of a virtue like courage, or a practice of faith like prayer.)*
- What role does the Holy Spirit have in your life? *(Many of us need to be taught to ask the Holy Spirit to help us. While the Holy Spirit is always with us, we are strengthened by awareness of his presence in our heart and mind.)*

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

Turn to Page 116,
Getting Started

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph.

Read the directions for the Holy Spirit web on page 116 and ask your daughter/son to write in her/his explanations. When your child is finished, invite him/her to share what he/she wrote. If you have any additional ideas, add them to the web.

Turn to Page 117

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.

Remind your son/daughter about God’s ever-present love for us and the role of the Holy Spirit as our Comforter and Guide.

Explain the instructions for the Write activity. Have your child complete the activity in the book, while you complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with each other a time you felt alone and how God filled the empty space of loneliness in your heart.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 118–123. 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 123,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Alternate reading the copy with your child. Ask your daughter/son to identify any times when she/he recognized that the Holy Spirit was acting as an Advocate for her/him.

Turn to Page 124

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

Parents, Consider This: *At the time of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers when they must have felt extremely alone and afraid. They were able to gain comfort, strength, and courage from him. Just like the early followers of Jesus, when we pray to the Holy Spirit, we can grow in strength and wisdom, and be comforted. We will also be more equipped to lead the life of love Jesus wants for us. Your child is asked to pray to the Holy Spirit the next time he or she is faced with a difficult decision or a hard choice. When we pray to the Holy Spirit, we can pray with words from the liturgy of the Church or use our own words. So often the power of the Holy Spirit is unleashed in us when we take the time to be quiet and listen to him. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide and work in your heart. There will be no more impactful teaching for your child than to see the example of prayer and trust in the Holy Spirit that is evident in your life.*

Ask: Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to help you in challenging times? *(Share some examples from your own experiences.)*

Read aloud the People of Faith story on Saint Rafqa.

Say: Saint Rafqa was a holy woman who devoted herself to prayer. On the Feast of the Holy Rosary in 1885, she prayed that she might share Christ's sufferings. She became blind and crippled. Saint Rafqa shows us the power of prayer in both her suffering and in her final prayer that her sight would be restored just before her death.

Point out the Consider activity on this page. Invite your child to think of a favorite movie in which the main character drastically changed, and try to imagine why the change took place in that character. Once you have both come up with a movie and character, share your thoughts. Discuss who supported this character and how that may have helped him/her. Now, share how someone has supported each of you in a difficult time.

Remind your child that amazing things can happen to us when we open our heart and invite the Holy Spirit in, especially when difficult choices or changes have to be made.

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



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