

The Church Is Catholic

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: *The missionary work of the Church might be far from your everyday life or thoughts. That probably is because the image we have of the missionary mandate of the Church is too narrow, limiting our understanding to vowed religious and ordained persons. The work of spreading the Good News is the work of all Christians, though we may have many and varied ways to carry that out. Through our everyday actions and words, people are experiencing God's love and care. We can be conduits of God's love if we root our lives in prayer and continually choose to serve others unselfishly. Some people are given the gifts of an outgoing personality, a talent for speaking to groups, and verbal skills to share God's love in a public way. Some are given the gift to serve quietly in their family and community. Pray for the guidance and grace to know the best way you can love and serve the Lord.*

Children at This Age: *Eighth-graders are often working to form coherent, consistent belief systems of their own. It may appear that they are rejecting the beliefs of parents and other authority figures. In fact, it is more likely that they are seeking to become independent and establish ownership of their own beliefs. Your child may not be ready to state his/her personal religious convictions and beliefs for others but that doesn't mean he/she is without them. Remind your son/daughter that just as Jesus sent out the Apostles to carry out his mission, he is counting on young people today to proclaim the Good News and help to build a world of justice and peace.*

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

- Examine the missionary mandate of the Church
- Explain why every Catholic should discover their personal call to be an evangelist
- Describe the Church as catholic, for she proclaims the fullness of God's truth to everyone, everywhere, throughout time
- Explore how the Church proclaims the teaching of Christ by adapting to the culture while never compromising the truth
- Discuss the Church's three-step process for leading people to Christ through her missionary plan
- Provide examples that show how all member of the Church can share in missionary work

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 183,
The Church Is Catholic

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 having the right words to say isn’t always easy, especially when talking about our Catholic beliefs.

Say: Let’s listen to what happened when Christ sent out his disciples to spread the Gospel message to everyone and to offer the gift of salvation to all people.



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: As members of the Church, we are called to share the Good News of Christ, to invite everyone into the Body of Christ.

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 does the Good News reach every corner of the Earth? (It is in the plan of God’s salvation for the world that through the Church and through our loving actions, the Good News reaches everyone possible.)
- How can you explain your Catholic faith to a friend? (This response could be a personal explanation of what faith means to your child. Or he/she could respond in terms of a description of the Church such as recalling her characteristics and explaining that the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. There are various ways that your child might respond to this question.)

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

Turn to Page 184,
Getting Started

Invite your child to read aloud the opening paragraph.

Read the directions and ask your son/daughter to complete the activity on page 184. When he/she is finished, share two reasons why it is important to grow, and some examples of who can help us. Ask your child to share two of his/her thoughts.

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 185

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have her/him complete the Top Ten List in the book. You can complete this activity on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share your lists with one another.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 186–191. 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 191,
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. Invite him/her to reflect on how he/she is being called to share in the missionary work of the Church.

Turn to Page 192

Read the Our Catholic Life text.

Invite your son/daughter to share the aspect of the Church’s missionary mandate that interests him/her the most.

Ask: How can we share in the missionary Church right now?

Discuss your thoughts.

Have your child silently read about Saint Agnes, the patron Saint of girls and engaged couples.

Parents, Consider This: *Reflect on the Church's mission to spread the Good News. Remember that we can do this in many ways: by what we say, by what we do, and by the ways we treat each other. By loving others and working for causes that bring about justice and peace, we can help God to build his Kingdom. We can better learn how to do this by watching and learning from others who live their faith in ways that inspire us. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a conversation with someone whose faith you admire. Share with you son/daughter something of what you learn about this person. Invite him/her to do the same. You both may learn more about the Catholic faith from watching the person you chose and listening to what they say. Be a model of someone who supports the missionary work of the Church through your prayer and financial support.*

Say: We have learned about the missionary mandate of the Church and the many ways we can directly or indirectly support that mission. We need to remember that living our faith can permeate every aspect of our life.

Point out the Discuss activity. Once you have both thought of your favorite Catholic symbol and season, share one thing you would still like to understand about being Catholic.

Conclude the session by praying the Evening Prayer.

Lord, from the rising of the sun to its setting, your name is worthy of all praise. Let our prayer come like incense before you. May the lifting up of our hands be as an evening sacrifice acceptable to you, Lord our God. Amen.



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