

Honoring 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:

- Recall the covenant that God established with the Israelites
- Examine ways to keep the First Commandment by making God our first priority
- Discover why faith, hope, and love are called the Theological Virtues
- Explain why idolatry keeps us from experiencing true faith, hope, and love
- Describe attitudes and behaviors that are not in accord with the First Commandment
- Examine attitudes and behaviors that are not in accord with the Second Commandment

Parents, Consider This: *Someone suggested that if you want to know what your priorities really are, take a look at your checkbook register and your calendar. Where we spend our time and money reveals a lot about what our priorities are. It is probably true that 95% of your time and resources are devoted to your family. While the Church teaches that the needs of your spouse and children are your first responsibility outside of your relationship with God, she also teaches us that the purpose of Catholic parenting is to teach our children that they have been created to be a gift to the world. The time, talents, and treasures of your family should not be centered on your wants but on the world's needs. Teaching your children that they are not the center of the universe—God is—is a truth that will help them grow to be holy women and men.*

Children at This Age: *At this age, your child is forming the value system that will guide her/his choices. She/he will be largely influenced by the values of her/his peers and our media-driven culture. Your daughter/son may struggle with her/his impulses for what seems gratifying at the moment and what others determine is popular versus what she/he knows is right. It is important to remember that your child's conscience is constantly being formed. Remind your daughter/son often that you expect her/him to make good choices—choices that are a response to God's great love for her/him. It is important to communicate the concept that, for the Christian, God is not a priority in life but the priority.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 211,
Honoring 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. Pray the first few lines of the leader prayer. Have your child read aloud the Psalm verse. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Explain that God should be number one in our lives. He should always be our top priority.

Say: The first three Commandments focus on our relationship with God—loving him with all our heart, soul, and mind. Let’s prepare to hear 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: Living in a true covenant relationship with God requires that everything we do and say is a witness to being loved by God and loving him in return.

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 matters most in life? (*Listen carefully to your child’s answer.*)
- How can you show that God is important to you? (**through our attitudes, words, and actions**)

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

Turn to Page 212,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph.

Direct your child to read the instructions and complete the chart. (*The Commandments are listed on page 373.*) Encourage your son/daughter to share his/her responses; add how you observe the first two Commandments.

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 213 **Have** your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, place a star next to the activities that are self-driven and a check mark next to the activities that are other-driven. Review each other's calendars and discuss what you notice about them (i.e., similarities, differences). Pay special attention to where your priorities lie.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 214–219. 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 219,
In Summary *When you return,* review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read the introductory paragraph. Have your child read aloud each bullet point. Invite him/her to describe how we can recognize a person who holds/follows each belief listed here.

Turn to Page 220 **Direct** your daughter/son to silently read Our Catholic Life.

Parents, Consider This: *Do you think if someone asked your child to describe the most important relationship in your life that he/she would respond, "The most important relationship in my parent's life is his/her relationship with God." Probably not. More likely, your child sees that he/she is the center of most of your time, energy, and even financial resources. That is why it is not only important but necessary for him/her to see you pray, celebrate the Sacraments, read the Scriptures, and make time for other people's needs. Your son /daughter must see in you what it means to respond to God's love with our lives. There should not be any separation between life and faith.*

Discuss the questions at the beginning of the Our Catholic Life text.

Ask: What do you hear God telling you about your relationships?
How will you respond?

Invite your child to silently reflect on her/his answers.

Read the story of Saint Blaise, and discuss with your child the courage it took for this Saint to keep his faith even in the face of death.

Direct your child to complete the List activity. You can do the activity as well on a separate piece of paper. Share with one another some ideas on how you could help each other do what you think is necessary to strengthen your relationship with God.

Conclude the session by praying the Hail, Holy Queen on Page 383.



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