

Honoring the Family

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: *Do you ever long for the days when your child was a toddler who thought you had all the answers and that your hugs and kisses would heal every hurt? When you look at your daughter or son, these days you see a person who often thinks you know very little and may even turn away from signs of affection. These are the signs of the journey of building an identity. Your child has reached a stage of life in which she/he will likely be feeling some conflict with you in her/his search for independence. The energy and patience you will need as your child begins to think for herself/himself can only come from the Holy Spirit. Pray for your child and yourself, as you navigate these challenging waters, always remembering that the family is the school of love.*

Children at This Age: *Adults can sometimes appear to young people to know very little, because the music and elements of popular culture that are so important to young teens are often less familiar to adults. At the same time, your child is dealing with the knowledge that you are human and sometimes wrong. He/she may use this insight to justify following his/her own decisions over your instructions. Your son/daughter can be torn between the desire to be protected by you and the desire to be independent. In the midst of these competing desires, you stand as the constant, loving presence of God.*

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

- Express what it means to follow the Fourth Commandment
- Explore what it means to honor one's parents
- Identify the lessons we can learn and apply from the Holy Family
- Examine the components necessary for a strong faith-filled family
- Explain the importance of a well-formed conscience
- Discuss the vital relationship between the family and the Church

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 223,
Honoring the Family

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 from our families, we learn about God and what it means to love him and be a sign of his love to others.

Say: This week’s session tells us that we are called by God to always love and honor our parents. Let’s begin by listening for what God has to say to us in 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: We are both going to get the chance this week to think about the reason we are a family. I hope this will help us both grow in our understanding of each other and what God wants for and from our family.

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

Invite your child to respond to the questions listed below:

- What are our responsibilities in this family? (*Both of you should share your thoughts.*)
- Why did God design the human race so that we would be born into a family? (*We need a community that supports us and helps us to learn and grow.*)

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

Turn to Page 224,
Getting Started

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Say: Family is the first place where we learn to live in relationship with others, which sets a pattern for the way we interact outside of the family.

Invite your child to complete the chart. When he/she is finished, observe how many times the references indicate things done for him/her and how many indicate what she/he does for others. Discuss your observations with your child.

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 225

Direct your child to complete the activity on page 225. Invite him/her to share who he/she chose as a person of influence and why. Share with your child about a family member who has served as a role model and/or influenced you.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 226–231. 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 231,
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.

Remind your son/daughter that we sometimes consider others, whom we share bonds of love with, our family members even if we are not blood relatives.

Turn to Page 232

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

Parents, Consider This: *Have you ever been offended or hurt by something that someone did or said only to find out later that the person never intended to hurt you? Unfortunately, it was that person's lack of ability to communicate or a misunderstanding on your part that caused the rupture in your relationship. Learning how to communicate with one another and how to forgive are keys to a happy life. Especially at this age, your child is learning from your relationships and interactions with your spouse, your extended family, and your friends. Try to look at yourself through your child's eyes and be attentive to what your relationships are teaching him/her. It is a humbling thought to realize that how your son/daughter understands God's love begins in the way you allow his love to flow through you.*

Point out the photo. Invite your child to describe the relationship that she/he sees being portrayed.

Read together the story of Saint Helena. Discuss why she was so interested in finding the places that were important in the life of Jesus.

Complete the Plan exercise independently. When finished, share your answers with each other. Both of you should choose one thing from your plan and really commit to it for the next week. When you gather for your next session, begin by asking if your daughter/son has noticed the changes you were working toward. Comment on what you have noticed about her/his actions.

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.