

The Dignity of All

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:

- Examine why society functions best when each person respects everyone else
- Discuss the fundamental rights of persons and how to achieve prosperity, peace, and security for everyone
- Examine why the Church must speak out about social and economic matters
- Discuss how the New Commandment is meant to be followed by organizations and nations
- Explain how solidarity compels us to work for the rights of others
- Describe how we can further justice, love, and peace through our own actions
- Recognize that all sins are social in that they affect society

Parents, Consider This: *Many popular television shows about family life portray parents in an unrealistic and/or negative way. The children are often “wiser” and more worldly than the parents, and they are often shown teaching the parents how to navigate through the modern world. Watching these programs can produce or encourage an attitude that is disrespectful toward adults. Forming your child to respect himself/herself and others begins in your expectation that he/she respect you. When you make your home a place where each member is treated with respect and kindness, you are building the foundation for your child to stand against prejudice, bullying, and intolerance.*

Children at This Age: *You may be confused that your child can be so self-centered that she/he is angry and pouting because you will not take her/him to a concert in another state, while at the same time she/he wants to volunteer for a week’s work in an impoverished part of the country. At this age, while your child is growing in social consciousness and the capacity for empathy toward others, she/he is also growing in understanding that she/he is not the center of the universe. Encouraging your daughter/son to recognize and be moved to action by the needs of others will help her/him keep Christ in the center of the universe. Discussing news stories in light of our Catholic beliefs will help your child to be more attuned to the needs of the world.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 235,
The Dignity of All

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 when we see each other as God’s work of art, we treat each other with love and dignity.

Say: Jesus is the core of how we live and show our faith. Let’s listen to God’s Word about living as a community of one heart and mind, in Christ.



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: Because God created each person, we all possess equal human dignity. Therefore, we should work for the common good so that all people have what they need.

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 are we supposed to take care of each other? (*make a conscious effort to be aware of the needs of others around us and far from us, and respond with actions that are based upon their needs*)
- What can we do to show others the dignity they are due? (*Our words and actions should reflect what we believe about their sacredness as a creation of God.*)

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

Turn to Page 236,
Getting Started

Read aloud the opening paragraph.

Have your child read the directions for the Dignity and Respect chart. Ask him/her to fill in any examples he/she can come up with. Discuss what he/she wrote and share any examples you might be able to add.

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 237 **Direct** your child to answer the questions for the activity in the book while you complete it on a separate piece of paper. Share your answers with each other.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 238–243. 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 243,
In Summary *When you return,* review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read the opening sentence and each of the three summary points. Discuss with your child how the Church works to make sure that public and political authority acts within the framework of truth, justice, freedom, and solidarity.

Turn to Page 244 **Direct** your daughter/son to silently read Our Catholic Life.

Parents, Consider This: *If you go to the home page of the Catholic Relief Services website and observe the rolling banner, in a matter of seconds, you will see the physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds of the world being tended to by our Catholic Church. As Catholics we serve the needs of others and work for the justice of all in the universal church, in our parish communities, and even in our homes. While a family supports and nurtures the lives of its members, one of the most significant purposes of the family is to help each member discover the gift he/she is to be for the world. We are created for each other. It may be time to take a serious look at the life of your family and ask yourself: Can I do a better job of teaching this truth?*

Use your tablet or laptop to research one of the three organizations listed in the Our Catholic Life section; share with your child what impressed you about the work of this group. Invite your daughter/son to share what interests her/him. If you do not have access to a computer at home, go to your local library and use one of theirs.

Point out the brief story on Saint John Chrysostom, an early Church father who wrote about taking care of others.

Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.

Discuss Saint John's quote and his emphasis on the needs of the poor. Could that statement apply to the many "extras" we have in our homes as well as our churches?

Review together the suggestions in the Identify activity for responding to our Catholic Social Teaching. Discuss one thing your family **will do** this week to serve the needs of others.

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.