

Faithful Living

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 of the most significant decisions anyone makes is the decision about a life vocation. Ultimately, we will choose one of the following: the single life, vowed religious, ordained ministry, or marriage. This chapter focuses on the Sacraments at the Service of Communion, which includes Marriage and Holy Orders. These choices might seem a distant reality for your child. But how others live out these choices will affect his/her perceptions of marriage and the ordained ministry. Children learn what these choices mean by observing family, friends, neighbors, and the people they know from your parish. Hopefully, your child will have many rich experiences of people around him/her who reflect God's love in their marriage or service as a priest. Give your child opportunities to have personal contact with a priest and faithful happy married couples. Discuss with him/her how important these life commitments are. Pray for your son/daughter that good role models will come into his/her life to inspire and guide him/her. Good role models can help your child form an understanding of personal gifts and charisms and identify how these things can be used for good in his/her chosen vocation.*

Children at This Age: *Truthfulness and reliability are important characteristics to nurture and affirm in anyone, but certainly in younger adolescents. If they have personally experienced being let down by someone they thought they could trust, it may lead to cynicism. Children at this age need to see that, while sometimes people fall short of our expectations and fail us, personal integrity also exists. Eighth-graders may not have a wide experience of different communities, but they may be highly influenced by the leaders in your particular parish. Hold up the example of faithful couples and priests that you know. Point out specific ways you witness their character and integrity. Thank and affirm them for the good ways they affect and influence your family and community.*

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

- Explore marriage as a covenant of fidelity
- Examine how the love of a married man and woman reflects Christ's love for his Church
- Compare and contrast the vows of Holy Matrimony and of Holy Orders
- Explain how priests act *in persona Christi* and *in persona ecclesiae*
- Relate the truths held by the Sixth and Ninth Commandments to the Sacrament of Matrimony
- Explain why all people are called to practice chastity and modesty

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 263,
Faithful Living

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 we should pray for the courage and the strength to be faithful to God, in our words and actions.

Say: The Sacraments strengthen us to be faithful to our commitments and our relationships. Let’s listen to an example from Scripture about what it means to live faithfully.



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.

Ask: How do you respond to God’s promise to be faithful to you?

Discuss this question together.

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 you an example of a faithful person? (*Being faithful might seem like second nature to some. Notice faithfulness in others and consider how someone might evaluate your faithfulness.*)
- What does it mean to be faithful to God, to yourself, and to others? (*Consider the attributes that lead to being faithful. Recall what practices and habits you have cultivated to be a faithful person.*)

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

Turn to Page 264,
Getting Started

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions and complete the chart on page 264. When he/she is finished, share some things you know about the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders. Ask your child to share some of the information he/she wrote down.

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 265

Have your child read aloud the instructions for this page. 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, share with each other about some promises you have made and how you have kept them. Discuss together the importance of keeping promises.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 266–271. 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 271,
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. See if you can each identify some ways that the virtues of modesty and chastity can help all people.

Turn to Page 272

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

Parents, Consider This: Faithfulness means honoring our commitments to ourselves, being faithful to God, and being faithful to others. It is important that we remain true and loyal in all of our relationships, but as Catholics, our faithfulness to God should be one of the most important aspects of our life. Being true to ourselves and consistent in living what we believe is the path to peace of mind and heart. Being faithful in our relationships with others by honoring our friendships and family relationships leads to rich and meaningful connections with others. Sometimes it is hard to maintain a sense of balance in life—to not overcommit ourselves and get worn out or under committed and not be engaged in life. This is a great time to examine the balance in your own life, and help your child to cultivate faithfulness to his/her commitments to God, himself/herself, and others.

Discuss the commitments you both can make to God, to yourself, and to others this week. *(Make sure what you suggest is realistic and achievable. Affirm the ways you see these commitments already lived out.)*

Say: Saint Benedict the Black was a freed slave who became a Franciscan lay brother and a cook at a convent. He lived out his faithfulness to God as a friar and leader in his community.

Invite your child to read aloud the brief People of Faiths story.

Point out the Identify activity. Work independently to answer the questions. Once you both have thought about promises you have made and the responsibilities that come with them, discuss how you are doing in keeping them.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Contrition on Page 386.



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