

In God's Image

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:

- Recognize that we are made to be in relationship with God
- Identify ways humans are different from the rest of the created world
- Examine Jesus' relationship with God the Father and apply it to our own lives
- Discuss the covenant, or sacred promise, made between God and humans
- Recognize God's faithfulness to humans even when we sin
- Discover how God's law guides us to live in his image and follow the covenant
- Understand that natural and revealed law guide us in faithful living

Parents, Consider This: *Relationships are complicated. We spend most of our lives as adolescents and adults trying to negotiate the intricacies of them. As your child expands his/her relationships and social responsibilities, he/she is beginning to grapple with the expectations of others, including the sometimes-conflicting expectations of family members and peers. We all want to believe in a God who is bigger and more in control than we are, yet we also seek a God who is an intimate, understanding, and very personal companion. One of the greatest things you can communicate to your child is that he or she is made in God's image and likeness. When she/he begins to see her/himself and others as precious children of God rather than objects to be used, your child will grow greatly in her/his sense of self-worth and in the ability to love generously.*

Children at This Age: *Your child may still understand God's law as a list of "dos and don'ts," rather than an invitation to relationship. Your son/daughter may be more open to God's law when he/she understands God's great love and how the law of God helps us each to be the person we were meant to be.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 51,
In God's Image

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."

Say: Because God wanted to have a relationship with us based on our ability to choose, he made us different from the rest of creation. Let's listen to what the Bible says about how God created man in his image and likeness.



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: The purpose of our life is to grow in total union with God so that we will experience that union for all of eternity.

Ask: Do you think most people think about that every day?

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 does it mean to be created in God's image? (*Because God is perfectly good, we too are good. We were given the gift to be like God in that we have free will and a soul.*)
- How can we know the right way to live? (*With a soul, reason, and free will, human beings can set their priority and direction in life toward friendship with God.*)

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

Turn to Page 52,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

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.

Skip the activity if you had a good conversation on the *Have you ever thought...* questions. If you did not cover them in depth, spend a few minutes completing the chart together.

Turn to Page 53

Ask your child to complete the activity on commitments in the book. You can write your answers on a separate piece of paper, changing *school* to *work*. When you both are finished, encourage your child to share three or four of his/her commitments (the ones you are most curious about); then, invite your child to ask you about three or four of your commitments that she/he is most curious about.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 54–59. 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 59,
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.

Turn to Page 60

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

Parents, Consider This: *As adults we understand the need for rules and are often resentful when others do not live by them. It is sometimes difficult to broaden our understanding of rules as beyond the laws we necessarily must obey. Have you ever considered that the law is the minimum of what love requires? To boast that I am lawful is to simply say I have done the minimum. In the upcoming exercise, you are going to ask your child to go beyond minimalistic thinking and to imagine all that love would have us do if we lived the fullness of God's invitation to relationship in the Ten Commandments.*

Say: While the Commandments set the boundaries by telling us everything that is outside of them is sinful, it is important to understand all that they are asking us to be. Each of us will take a piece of paper and write down the Ten Commandments (see page 373), leaving a number of lines in-between each one. In those spaces, we will think about all that the Commandment is telling us to do and be. For example, "Do not kill," means that we are to respect all life. How do we do that individually and as a family?

Work independently on the activity and then share your answers.

Read the People of Faith box and discuss how Saint Marcella lived a life beyond the minimum of what God's law would ask.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Faith on Page 385.



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