

Examples For 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: *You may have noticed how your child and his/her friends are in search of role models. All too often they find them in the wrong places—such as popular actors, athletes, and musicians who may not always be good examples. Sometimes children this age are attracted to rebellious personalities. Your child needs to be taught that there is a difference between resistance and rebellion. Rebellion is often a response to the pursuit of one's own pleasures and ego, while positive resistance is a response to injustice. The Saints provide us with examples of both.*

Children at This Age: *Your son/daughter may sometimes have difficulty relating to the Saints unless you help him/her to understand that these were real people who also struggled at times with doing what was right. Both Saint Augustine and Saint Francis lived a part of their lives in the pursuit of ego and pleasure. After encountering Jesus they became men who stood for the rights of the poor and the outcast. They moved from rebellion to resistance. Many people have been moved to deeper lives of holiness through reading the stories of the Saints. Your home should have at least one book that tells the stories of the most known Saints. It might also be a good practice to have your child research a lesser-known Saint to share once a month with the rest of the family.*

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

- Recognize that Mary lived a life of faithful obedience to God
- Identify Mary's Assumption as the Church's teaching that, at the end of her life, Mary (body and soul) was "taken up" (assumed) into Heaven
- Explore the many feast days and popular devotions that honor Mary
- Recognize that Saints are role models for us
- Identify canonization as the process of becoming officially recognized as a Saint in the Church

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 303,
Examples For 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.”

Say: Explain that in this session, you will look to the Saints as ordinary people who made an effort to “seek the face of God” every day of their lives.



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 Saints took to heart the words of the Beatitudes as an invitation to grow into deeper love with God through Jesus.

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 blessed? *(It means that God is present with us in those times when we live with our eyes focused on him and not what the world thinks is important.)*
- How do the Saints show us faithful living? *(They were people who loved Jesus and his teachings and spent their days trying to live as he taught.)*

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

Turn to Page 304,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph. Ask your child to complete the chart. Encourage him/her to find some of the feasts on the Internet.

Preview the Catholic Faith Words at the top of the page. Ask your child what he/she thinks the words mean. The definitions can be found in the glossary at the end of the Student Book.

Turn to Page 305

Choose one Saint from all of the People of Faith in your book. Together, read additional information about the life of this Saint from credible Internet sources. Then work with your child to list some questions you would ask him or her about the categories listed on the page.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 294–299. 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 311,
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 312

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

Parents, Consider This: *Your child is reading about the call to holiness that we receive at our Baptism. This is another way of saying that God intends for all of us to be Saints. For Christians, it is the first thing we should think about in the morning and the way we begin to examine our conscience at night. How far have we travelled away from that way of thinking? In our world it is possible that we can get through an entire day, maybe even a week, without paying attention to our relationship with God. God doesn't expect perfection from us, but he does want progress. Saint Catherine of Siena said, "It's heaven all the way to heaven, and it's hell all the way to hell!" Talk with your child about ways that the both of you can be more intentional about becoming Saints.*

Read the story of Blessed Mariam and talk about the way in which she lived the Beatitudes.

Replace the Identify activity by each of you writing on a piece of paper five sentences you would like people to be able to say about you. Do they reflect your eternal goals? Share them with each other and discuss how you could use your time, talent, and treasure to make those statements true about your life.

Conclude the session by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit on Page 384.



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