

# Revelation and Faith

## 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:

- Discover how the message of Jesus' saving action was first communicated through the Apostles and then the Gospels
- Identify how the Church continues to proclaim the Good News of salvation
- Recognize that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition together are sources of God's Divine Revelation
- Identify faith as a gift from God and a personal response to that gift
- Explore how the Church supports the faith of her members
- Understand that Sacred Tradition is safeguarded by the Church and interpreted by the Magisterium
- Discuss how faith made a difference in the lives of people in Sacred Scripture
- Examine how the three Theological Virtues help us to believe in God, trust in his plan, and love him as he loves us

**Parents, Consider This:** *Trust is the most basic and most necessary foundation for human development. Discerning who to trust was probably one of the most challenging and perhaps hurtful parts of your own journey to adulthood. Teaching your child that he/she can and should trust God and his plan is critical to his/her faith development. The New Testament Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition of the Church may seem so distant to your son or daughter that he/she questions the need to trust these as sources of God's Revelation any more than other things, such as personal feelings or other's beliefs. Sharing your own belief in God's Revelation in Scripture and the teaching of the Church helps your child trust them because she/he trusts you.*

**Children at This Age:** *Younger adolescents in general tend to think in extreme terms—either you have faith or you don't. The concept that faith and doubt can coexist in the same person is a reality your child may not yet understand. Because of this mindset, she/he may tend to form judgments about other people's belief systems—for example, "if you don't see things my way, you are wrong." Helping your child relate and connect the basic beliefs of Scripture and doctrine to her/his own life increases the appreciation and understanding of it. It might also help your child to become less judgmental.*

## PART 1: Invite

**Turn to Page 63,**  
Revelation and Faith

**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 the Lord, who is always present with us, will increase our faith and guide us as we learn how to best share his love with others.

**Say:** Let’s listen to God’s Word and learn about the connection between faith and works.



**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:** Faith is a gift from God but it is also our choice to accept God’s invitation to share in his life.

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 truly live our faith? (*We need to worship and give thanks to God through prayer and the Sacraments, and we need to give glory to God by the way we live our lives, serving others.*)
- How does faith make a difference in our lives? (*Everything we think and do is the consequence of our relationship with God. At Mass we hear the words: “In him, with him, and through him.” There is nothing for us outside of God.*)

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

**Turn to Page 64,**  
Getting Started

**Ask** your child to read aloud the first paragraph.

**Have** him/her write one person's name in each section of the chart, and you do the same. (Old Testament figures might include Abraham, Moses, David, Ruth, or Noah. New Testament figures might include Peter, Mary Magdalene, John the Baptist, Elizabeth, or Thomas.)

**Discuss** how that person demonstrated his or her faith.

**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 65**

**Read** aloud the instruction for the activity. Ask your child to list five examples on the lines in the book. You write down five examples on a separate piece of paper. When both of you are finished, compare your lists. Ask your child to add any of your ideas that were different from his/hers to the list in the book.

## PART 2: Discover

**Direct** your child to independently complete pages 66–71. 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 71,**  
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 72**

**Read** aloud the Our Catholic Life text to your child. Invite her/him to use the family tablet or a smart phone to research catholiccharitiesusa.org. Look at the site together and get an idea of the scope of the Church's witness through service around the world.

**Focus** on the People of Faith story. Ask your child to silently read about Saint Thomas.

**Parents, Consider This:** *When we are experiencing a lot of stress and/or tension in our lives, someone usually points out to us that our life is out of balance. Whether it is a life coach, a therapist, or a good friend, most likely they all will offer the same advice: The key to a peaceful life is balance. Balance must exist as well between our prayer life and a life of action. Prayer and action are two sides of the same coin. Prayer without loving service contradicts Jesus' command to love God and our neighbor. Works of charity that do not spring from a prayerful heart can become a means of earning the praise of others or stem from your own need to be seen as generous or good. Balance your family life by making prayer and service common practices in your home.*

**Discuss** how Thomas' faith directed his actions. Share with each other what you think leads some people to be willing to die for their faith.

**Have** your child read aloud the directions for the Interview activity. Each of you think of one Saint (make sure they are different), and write three questions to that Saint. Share your questions with one another.

**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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).