

The Trinity Made Known

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:

- Retell the story of the Transfiguration and what it revealed to the disciples about Jesus
- Explain what the Transfiguration revealed about the Trinity
- Relate the role of the Old Testament prophets to Jesus
- Identify that the Church helps us see and appreciate the glory of God
- Explain the significance of Pentecost
- Explore the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church today
- Recognize that grace is the free, loving gift of God's own life
- Explore how our prayer reflects the way we understand and know God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Parents, Consider This: *The Holy Trinity is such a foundational and basic tenant of our faith, we can sometimes take the awesomeness of it for granted. We might even dismiss the Trinity as a teaching of our faith that is just too incomprehensible to hold front and center in our lives or to integrate fully into our prayer life. Yet it remains true that God has created a way to be with us so we are never alone. Sometimes, it is only when we are moved by the amazing experience of holding a new baby or when we witness a spectacular glory of nature that we stop and praise God the Father who is Creator of all. Sometimes, it is only in the depth of pain that we thank God for sending Jesus, and recognize that God understands our every high and low human experience. It isn't often that we stop and just say in praise, "You are an amazing God. You give us the presence of your Holy Spirit to be with us every step of the way on our journey of life. Thank you." Maybe we tend to take this for granted because we can barely take in the depth of God's love for each of us. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity not only reveal themselves individually in our lives, but also reveal each other by how they interact. It's important that you take the time to pause, ponder, and pray for the ability to communicate this marvelous plan of God as you share this chapter with your child. An analogy—such as a flame with its qualities of both heat and light, each a distinct part of one entity—might be a helpful way to share this mystery we cannot fully explain.*

Children at This Age: *Not yet fully aware of or confident in their own identity, young people at this age often define themselves by their various relationships. They may perceive these different identities and struggle to integrate them into the person they understand themselves to be. They may feel they are one person at home, another at school, yet another in social settings. The real question they are often asking themselves is, "Who am I really?" Children this age are also developing the understanding that the rights and feelings of others are equal to their own. The spiritual development you are supporting in your child by working on this chapter together will assist him/her in that development. Create opportunities to help your son/daughter to engage with other groups in ways that increase his/her ability to understand others and have empathy for them. Give your child opportunities to live his/her faith by serving another in need. Serving together is a great way to deepen your parent/child bond and your faith.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 91,
The Trinity Made Known

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 Holy Spirit guides us in knowing who God is.

Say: We give praise and glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In today’s Scripture passage, Jesus both rejoices in the Holy Spirit and gives praise to God the Father.



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: Jesus helped the disciples understand that he is the beloved Son of God. He revealed the Blessed Trinity to us.

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 does Jesus reveal God the Father to us? *(In taking human form, Jesus was able to communicate to us in ways we might better understand God as Father to us.)*
- What does God’s being the Holy Trinity teach us about him? *(While full understanding of the Trinity is beyond explanation, it gives us a glimpse of the completeness and relational nature of God and the depth of God’s love for us.)*

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

Turn to Page 92,
Getting Started

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.

Read aloud the paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions and complete the chart on page 92. Write down a couple answers of your own. (Responses may include the following places or situations: at church, when praying, when helping others.) When you both finish, share two things you know about ways that we encounter Jesus. Ask your child to share two of his/her answers.

Turn to Page 93

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have him/her complete the Describe activity in the book. You can complete this activity on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with each other some of the relationships that you identified in each category. How did a relationship you have experienced in the past move from acquaintance to primary?

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 94–99. 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 99,
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 100

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

Parents, Consider This: *Although we call upon all three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity during Mass, at other times, we may pray in a way that calls upon one specific Person of the Trinity. Consider how you, and perhaps your child, can have an enriched sense of prayer through dialogue with each Person in the Trinity. Remind your son/daughter that we can call upon God the Father when we are in need or when we seek comfort and protection. We can call upon the God the Son as one who understands our human condition and its frailties and challenges as well as what holds meaning to us, such as love of family and friendship. The Holy Spirit can be called upon often and in every situation to guide and comfort us. The Holy Spirit is a source of strength beyond what we can summon within our own self. Truly, we are blessed that our Trinitarian God is watching out for us and is with us every step of our human journey.*

Ask: When did you last pray to a specific Person of the Trinity? (*Share some examples of how and when you have done this.*)

Say: Now let's read about Saint Lucy, an early martyr for the faith and one of the seven women mentioned by name during Mass.

Read aloud People of Faith.

Say: Saint Lucy died filled with the Holy Spirit and praising the one true God. She has inspired Christians for many centuries and continues to inspire us even today. Because her heart was set on God, she can teach us how to love God above all things.

Point out the Identify activity. Explain that you are both going to do this activity and then talk about it. Your child can write his/her answers in the book. You can write yours on a separate piece of paper. Once you have both written down some answers, share what you feel you most need from God and what you believe God is calling you to do in your life at this time. Invite your child to share his/her answers as well.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Hope on Page 387.



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