

We Are Christ's People

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: *In Chapter 5 of **Alive in Christ**, you and your daughter/son will consider how each of us, as a Church member, has a vital role to play in spreading the Gospel. The foundation of this mission is our personal relationship with God. In prayer, participating in worship, and in serving others, we move deeper into our understanding of the gift of our life and the offering it can be to God and the Church. Allow the time you spend together working on this chapter to be a renewal of your baptismal vows. Spend some time in prayer, thinking about your child's Baptism and the promises you made for him/her. Remember, your child is not just the Church of tomorrow. He/she is a very real part of the Church today. Guide your son/daughter to see how he/she can be a vital part of the mission of the Church in a unique way. And above all, know your child is watching you and learning from you what the Christian life is and how it is a witness today to your family, your community, and the world.*

Children at This Age: *Adolescents of this age sometimes struggle with conflicting desires to explore the world and stay within the safe confines of the familiar and comfortable. They need to have their boundaries expanded, but at an incremental and non-threatening pace. Responsible adults, especially parents, have to maintain a delicate balance with eighth-graders to set appropriate boundaries and yet respect them when they show that they can make appropriate individual choices. It may be helpful at this time to include your son/daughter in more of the decisions that affect his/her life. When young people interact with just one core group, like a small group of friends, it can lead to a narrow sense of what is important and limited ways of coping with tough times. Encourage your child to branch out to include new experiences and groups of friends.*

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

- Explain how the Church can help our faith to grow
- Recall that God invites everyone to be part of his family, the Church
- Discuss the relationship between Christ and his Church
- Recognize that the Church exists to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Discover that God uses each member's gifts and talents in the Church
- Discuss the relationship between the family, the domestic Church, and the People of God
- Explore how Jesus served as Priest, Prophet, and King
- Explain that through Baptism we are united with Christ and his mission

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 103,
We Are Christ's People

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 all we do and all we say is done in the name of Christ Jesus.

Say: We are called to be God's People. We are Christ's Church because he promised to be with us always. Let's listen to God's Word and hear how Jesus describes who he is.



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: All the Church's members have an important role in spreading God's message.

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 is Jesus the cornerstone of the Church? (This question invites us to think of Jesus as the foundation of the Church. Imagine all the values Jesus held and how he still unites all Christians today.)
- What does it mean to belong to the Church? (This is a personal question. Belonging to the Church may mean different things to different people; some of the important benefits are common prayer and ritual, a community of friends, and a common mission and values.)

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

Turn to Page 104,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Have your child read the directions and complete the web on page 104. When he/she is finished, share about a group to which you belong and what that group means to you? Ask your child to share a couple of the groups to which he/she belongs and what they mean to him/her.

Turn to Page 105

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.

Instruct your child to read aloud the directions for this page. Work together to complete the activity in the book. While you are working, talk about the people or groups who support you or give you a sense of belonging. Did you both come up with any of the same people or groups?

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 106–111. 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 111,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read the introductory paragraph and ask your child to read the bullet points. Help your child recognize some of the ways that she/he can share in Christ’s mission as priest, prophet, and king. (caring for siblings, standing up for another person, willingly engaging in acts of service)

Turn to Page 112

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

Parents, Consider This: *The Our Catholic Life section of this chapter invites personal reflection on how we participate in the mission of Jesus as priest, prophet and king. Though we may be familiar with these terms and hear them at every Baptism, they may not be something we have taken to heart. Your child is asked to consider how his/her actions establish Christ's love and compassion in the Church and in the world. It may seem overwhelming to your child, and to you, to think of this much responsibility! It may help to talk with your family about how we can be "priest" by dedicating our simple acts of service and care as an offering to God. That does not change the "what" about our lives but it may change the "why." It can make the tasks and duties of our life an opportunity to love and praise God. To be a prophet is perhaps even more daunting. Yet you have probably heard the saying attributed to Saint Francis, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words when necessary." While not necessarily a direct quote from Francis, the Franciscan Rule of 1221 invited the brothers to preach by their deeds. Good advice for all of us. Most likely, each of us could think of someone in our lives who lived (or lives) the Gospel, not by what they said, but more by how they lived a life of love. Our role as king may seem the biggest stretch of all. Not many of us feel like kings, but we are all leaders in some way. At various times in our lives, someone may be watching us and learning from us. The question is—are you living as a witness to Christianity? This Sunday as you worship with your family, ask God to show you how you and your family can serve and lead others, as priest, prophet, and king.*

Point out the People of Faith box. Ask your child to read aloud the text on Saint Angela Merici.

Say: Saint Angela Merici is a great example of someone who served and led others by acting as priest, prophet, and king. She improved the social conditions of her time by educating young women, first in her home, and later through the many schools opened by the Ursulines.

Review the Identify activity with your child. Both of you should think about what topic you would base your imagined interview on, and then write your headline and opening sentence. Share what you came up with.

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.