

God's Gift

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 61,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify human beings as made in God's own image
- Understand the special role humans have in all of God's creation
- Appreciate Jesus as God's greatest gift, the Son of God who became man
- Recognize that Jesus was always faithful to God the Father

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *You are about to help your child understand that he or she is a unique creation of God, a gift to the world. Think of the many ways your child has been a gift to your family. How often do you tell your child that you are grateful to God for the gift of his/her life? Doing so will help him/her grow in the value of all life as a gift from God.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This helps you understand how your child processes and learns chapter concepts at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- For the Fruit of This Creation
- God Is A Part of My Life

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 53,
God's Gifts

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God created everything that we see and hear, especially each of us.

Say: Now, let's hear what people have said about what God has done for us.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: We learn from stories when people tell us what happened before we were born. We share the stories that we hear from other people as we listen to their story, too.

Share one of your favorite stories about a relative your child knows.

Ask: What did you learn about _____ through that story?

Have your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else they might wonder about God's life and love and how he shares them with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 54,
Praise and Thanks

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child find the word **psalms** and then move to the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to read the definition there.

Read the rest of the page and discuss why David was grateful that people had been made in God's image.



Do the gold-star activity.

Together **find** the other Catholic Faith Word on the page and read the definition.

Turn to Page 55,
In God's Image

Read the paragraph and tell your child you can guess what things in God's creation he or she loves the most. Guess two or three things. (You may want to guess wrong once or twice.)



Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box or play the song "How Awesome is your Name" from the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 11.

- Have your child recall a time when they took care of something in God's creation.

Turn to Page 56,
The Son of God

Ask your child to tell you what they already know about Jesus. Now ask, "Why is Jesus God's greatest gift?" (He came to show us God's love and to save us from sin. Because of Jesus we can live forever with God in Heaven.)

Read the first two paragraphs then discuss how Jesus is different from humans.

Explain that Jesus lived a very long time ago and that he was human just like us, except for one thing: Jesus never committed sin.

Have your child read the last paragraph.

- Reinforce that Jesus is the Son of God. He is God's greatest gift to us, and he is both human and divine.
- Discuss the question at the end of the text. (Play with friends, do chores, take walks)

Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Words box and name the two highlighted words. Review the definitions and talk about where they may have heard these words before.

Turn to Page 57,
Alike but Different

Have your child read aloud the two paragraphs.

Ask how Jesus is different from other humans. (He is God's Son. He is God. He is divine.)

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Use red, blue, green, and yellow crayons to complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: One of the unique things about our planet is that the harmony, which God intended for the created world, results from the diversity of beings and from their relationships. Now is a good time to help your child understand that diversity in our world is good and made possible by God. Just as all flowers are not the same, all people are different, but all are beautiful. Remind her/him that you expect respectful words and actions towards others because it is our grateful response to God's creation.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 58,
Our Catholic Life

Discuss the question, "How do people use what God has created?"

Summarize the introductory paragraph.

Remind your child that everything is made by God. Even though we may make something ourselves, we are using God's creation as the source.



Follow the instructions in the gold-star activity to review and complete the chart.

Parents, Consider This: During the week take every opportunity as you travel in the car or at the sports field to call attention to God's creation. You may be surprised that helping your child to see all the earth as God's gift may help you to see with new eyes.

Turn to Page 59,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Mary.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can honor Mary.

Activity

Discuss the first part of the Live Your Faith activity.

- Ask your child to complete the first part of the activity.
- Have your child write the name of one person or thing that they take care of.

Turn to Page 61,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321) during your night prayer this week.



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

God's Promise

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 71,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Appreciate that God gives all people the ability to choose
- Recognize Original Sin as the first sin committed by Adam and Eve
- Begin to understand our need for a Savior
- Recognize Jesus as our Savior because he led people who were lost through sin back to God
- Identify Jesus as the Good Shepherd

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *In this lesson you will help your child understand God's forgiving love. It is important that he/she learns that while God's love is always merciful, human beings must accept the consequences that are the result of unloving choices. You model that in your family when you set boundaries and limits for your child and carry out the consequences with consistency and care.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Jesus, Shepherd
- The King of Love, My Shepherd Is

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 63,
God's Promise

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Tell your child that today he/she will hear Jesus tell about turning to his Father.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus spoke to the people that were around him and told them how to live. Jesus speaks to us; we only need to listen and to follow.

Tell your child a way that you listen for God's voice. (You read the Bible. You ask for help through prayer. You receive Eucharist at Mass.)

Have your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else they might wonder about God's love even when we make bad choices.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 64,
Free to Choose

Explain that the first book of the Bible tells many stories that teach us God's truth. One of the stories is about a choice made by the first humans.



Proclaim the first four paragraphs of God's Word in the Parchment Paper box.

- Ask your child what God told the first humans not to do. (Do not eat from one of the trees.)

Turn to Page 65

Tell your child to read the final paragraph.

Ask your child what happened to Adam and Eve when they chose to disobey God? (They had to accept the consequences of their actions. They had to leave the Garden where there was no sadness, suffering, or dying.)

Explain that original means first. Since the first humans committed the first sin, that sin is called **Original Sin**. Point to the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box and read the definition together.

Activity

Read the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Help your child brainstorm ideas of ways that they can obey God at home and at school.

Parents, Consider This: On the next page you will help your child discover that God's love is so great that even though we sinned he sent us his only Son, Jesus. Because of the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, we can now grow into union with God here on earth and experience the fullness of that union in heaven. Making the Sign of the Cross on your child's head as you tuck them into bed can help him/her remember this gift of our Savior, Jesus.

Turn to Page 66,
God Sends a Savior

Ask your child, what are some names for Jesus? (King, Light of the World, Mary's Son)

Read the two paragraphs on this page.

Ask your child to underline why Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world.

Have your child place his/her finger on the word Savior in the Catholic Faith Words box. Read the Catholic Faith Word definition. Discuss how Jesus helped people understand he was the Savior.

Turn to Page 67,
Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Explain that the chief work of shepherds is to find food and water for their flock and to keep them safe.

Tell your child to read the first paragraph.



Do the gold-star activity.



Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box.

Ask: What is happening in this picture? (Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is leading his flock, his People.)

Activity

Read the directions for and help your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: The next page will help your child understand the relationship between actions and consequences. As you do the gold-star activity, prompt your child with real situations from your home life that compare to the examples given. Teaching your child that he/she is responsible for personal choices and the consequences that follow is the first step in the journey to moral integrity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 68,
Our Catholic Life

Read the first two paragraphs.



Do the gold-star activity, adding examples from your child's lived experience.

Turn to Page 69,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Cristóbal.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Ask: How was Saint Cristóbal like Jesus? (Jesus was innocent and killed as well.)

Turn to Page 71,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321) during your night prayer this week.*



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

God's Word

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 81,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Recognize that God tells us about himself through the Bible
- Relate the words *Bible* and *Scripture*
- Identify the Bible as God's Word written down by humans, inspired by the Holy Spirit
- Learn that Jesus tells stories that help us know and love God the Father
- Distinguish between the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Begin to develop an understanding of the need for the Word of God in our lives

Turn to Page 73,
The Word of God

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *We learn early on how important communication skills are. Communication is central to building relationships. During this session you will help your child to learn that God communicates with us through his Word in the Bible. Helping your child to appreciate God's Word in Scripture as a gift of love from God will help her/him place Sacred Scripture at the heart of their faith.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Your Words Are Spirit and Life
- We Hear God's Word

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God's Word is what we hear and read in the Bible.

Say: Let's listen to hear how people followed Jesus.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus spoke to the people that were around him and told them how to live. Jesus speaks to us; we only need to listen and to follow.

Show your child a Bible that is in your home, or plan to shop for one. Ask your child if God speaks to us in his Word, how should we treat this book? Where should we put it in our home to remind us that God is the center of our family?

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 74,
Learning About God

Read aloud "Learning About God."

Direct your child to look at the picture of Noah and the ark.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

- Ask your child to recall a promise that they have made to you. Did they keep the promise? Share a promise that you made with her/him. Discuss God's promise to Noah.
- Ask what was the sign of God's promise? (A rainbow)



Have your child do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Research tells us that your child will understand how God loves him/her by the way you do. In other words, children often put their parents face on the face of God. Your child will watch the way that you forgive, the way that you show compassion, how you keep your promises, and connect that to God. No wonder the Church calls you the first teacher of faith.*

Turn to Page 75,
The Bible

Read the first paragraph to your child. Have them find the word **Bible** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask him/her to read the definition and then spell the word, Bible.

Read the second paragraph. Return to the Catholic Faith Words box and review the definition for **Old Testament**.

Turn to Page 76,
Jesus' Message

Explain to your child that Jesus knew the stories from the Old Testament and that he helped people know and love God the Father through his words and actions.



Proclaim the Scripture story in the Parchment Paper box.



Follow the directions in the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 77,
Read About Jesus

Have your child put a finger on the words **New Testament** and read the paragraph. Find the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box and have your child read it.

Using your Bible, show your child where the Old Testament ends and the New Testament begins. *(The New Testament begins with the Gospel of Matthew.)* You may want to have your child make a bookmark to keep in that space.

Discuss the times your child may hear Bible stories.

Read aloud "Listen to God's Word."

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 78,
Our Catholic Life

Read the first paragraph.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *While Jesus taught people to know and love his Father through his words and actions, we teach others to know and love Jesus through our words and actions. We call this evangelization.*

Turn to Page 79,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Luke.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Tell your favorite story about Jesus.

Turn to Page 81,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's
Pray prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321) during your night prayer this week.*



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

God the Father

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 95,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will help
your child to:

- Name God the Father as the First Divine Person of the Holy Trinity
- Understand that God loves and cares for us
- Begin to develop a capacity to trust and rely on God the Father
- Understand that prayer is talking and listening to God

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Passing on the Catholic faith to your child is based on the relationship we, ourselves, have developed with God. Think of how you came to know God. What were the images that formed your understanding of him? What is the image of God you hope to give your child? How did you learn to trust God? In what ways can you help your child to come to trust God, too?*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This helps you understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- People Worry
- Children of God

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 87,
God the Father

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that today we remember that God is our Father.

Say: Let's listen to how we should put God first in our lives.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: God our Father knows what we need. If we trust in God, we do not need to worry. We learn to trust God as we trust those who care for us in our everyday life.

Share a story of a time you trusted God and how he provided for you.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what they wonder about God's life and love and how he shares them with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 88,
Care for God's Children

Read the first sentence.

Ask your child to find and read the word **Saint**, and then move to the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to read the definition there of a Saint. Tell your child you are going to read a story about a Saint who acted like a loving father to children who had no parents to care for them.

Read the story of Saint John Bosco. Ask your child the question at the end of the story. Discuss what made Father John's home a place of protection and care for the children who lived there.

Ask your child "What makes you feel safe and loved?" Conclude by saying, "A safe and loving home is what God wants for all of his children."

Review the word **Saint** and ask your child to tell you how Saint John Bosco showed the love of God.

Turn to Page 89,
God the Father

Read this section. Ask your child to name a few ways a parent shows love to a child. Ask your child to name one or two specific ways you show love and care in your family. (*baking a favorite cookie recipe, playing a special game, an affectionate name you call your child*)

Move to the Catholic Faith Words box on the previous page. Ask your child to read the definition of **God the Father**.

Turn to Page 90,
The Father's Love

Ask your child to describe their image of God the Father.

Read the question, “What does it mean to trust in God?” Then read the introductory paragraph.

Activity

Take a piece of paper and fold it in half. On the top of one-half, write the word “Needs.” At the top of the other half write the word, “Wants.” Together, list some things that your child identifies as things we *need* under that heading, such as air, food, shelter, hugs from parents, friends, and/or books for school. Under the heading “Wants,” list some things your child describes as *wants*, such as video games, a fancy bike, to be first in line, and/or ice cream. After completing the activity, discuss how your child knew what belonged on each list.

Share with your child that God takes care of us by providing for our needs. God provides for many of our needs through the love of other people, especially people in our family.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Ask your child to share some ways parents show care for children. Ask your child some ways a child can show care for others.

Remind your child that God’s care often comes through the care we receive from loved ones.

Turn to Page 91,
Turn to God in Prayer

Have your child read aloud the first paragraph. Ask him or her to find the word **prayer** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to read the definition of **prayer**.

Read the second paragraph. Have your child find the word **trust** in the second paragraph. Move to the Catholic Faith Word box and have him or her read the definition there.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Have your child complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Prayer is a learned practice. There are prayers we memorize. We call this rote prayer. This form of prayer helps us to focus our mind and heart on God. Memorized prayers are a valuable part of the Catholic Tradition. We usually memorize prayers in childhood. Once we learn them and say them regularly, they become a valuable part of our spiritual life. Saying prayers we*

have memorized, like the Our Father or Hail Mary, almost instantly help us to put our trust in God. Your child is at a perfect age to memorize prayers. Say one or two prayers each night at bedtime. Your child will learn them over time and you will be modeling a regular prayer practice. Teaching your child this spiritual practice is a gift that lasts a lifetime.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 92,
Our Catholic Life

Discuss the question, “What does it mean to have trust?” (we can count on someone, a person follows through on promises, a person does not let us down) Ask your child to name someone your family trusts.

Read the first and second paragraphs together.

Remind your child that God gives us a family and communities, like schools and churches, to surround us with grown-ups we can trust. Even though people sometimes let us down, we can turn to God in prayer to help us forgive them and find reassurance in God’s love.



Follow the gold-star activity instructions to review and complete the chart.

Parents, Consider This: Point out the people in your child’s life who are dedicated to care for them: teachers, police officers, doctors, bus drivers, relatives, and neighbors, to name a few. Talk to your child about remembering to thank them for their caring acts.

Turn to Page 93,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Blessed Julian of Norwich.

- Share your reaction to the information.
- Talk about a time when you prayed for help. Ask your child what might be a circumstance in which to ask God for help. (when we are frightened, angry with someone, frustrated, or feel lonely)

Turn to Page 95,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: It is important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be prayer (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.



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

God the Son

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 105,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recall that the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the Mother of the Son of God, the Savior, Jesus
- Connect that the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth where Jesus grew up, learning and praying
- Identify Jesus as both the Son of God and a human being
- Recall the Baptism of Jesus as the beginning of his public teaching

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Can you think of ways you see love in your family? How does the experience of your family's love help you to see God's love? Family is called, "the school of love." The ways we speak and act toward each other in a family every day are how we learn the most important lesson in life, how to love. Consider the ways your daily interactions are "lessons" in patience, appreciation, and faith. You, as a parent, more than anyone, teach your child that he or she is loveable. You teach them the power they have to love others and show God's mercy and kindness in conversation and in actions. Notice the next time your child shows love and praise him or her for it.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This helps you understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- You Are God
- Incarnate One

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 97,
God the Son

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God sent his Son, Jesus, to lead us to Heaven.

Say: Now, let's listen to find out what God said about Jesus.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: God tells us that Jesus is his Son. God is pleased with him and we should work to be like Jesus.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about living in the way that Jesus wants us to.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 98,
A Savior is Born

Read the introductory paragraph aloud. Ask your child what special name they think God gave to his son.

Read the second paragraph aloud.

Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Words. As you slowly read the definitions for **Mary** and **angel**, have your child circle the unfamiliar words in the definitions. Ask what words were familiar and where he or she had heard them.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 99,
Announcing Jesus' Birth

Read the Scripture story to your child. Tell your child that God named his Son, "Jesus."

Ask your child why he or she thinks Mary agreed to become the Mother of Jesus. (*she wanted to do God's will; it was a special honor*)

Activity

Have your child do the Share Your Faith Activity.

Parents, Consider This: According to the Gospel of Luke, the Angel Gabriel is the angel of the Lord with the important mission to announce to Mary that God had selected her to bear his Son. Gabriel's visit to Mary is called the Annunciation. The angel allowed Mary to know God's will. She embraced God's will and that has made all the difference in salvation history. We each, in our own small way, can change the world by seeking to know and follow God's will in our lives. In your family prayers this week ask for the knowledge and willingness to do God's will.

Turn to Page 100,
The Holy Family

Remind your child that Jesus is God's Son and he came to earth to be our Savior.

Ask your child to tell you who they think Jesus lived with when he was growing up.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph, pointing out that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are called the Holy Family.

Ask your child what might be happening in the picture on this page.



Read the Scripture story to your child or have your child read the story to you.

Ask them to respond to the final question.

Turn to Page 101,
Jesus Begins His Work

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

Ask your child what John was doing? (teaching sinners to turn to God; baptizing people)



Read the Scripture story.

Explain that Jesus asked John to baptize him, not because he was a sinner, but because he wanted to set a good example for others.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus did not need Baptism. He was God's beloved Son and was without sin. He allowed John to baptize him. This was an example of how Jesus chose to teach, through example. He showed leadership by being an example of how to love God. This is the way children learn to love God, from the example of parents. Each time your children see the ways you show reverence for God in your actions, they see you live the faith you are teaching them.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 102,
Our Catholic Life

Discuss the question, "What does Jesus teach us about loving God and others?"

Read the introductory paragraphs.

Remind your child that everything is made by God. Even though we may make something ourselves, we are using God's creation as the source.



Follow the gold-star activity instructions to review and complete the chart.

Parents, Consider This: Take an opportunity this week to notice someone showing love for another person; care of Grandma, forgiving a friend, people praying at church. You may find your own faith strengthened as you make the effort to notice acts of love and faith.

Turn to Page 103,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Peter.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some examples of Christ's love in our world today.

Activity

Review the pictures in the Live Your Faith activity. Ask your child what he or she would say to Jesus if he or she were there during the events of each picture.

Turn to Page 105,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: It is important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.



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

God the Holy Spirit

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 115,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define the Holy Trinity as one God in three Divine Persons
- Identify the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Holy Trinity who helps and guides us
- Identify Jesus as the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity
- Recognize the Holy Spirit's role in helping the Apostles understand and spread the teachings of Jesus
- Understand that the Holy Spirit is with the Church today, helping us in many ways

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Helping your child to form an image of God's great love is a responsibility and a privilege of being a parent. It is hard to imagine how God can love us so unconditionally and that he desires that we spend eternity with him. Giving your child a concept of Heaven will help him or her to imagine God's love. It may help your child in troubled times, such as a loss of a loved one. Your child will benefit from your discussion of God's wanting to be close to us in this life and the next.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- The Holy Spirit
- The Trinity

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 107,
God the Holy Spirit

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God sent his Son, Jesus, to lead us to Heaven.

Say: Now, let's listen to find out about Jesus' promise to the Apostles.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus tells us that God the Father will send the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about the Holy Spirit.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 108,
One in Three

Read aloud the first paragraph.



Proclaim God's Word. Allow a moment of silence.

Ask: what did Jesus promise his followers? Note that Jesus promised that the "Advocate," the Holy Spirit, would be sent to help them.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The Holy Spirit might be difficult for your child to understand. Help your child to associate an understanding that the Holy Spirit lives in his or her heart. We may learn to recognize the fruits of the Spirit in others, especially in family members. Relay the fruits of the Spirit to your child (see Galatians 5:22).*

Together, find the Catholic Faith Word, **Holy Spirit** on the page and read the definition.

Turn to Page 109,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Explain to your child that what he or she is going to learn next is the most important part of their faith.

Read aloud the first paragraph. Emphasize that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God.

Read the remaining paragraphs slowly to make the content clear.

Ask: Who is the first Divine Person of the Holy Trinity? (God the Father)
Who is the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity? (God the Son)
Who is the Third Divine Person of the Holy Trinity? (God the Holy Spirit)

Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross.

Tell your child when we make the Sign of the Cross we show our belief in the Trinity.

Activity

Have your child do the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Making the Sign of the Cross is the most powerful and accessible way to affirm our faith. In your day-to-day family life when praying before meals, praying at bedtime, or entering church, making the Sign of the Cross helps you to begin in a reverent and prayerful way. You will be modeling this important sign of faith for your child.*

Turn to Page 110,
Guided by the Spirit

Ask your child to read the question and discuss together what might be ways we know the Holy Spirit is with us. (care and love from others, having a sense of peace while praying in church, experiencing forgiveness from someone in their family)

Remind your child that before Jesus returned to Heaven, he made a promise to the Apostles to send them a helper and guide.

Ask your child what might be happening in the picture on this page.



Read the Scripture story to your child or have your child read the story to you.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *When you experience the need for guidance, wisdom, and peace in your own life, imagine the Apostles' fear before the experience of Pentecost. Pray for God's Spirit to be with you. Invite your child to do the same when you sense your child is fearful or troubled.*

Turn to Page 111,
The Holy Spirit Today

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child find the words **disciples**, **Pentecost**, and **Apostles** in the text and then move to the Catholic Faith word box. Read the definitions with your child.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 112,
Our Catholic Life

Discuss the question, "What does it mean to follow Jesus?"

Explain to your child that the followers of Jesus are known as disciples.

Read the first and second paragraphs.

Review the “Ways to Follow Jesus.” Ask your child which one of the suggestions they will try to do this week? Have your child give you a specific example of how they will put that into action.

Parents, Consider This: *The word disciple comes from a word that means “learner.” No matter our age or how long we live, we need to continue to learn how to follow Jesus with our whole heart and mind. We all need to keep learning to become disciples who follow Jesus more closely.*

Turn to Page 113,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Arnold Janssen.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what your child prays to the Holy Spirit for. Share with them some of your prayers to the Holy Spirit.

Turn to Page 115,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It is important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.*



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

God's Commandments

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 129,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe the Ten Commandments as God's laws that teach us how to love him and others
- Relate the Great Commandment, which sums up all of God's laws, to our lives
- Recognize that Jesus told The Parable of the Good Samaritan to help us understand that loving God means loving our neighbor
- Relate the New Commandment, to love as Jesus loves, to live our lives

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus summed up God's Commandments in one word, and that word is love. For Jesus, faithfulness to all God's Commandments could be shown in love of God and love of neighbor. Loving God and others is challenging. Exhaustion and ambivalence can cause us to steer off course and fail to love with all our heart. Help your family turn to God for guidance to stay focused on this Commandment. He is love and his love is your strength as you journey together with your family to the Kingdom.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Loving God
- God's Good Rules

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 121,
God's Commandments

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God gives us rules that help us to live as Jesus lived.

Say: Let's listen to what Jesus said about following God's rules.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus gives us rules about how to live each day as he did. We need rules or there would be no order. Jesus' rules help us to stay safe and guide us to be loving toward our neighbors.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about God's life and love and how he shared them with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 122,
The Ten Commandments

Read aloud the opening question and the paragraph.

Explain that God gave people laws called the Ten Commandments. These laws help people to know right from wrong and to make good choices.

Have your child put a finger on the highlighted word **Ten Commandments**. Read the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 123.

Read aloud the commandments and discuss with your child how to live them.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The Ten Commandments are recorded in the Book of Exodus. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments as a sign of his love and friendship. Scripture tells us that Moses received the Commandments on two stone tablets when he was talking to God on top of a mountain. This is a dramatic and classic story from Scripture. Find a children's illustrated Bible or storybook that tells this story and share it with your child.*

Turn to Page 123,
Jesus Commands

Have your child silently read the first paragraph. Explain that Jesus taught one Commandment that sums up all of the Commandments.



Proclaim the Scripture passage that tells how Jesus wanted the disciples to show love for God and others.

Turn to page 317 of the Our Catholic Tradition section to reinforce the importance of God's laws.

Read the word **Great Commandment**, and its definition, in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read the second paragraph aloud.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 124,
The New Commandment

Explain that Jesus liked to tell stories called parables because they taught people how to love God and others.

Read aloud the opening question and first paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Find the word **parable** and read its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Discuss how Jesus helped people understand his teachings with parables.

Turn to Page 125,
Parable of the Good Samaritan
(cont'd)

Read the paragraph and find the word **New Commandment**. Read its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 124.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 126,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the question and introductory paragraph. Invite your child to name some people who would be your neighbors according to Jesus' definition.

Review the chart together, reading the Great Commandment and the New Commandment.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 127,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you can help and donate to those in need.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: Discussion of love of neighbor might seem to contradict what your child has learned about talking to strangers. Explain that he or she can be a neighbor to people their own age—perhaps by being kind on the playground. Remind your child to never put themselves at risk by helping someone else. Assure them that God first desires their safety and well being.

Turn to Page 129,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.



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

Choose to Do Good

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 149,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand that when we make bad choices that hurt our relationship with God and others, God forgives us if we are truly sorry
- Describe sin as a free choice to do what we know is wrong; discern mistakes and accidents as different from sins
- Differentiate between venial sin and mortal sin and how each harm our relationship with God
- Identify conscience as an ability given to us by God that helps us make choices about right and wrong

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Children at this age need and want limits and guidance. They get a sense of security from structure. But in a society that is increasingly unwilling to make value judgments, children can sometimes be at a loss to know right from wrong. Knowing the rules and understanding how things work is very important to someone your child's age. You, as a parent, serve as your child's most significant example and teacher, helping to guide them in their moral development.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- C-H-O-I-C-E-S
- Children of God

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 131,
Choose to do Good

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that each of us make decisions every day.

Say: Let's listen to hear how Jesus asks us to make good choices by following God's laws.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Like Peter, all people can make good choices to follow God's rules or bad choices to break God's rules. We want to make good choices and do what God says.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about rules and making choices.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 132,
A Hard Choice

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Have your child find the highlighted words **free will** and read the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Ask: Why was it hard for Peter to say he was Jesus' friend? (He was afraid of what would happen to him if he acknowledged he was Jesus' friend.)

Turn to Page 133,
Jesus Forgives

Have your child silently read "Jesus Forgives," to find out why Peter is sad and upset.

Ask your child what Peter wanted to tell Jesus. (He wanted to tell Jesus he was sorry for saying he did not know him.)



Do the gold-star activity.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: Jesus forgave Peter because he loved him. Remind your child that no matter what we do, Jesus loves us and, if we are sorry, he will always forgive us. This should make us live with a spirit of hope and trust in God, even when we know we made a poor choice. Remind your child that we can always ask God for forgiveness and try to do better in the future. Peter had to learn to do this, too.

Turn to Page 134,
God Helps You Choose

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Ask: What are some choices children your age make every day? Which of these choices are between doing right and doing wrong?



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Help your child to understand that their conscience is a function of their common sense, not a literal voice they will hear. The word conscience means, “with knowledge.” Using our conscience means using what we know about right and wrong to make good choices.

Turn to Page 135,
Types of Sin

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Have your child find the words **mortal sin**, **venial sin**, and **conscience** in the text. Then have them read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask your child to say in his or her own words what the word conscience means.

Activity

Do the Connect Your Faith activity with your child.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 136,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the opening question and paragraphs.

Remind your child that our conscience is a tool we can use to make good choices.

Review together the “Steps for Making Good Choices” chart.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Your child may not be able to identify the process of discerning what is right and wrong, but he or she is beginning to make moral choices. Reinforce his or her learning by reminding your child to take time to consider the consequences of their choices. When it is appropriate, ask your child what went into their thinking over some moral choice they made. This is a way to help them develop a discernment process for moral decision making, even if they are too young to use that term.

Turn to Page 137,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk with your child about one little thing you can do for God today.

Turn to Page 139,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.*



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

God's Mercy

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 149,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Explore God's mercy in the story of the Prodigal Son
- Celebrate that God has mercy on us even though we are sinners
- Recognize that virtues can help us say no to temptation and choose what is good
- Understand the importance of asking God for forgiveness and being forgiving toward others

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *The word mercy is translated from the Hebrew word "hesed," meaning goodness and the Greek word "eleos," which captures the essence of God's will to save sinners. Mercy and compassion are at the forefront of Jesus message and ministry. He calls his disciples to follow his example. We learn what mercy is most profoundly when we experience it ourselves. Be an example of someone who shows mercy as well as teaches about it. Your child will learn from your example as well as from your words.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- The Supper of the Lamb
- We Come to Worship You

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 141,
Insert Page Head

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that when God shows mercy and love, he gives us examples of being kind and forgiving.

Say: Let's listen to how many times Jesus wants us to forgive someone.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus tells us what we need to forgive each other often and always.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about God's life and love and how he shares them with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 142,
Jesus Teaches Forgiveness

Have your child silently read the opening question and paragraph.

Tell your child to listen to the Scripture story about a loving father.



Read the first two paragraphs of the Scripture story.

Ask: How do you think the father felt when his son went away? (*very sad*)
How do think the son felt? (*embarrassed, ashamed*)

Have your child look at the illustration on the page and talk about how it relates to the story.

Turn to Page 143,
The Prodigal Son



Read aloud the rest of the Scripture story.

Ask: How do you think the younger son felt? (*resentful, jealous*)



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *In the Scripture story of the Prodigal Son, the younger son in the story offended his father by asking for his inheritance. Then he squandered it on foolish and harmful things. He also offended his family by forsaking Israel, the land in which God had settled his Chosen People. Jesus knew that this story would powerfully show that God his Father is always willing to forgive sinners. All of us sin and it is the foundation of our faith to learn that God will forgive us. Reinforce this important message to your child every chance you get.*

Read and discuss the words **virtues**, **temptation**, and **mercy** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 144,
Forgive One Another

Have your child silently read the opening question and paragraphs under the “Forgive One Another” section. Ask your child to underline the sentences that tell what Jesus wants them to know about God. (God our Father always forgives us if we are truly sorry. Jesus wants us to forgive others in the same way the Father forgives us.)

Discuss, with your child, the concepts of love and mercy and how to show love and mercy to those who have hurt us.

Read aloud the story, “A New Model.”

Ask: How would you change the scene?



Do the gold-star activity. Review your child’s answers.

Parents, Consider This: Help your child see that forgiveness is an important part of bringing peace, not only to relationships with family and friends, but also to the world. Remind your child to look for peaceful and non-violent resolutions to conflicts. Invite your child to be a mediator when siblings or friends quarrel. Help your child learn to listen without interrupting and be willing to compromise and look for solutions that benefit everyone.

Turn to Page 145,
Putting Things Away

Read aloud the content under “Putting Things Away.” Have your child underline the parts he or she would change.

Read aloud the content under “Jesus Asks Us to Forgive.”

Explain that this means we are to forgive as we are forgiven by God. We should ask for forgiveness from those we have hurt and we should forgive those whom have hurt us. Remind your child that to forgive means to cancel, pardon, or absolve. Help your child to understand that to forgive someone means letting go of any anger or hurt by “canceling” those feelings.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 146,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the opening question and paragraphs.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 147,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Jane Frances de Chantal.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you can be forgiving.

Turn to Page 149,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.*



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

The Sacraments

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 163,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe the Seven Sacraments as special signs and celebrations that come from Jesus and give us a share in God's life and work
- Understand that Jesus continues to share his life and love with us through the Sacraments
- Explore Baptism as the first Sacrament we receive that frees us from sin and makes us children of God
- Learn that in the Seven Sacraments, we receive the gift of God's life and help, or grace
- Identify the Sacraments of Initiation as the beginning of our life in the Church

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *There are moments in our lives when we are moved beyond our daily concerns. Remember that moment when your infant smiled, looked directly into your eyes, and you were overwhelmed with love? Sacraments are much like that. They are moments when God is present and inviting us to look directly into his eyes. Our hearts are overwhelmed with love for him as we respond to his incredible gift of love for us. Receiving the Sacraments regularly needs to be at the heart of your family life. The grace that you receive strengthens you to face the challenges that will surely come.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- The Seven Sacraments
- Belonging Through Baptism

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 155,
The Sacraments

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that sometimes people speak with words and sometimes with actions. People tell us about themselves if we pay attention to what they say and do.

Say: Listen to this story about Jesus and pay attention to what we learn about him.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Every person wants someone to love them—a mom, a brother, a friend. God made us to be loved and to love others. But no one loves us like God loves us. The Seven Sacraments are a wonderful way that God continues to share his love with us.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about love and the Seven Sacraments.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 156,
Signs of God's Love

Have your child name some things Jesus did to show others God's love.

Summarize the first paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture Story.

Ask your child what is happening in the art at the top of the page. (Jesus after the Resurrection [indicated by his wounds] is sending the Apostles out on mission.)

Discuss the questions at the bottom of the page.

Turn to Page 157,
Signs and Celebrations

Read aloud the first paragraph. Remind your child that signs can be both words and actions.

Ask: What is happening in the photograph on this page? Talk with your child about what she/he remembers from a sibling's, relative's, or friend's Baptism.

Read aloud the second and third paragraphs.

Have your child name two things that happen during Baptism.

Ask your child who their godparents are. What does she/he remember from the stories that people tell about that day? Share something she/he might not know about the day.

Ask your child to read the Catholic Faith Word definitions for **Seven Sacraments** and **Baptism**. Have them tell you the definitions in their own words. Make sure he/she includes all the elements of the definition.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Complete the activity.

Turn to Page 158,
The Seven Sacraments

Read aloud the first paragraph. Ask your child to put her/his finger on the word **grace**. Ask her/him to read the Catholic Faith Words definition.

Explain the key points in the second paragraph: God's action we can't see and our words and actions in the celebration, help his life in us grow.

Randomly read the names of the Sacraments across the bottom of the spread, one at a time. Ask your child to find the Sacrament and tell what each drawing represents. (Baptism: candle, Jesus is the light of the world; Confirmation: dove and flame, symbols of the Holy Spirit; Eucharist: bread and wine, the Body of Christ; Penance: Cross, Jesus' sacrifice of forgiving love; Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: oil, healing; Matrimony: rings, never-ending love; Holy Orders: Book of the Gospels and cross, being Christ's representative)



Complete the gold-star activity and discuss.

Ask your child which Sacrament Catholics celebrate first.

Read aloud the last paragraph on page 158. Do you have any remembrances of your Baptism, candle, garment, pictures? Your child would love to see them.

Explain that the word *initiation* is also used to describe the process of becoming a part of a group.

Turn to Page 159,
The Sacraments of Initiation

Read aloud or summarize the information on page 159.

Activity

Give your child a piece of art paper and utensils for decorating. Direct him/her to make a welcome to the Church card for someone who will be baptized in your parish. Decorate the front of the card with signs of Baptism. Help your child decide what to write on the inside (What a happy day! Jesus will be with you always. Welcome to our Catholic Family). Give the card to your Catechetical Leader to give to the family.

Parents, Consider This: *This is a perfect time in your child's life to begin to explore the meaning of the Sacraments. Think about how many times a day you say, "Get your hands off of that," or, "Keep your hands to yourself." Children love to touch. When we gather as Church to celebrate the Seven Sacraments, we are following in Jesus' footsteps, doing "the works of the Father." God uses the gifts of his creation—water, oil, bread, wine—and works through the ordinary gestures of human interaction—words, touch—to reveal his presence in our midst and to share grace with us.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 160,
Our Catholic Life

Read the introductory paragraph.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Read aloud parts of the chart on the right. As each part is read, explain what each sentence means.

Direct your child to match the Sacrament in the left column to how it helps the Church in the right column. (Notice that the first three are self-contained. Each section is color-coded.)

Remind your child that the grace received from the Sacraments not only helps individuals, but also helps the Church as a community.

Turn to Page 161,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Pius X.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share with each other about times when you feel close to Jesus.

Turn to Page 163,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit during your night prayer this week.*

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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

Seek Forgiveness

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 173,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Relate an examination of conscience to a prayerful way of looking at our lives
- Identify the importance of expressing sorrow
- Name the two parts of contrition—being sorry and wanting to live better
- Understand that in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, God's forgiveness is given through the Church
- List the steps in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *When you hear that someone has had "a change of heart," the words typically signal that someone's hardness of heart has given way to compassion. It's a good thing. The burdens of life tend to cause us a certain hardness of heart. Dealing daily with human weakness and insensitivity, your own and that of others, may sometimes prevent you from seeing the comfort and compassion that God is always extending to you. Yet, these situations may also provoke a desire for change, a feeling that there must be a better way. They can become the Holy Spirit's way of helping you hear the call to conversion.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Through My Fault
- God of Mercy

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 165,
Insert Page Head

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that we can each ask for forgiveness.

Say: Let's listen to see what Jesus said about forgiveness.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus was inviting the disciples to look at how they forgive and pardon.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about forgiveness.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 166,
Making Things Right

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.



Ask your child to point to the Scripture on the page. Proclaim the Scripture story.

Ask your child to listen for the words Jesus spoke to the woman. (Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.)



Complete the gold-star activity.

Ask: How did the woman show she was sorry for her sins? How do you show you are sorry? How do you know when I am sorry for something I have done? Encourage your child to give specific examples.

Together, listen to the song, "How Many Times, Lord?" On the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 13.

Turn to Page 167,
Examination of Conscience

Explain to the children that before people celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also called Penance, they think about the sins they have committed. This is called an examination of conscience.

Ask your child to read the two paragraphs aloud.

Move to the Catholic Faith Words box and read the definition for **examination of conscience**. Ask your child to repeat the definition in his/her own words. Do the same for the word, **contrition**.

Read the third paragraph and include the questions.

Activity

Move to the Share Your Faith activity and ask your child to think of another question he/she could use to examine his/her conscience.

Turn to Page 168,

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Read aloud the last paragraph. Review the word, contrition.

Read aloud the question. Tell your child that she/he will learn the answer to that question from the steps shown on this page and the next.

Read aloud the first two paragraphs.

Give your child a piece of paper. Ask him/her to fold it in half and then in half again. As you discuss the words in the Catholic Faith Words box, have your child write one of the words in each of the four boxes they now have on their piece of paper. After you read each definition, ask your child to tell you in his/her own words what that word means. Do the same for each word or phrase.

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity. You may need to put some letters in the boxes to help them complete the word scramble.
(His mercy endures forever.)

Parents, Consider This: *In the Sacrament of Penance, God offers you, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the ordained minister of the Church, an experience of his forgiving love. Some of our most tender experiences of human love happen in those moments when someone forgives us and enables us to let go of the sorrow and guilt we carry for having done something wrong, something sinful, something that caused deep hurt. As your child celebrates this Sacrament for the first time, help him/her to understand that God's forgiveness pours on us when we admit to what we have done wrong and we are truly sorry.*

Turn to Page 169,

Steps in the Sacrament

Walk through the “Steps in the Sacrament” with your child. Allow time after each section to discuss what the text has presented.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 170,

Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the first paragraph.



Ask your child to read the directions for the gold-star activity. Help him/her complete the activity.

Turn to Page 171,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Benedict Joseph Labre.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Saint Benedict Joseph was determined to find a way to follow God.

How does your family follow God?

Turn to Page 173,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit during your night prayer this week.*

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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The Church Year

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 181,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify liturgy as the public prayer of the Church
- Recognize that the Church year celebrates the life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus
- Review the sequence of the seasons of the Church year
- Describe Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday as the holiest days of the Church year
- Recognize that Easter is the greatest feast of the Church Year

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Reflect, for a moment, on the last time you truly rejoiced at a family celebration. Think about those who took part in it. Whether it was a birthday party or a wedding reception, the celebration most likely included festive decorations, music, and enthusiastic participation. Our Church family cycles through yearly celebrations as well. We call the cycle the liturgical year because our celebrations take place at Mass (liturgy). These celebrations are similar to family celebrations in that we mark significant moments in our family story, moments that celebrate and remember the life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: This song connects the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- A Circle of Colors

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 175,
The Church Year

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that we praise God in our prayer and in our worship throughout the year.

Say: Let's listen to hear what Jesus did as a young boy.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus went with his parents to the Jewish celebration of Passover. We also celebrate the Church year with many celebrations.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about God's life and love and how he shares them with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 176,
Celebrate the Seasons

Explain that just like the year has four seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter, the Church year also has seasons. We celebrate the seasons by celebrating the events of Jesus' life throughout the year.

Have your child place a finger on the word **liturgy** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask her/him to read the definition.

Ask your child to think about the word worship. Read aloud the definition and discuss what adore and praise mean. (Praise: to honor God simply because he is God; Adore: to acknowledge God as the Creator of all things and recognize his greatness.)

Say: Let's see how we celebrate Jesus' life.

Tell your child to read about Advent.

Ask what color the Church uses for Advent. (violet)

Tell your child that Advent is a time for everyone to grow closer to Jesus.

Ask him/her what they know about the meaning of the Advent wreath shown in the picture. (The evergreen circle reminds us that God's love never ends. The candles remind us of the four Sundays of Advent. The third is pink (joyous) to mark that we are getting closer to Christmas.)

Read the caption. Discuss what is happening with your child.

Turn to Page 177,
Christmas

Read about Christmas.

Ask: How long is the Christmas season? (three weeks) Does that surprise you? Do you keep your decorations out for the three weeks of the season?

Say: We celebrate Christmas because Jesus came so all people could know his Father's love.

★ **Complete** the gold-star activity. (Jesus' presence in the world)
Then read the caption for the peace lily.

Share one of your favorite signs of the Christmas season (lights, Nativity Set, etc.) with your child and explain why. Ask your child about hers/his.

Read aloud the paragraph about Ordinary Time.

Ask: What is the color for Ordinary Time? (green) Why? (it's the color for growth) How do we grow during Ordinary Time? (We grow in faith by listening to the stories of Jesus about discipleship.)

Activity

Work on the Share Your Faith activity with your child. Ask your child to think about what season of the Church we are in right now. Have them write about some of the ways your family celebrates this season.

Turn to Page 178,
Celebrating Jesus

Read aloud the "Lent" section.

Explain to your child that the forty days of Lent symbolize the forty days Jesus spent in the desert focusing on his relationship with his Father.

On a separate sheet of paper, have your child name as many things she/he can that begin with the prefix "tri." (triangle, tripod, tricycle)

Discuss that "tri" means three, so the word *Triduum* means "three days." They are the most important three days in our liturgical year. They are the days we remember Jesus' suffering, Death and Resurrection.

Activity

Use a sheet of art paper and fold it into threes. Write Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday in each of the three parts. Ask your child to draw a picture of what happened on those days below each heading.

Turn to Page 179,
Easter

Read aloud the first paragraph on Easter.

Ask your child to read the second paragraph about Pentecost.

Call attention to the meaning of the Catholic Faith Word, **Resurrection**. Read it aloud. Tell your child that this is a very important event and that Easter celebrates this greatest feast of the year.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity and ask your child to complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: Birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays are all occasions when we think, “Where did the year go?” Some years present more challenges, some more joys. If we mark them well, we take the time to think about the changes that have given us opportunities for growth. Living the cycle of Jesus’ life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension allows us to journey with him through his dying and rising. The six seasons of the Church year celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. We celebrate the mystery of our own lives, united to his in the daily cycle of dying and rising. With all the dying to ego, to expectations, and to selfishness that has to happen in family life, what a blessing it is that each new year we begin the journey again!

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 180,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the question and the first paragraph.



Complete the gold-star activity. (robes, Mass, white, altar, flags, hangings, decorate, season)

Turn to Page 183,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Pope Saint Victor.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Name any other languages you have heard at Mass.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 185,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit during your night prayer this week.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Welcome in the Kingdom

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 197,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify how Jesus included those often left out and showed that God welcomes everyone
- Discuss the faith of Zacchaeus' and his willingness to repent
- Recognize Jesus' great love for children and how he welcomes them and all others into his Kingdom
- Understand that the Kingdom of God is the world of love, peace, and justice that God has in Heaven and wants for us on Earth

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus' love has no boundaries. Responding with love, compassion, and hospitality to a family member going through a crisis, or a student who is fighting with a friend, or a person in the midst of a difficult time, is fulfilling Jesus' command to love. Busy schedules and stressful situations may sometimes make it difficult for you to step out of your own daily life. Yet, you are called by your Baptism to do just that.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Loving Others
- Act Justly

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 189,
Welcome in the Kingdom

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God's love and care show us how to love and care for everyone.

Say: Let's listen to what Jesus said about his love for children.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus loves children and speaks to their hearts. He calls each of us to welcome others, to trust in his Father as children do, and to open our hearts to love.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about welcoming others.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 190,
Welcomed By Jesus

Tell your child to read the first paragraph aloud.



Proclaim the Scripture story. Note that the story rhymes, so it will require careful cadence to accentuate the rhyming.

Ask: How did Zacchaeus show Jesus he was serious about changing his life? (He said, "To the poor I will give half that I own.")

Have your child repeat the story in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 191,
Zacchaeus the Tax Collector



Complete the gold-star activity.

Ask your child to read the next paragraph. When he/she gets to the highlighted words **faith** and **peace**, move to the Catholic Faith Words Box and read their definitions.

Ask: So, when do you need faith? When do you feel at peace?

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity and make sure you tell them about someone who makes you feel welcome. Give specific details of what that person does to make you feel so welcome.

Turn to Page 192,
All Are Invited

Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Stress that Jesus welcomes everyone.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Ask: How did Jesus treat the children? (He welcomed them.)

Direct your child to look at the picture and tell you what is happening there. Ask her/him what it feels like when someone pays attention to her/him. Tell your child how important it is to you that they know how much you love them and how welcome you want them to feel in your life and family.

Turn to Page 193,
In God's Kingdom

Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask: How did Jesus make people feel welcome? (People came to Jesus for healing and help and he did both. He didn't turn anyone away.)

Have your child place his/her finger on the Catholic Faith Word, **Kingdom of God**. Read its definition.

Read the second paragraph. Ask your child to think about how, like Jesus, his/her parish community welcomes people.

Discuss how all people come together in Church to worship God.

Ask: How can your family be more welcoming to people in your parish?



Complete the gold-star activity.

Activity

Complete the Connect Your Faith activity. Provide some hints if your child needs them.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 194,
Our Catholic Life

Alternate reading the paragraphs.

Ask: When will God's Kingdom be complete? (at the end of time)



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 195,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Brigid of Kildare.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How do members of your family show kindness and mercy?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 197,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 324), during your night prayer this week.*



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Share the Good News

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 207,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that the Gospel message is the Good News of God's Kingdom and his saving love
- Recall how in The Parable of the Vine and Branches, Jesus teaches us that we need to stay connected to him in order to have life
- Discover that the Holy Spirit strengthened the Apostles to share what Jesus had taught them
- Begin to develop a desire to share Jesus' message, and work together with God as he builds his Kingdom

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *One of the biggest concerns for parents of adolescent children is the problem of texting while driving. The statistics that reveal the number of accidents and deaths from distracted driving are staggering. All of these tragedies would have been avoided if the driver's focus had remained on the road. When we think about the countless distractions that cause us to take our mind off Christ and his teaching, we recognize that the danger is even more grave. Spiritual harm and even death can be the result of our loss of focus on the face of Christ. Staying connected to the Church through our parish is necessary for living a moral life. Through support, and sometimes challenge, we pay attention to the road ahead—the road that leads to total union with our God.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Gifts
- Share the Light

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 199,
Share the Good News

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that each of us is called to share the wonderful stories of God.

Say: Let's listen and hear what Jesus said about those who believe in him.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus tells us to preach the Good News by our lives. We can do this in many ways, with both words and actions.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about sharing the Good News.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 200,
Someone Special

Tell your child to read aloud the first paragraph.

Read the following paragraph that continues on page 201. When you get to the highlighted word, **Gospel**, ask your child to go the Catholic Faith Words Box and read the definition. Then have your child explain it in his/her own words.

Direct your child to the picture. Ask: What do you think the people in this photo are doing?

Turn to Page 201,
Live as Followers



Proclaim God's Word.

Ask: What happens to a branch if it gets cut off from a vine? *(It dies.)*

Say: If we get separated from Jesus, we will never know the happiness and peace that God the Father wants for us.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 202,
Taking Jesus' Message
to Others

Ask your child to read the paragraph.

Ask: Where did they get their strength and courage? *(from the Holy Spirit)*

Have your child place his/her finger on the Catholic Faith Word, **proclaim**. Ask him/her to follow along as you read the definition from the Catholic Faith Words box on page 203.

Activity

Write the definition for “proclaim” on a separate piece of paper. Work together to list ways to proclaim the Good News with your actions. Be sure to tell your child what you notice about his/her actions that spread God’s message of love and compassion.

Parents, Consider This: *Have you ever witnessed a random act of kindness? If so, you know the deep sense of joy that overwhelms you in that moment. Or, recall a moment when you saw your child do something that made you so very proud. How hard was it not to jump for joy? Joy is the heart of the proclamation of God’s Kingdom. Without joy, nothing we say or do will allow others to know the glory of our God. While the daily routine of family life is not always filled with joy, the love of God that formed us and makes us one is the joy we take into the world.*

Turn to Page 203,
Jesus’ Followers Today

Read aloud the paragraph.

Ask: Who in your parish shares Jesus’ message? (*anyone who uses loving words and actions to tell about Jesus*)

Point out the highlighted word and read the definition for **parish**.

Ask your child to read aloud the captions for each of the photos. After each caption is read, ask “How is this an example of being a follower of Jesus?”

Discuss ways to follow Jesus by being a helper in the parish. Help your child name other ways of helping in the parish that are not pictured on these pages, for example, being a director of religious education, a reader, or an altar server.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Have your child complete the activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 204,
Our Catholic Life

Ask: How is sharing your gifts a good way to share the Good News of Jesus? What special talents do you have? Affirm her/his answers. Add what gifts you have seen in her/him.

Ask: How can you use those to share the Good News?

★ **Read** aloud the directions for the gold-star activity. Write your child's answers on a sheet of paper under the headings of "Time," "Talent," and "Treasure." Remind him/her that everyone has time, talent, and treasure of some kind to share.

Turn to Page 205,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about something beautiful that your family can do for God.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 207,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 324), during your night prayer this week.*



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Ways to Pray

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 217,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recall Jesus' instruction to us to pray the Lord's Prayer, which we also call the Our Father
- Identify the five basic forms of prayer: blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise
- Understand that prayer is important to deepen our friendship with God
- Discover that sacramentals are blessings, objects, and actions that remind us of God and are made sacred through the prayers of the Church

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *When you are deeply in love with someone, there isn't enough time in the day to be with them. You count the seconds until you will see them again. Do you remember those days? Love yearns for presence. That is the reason we pray. When we know God's love for us, when we love God, we yearn to be in his presence. If we do not feel that yearning, it may be a sign that we have become overwhelmed by the distractions in our lives. Commit your family to a prayerful life. Morning prayer, evening prayer, and grace before meals are times when we need to, and should, open our hearts to God's loving presence.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: This song connects the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Open My Eyes

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 209,
Ways to Pray

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that Jesus teaches us how to pray.

Say: Let's listen to how Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus' taught his disciples and us how to pray.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about prayer.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 210,
Talking with God

Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Talk about times Jesus prayed to God the Father, such as at the Last Supper.

Tell your child he/she is going to learn how Jesus taught his followers to pray.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

Ask your child if he/she recognizes the words Jesus asked his followers to pray.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Direct your child's attention to the image on the page. Read the caption aloud. Ask her/him what Jesus might be praying about.

Read aloud the last paragraph. When you get to the highlighted word, **Lord's Prayer**, ask your child to read its definition in the Catholic Faith Word Box.

Turn to Page 211,
The Lord's Prayer

Explain that the Lord's Prayer is sometimes referred to as the "Our Father."

Have your child read the first column. You read the second column as an echo response.

Discuss any phrases your child might not understand.

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity. Think about when you pray the Lord's Prayer and write it down. Tell your child who taught you the Lord's prayer. Choose your favorite line from the prayer and tell your child why it has special meaning for you.

Turn to Page 212,
Types of Prayer

Read the paragraph.

Read the definitions of the Catholic Faith Words, **blessing**, **petition**, **intercession**, **thanksgiving**, and **praise**. As you read, have your child circle familiar words and put question marks by unfamiliar words. Discuss anything that is unfamiliar to them.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *When you meet a new grandparent, no matter how well you know them, it only takes seconds before they take out their phone and begin to show you images of their new grandchild. If you watch their faces as they show you those pictures, their countenance is transformed. Your child's faith journey is influenced by sacred images. Whether a painting or a statue, the images we behold begin to shape us. To help build a strong Catholic identity in your child, your home should proudly display a cross, an image of Mary or any of the Saints, a sacred palm, and perhaps some holy water. They are reminders that God is the heart of your home.*

Turn to Page 213,
How to Pray

Read the first paragraph.

Talk about the prayers that you say at home, or look at the prayers on page 324 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section, and choose one that you will pray at a special time of day.

Read the second paragraph. When you get to the highlighted word, **sacramentals**, ask your child to read its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Share with your child some sacramentals you may own. It may be a good time to shop for a sacred image for your child's room. Take it to your parish priest and ask for a blessing. Hang or place that image in a special place in your child's room.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 214,
Our Catholic Life

Read the first paragraph.

Ask: What are some of the ways you can pray? (your own words, memorized prayers, and words from the Bible)

Remind your child that there are five types of prayer.



Complete the gold-star activity. Read the column titled “Words We Can Say” first to help figure out the missing letters of the type of prayer.

Turn to Page 215,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Alphonsus Liguori.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share with each other your most favorite way to pray.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 217,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Faith, Hope, and Love (see Page 324), during your night prayer this week.*



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

Gather to Worship

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 231,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define the Eucharist as the Sacrament in which Jesus Christ shares himself and the bread and wine become his Body and Blood
- Describe the Mass as another name for the celebration of the Eucharist
- Recognize that the assembly takes part in the Mass by praying, singing, and using actions to worship God
- Examine the Introductory Rites of the Mass as that which gathers and unites us, preparing our heart to hear God's Word

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *The communal life was part of the Church, according to the Acts of the Apostles, from the very beginning. So life-changing was the experience of the first Eucharistic assembly that they gave up their jobs, their wealth, and their homes to become part of this community of faith. Most of us are not called to so literal a life of community. We continue with our individual lives, but every Sunday (or Saturday evening), we do what Christians have always done. We gather to devote ourselves to prayer and the breaking of the bread. Remind your child how faithfully Christians have observed this Tradition that your family continues to observe.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- We Glorify You
- And With Your Spirit

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 223,
Gather to Worship

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that Jesus invites us to gather with each other to pray and worship our God.

Say: Let's listen to what happened when Jesus appeared to his friends after he rose from the dead.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: The disciples of Jesus invite us to gather to be fed by Jesus as they were.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about gathering to worship together.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 224,
Celebrating the Eucharist

Read aloud the opening question and the two paragraphs. On a separate piece of paper write *Mass = Eucharist* to show your child that these two names are interchangeable.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box.

Ask: Why do you think the first followers gathered together? (to worship God and remember Jesus, to hear God's Word) When does your parish community get together? (Sunday morning or Saturday evening, Holy days of Obligation)



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: The first followers of Jesus were Jews. They participated in the daily prayers at the synagogue, but celebrated the Lord's Supper in large home gatherings. Even when Christianity separated itself from Judaism, and the Mass began to be celebrated in churches, the order of the Liturgy kept elements from the Jewish service. Today, your family participates in family prayer in your home and gathers with the community on Sundays. Faithfulness to both of these ways of praying is an important part of your family's faith formation.

Turn to Page 225,
We Gather

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Ask: When do we stand? (when the Mass begins) When do the altar servers enter? (while we are singing the gathering song) Do the readers, deacons, and priests sing the gathering song as they enter? (yes)

Have your child point to and read the three highlighted Catholic Faith Words, **Eucharist**, **Mass**, and **assembly**, and their definitions.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *On your family calendar, mark the Sundays with a special sign, for example an “M” for Mass, or a cross to remind your family when you will participate in Mass.*

Turn to Page 226,
The Introductory Rites

Read aloud the opening question and the two paragraphs.

Ask: What does the priest lead the assembly in making? (the Sign of the Cross) Ask your child to demonstrate the Sign of the Cross.

Ask: What does the priest say when he greets the assembly? (“The Lord be with you.”)



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Participating in Mass is only part of fulfilling the Commandment to keep the Lord’s Day. Encourage your child to think of ways to help family members have time to rest on Sunday, such as helping with household chores, for example, clearing the table after meals. Brainstorm ways your family members can relax, pray, and help others on Sunday.*

Turn to Page 227,
Words of Praise

Have your child silently read the paragraphs on this page.

Ask: What do you need to better participate in the Mass? (forgiveness in your heart)

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The Gloria begins with the words sung to the shepherds by the angels at the Nativity. The prayer follows the form of many scriptural hymns. Review the words of the Gloria with your child. Praise God in your family prayer.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 228,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the opening question and the paragraphs.

Summarize the bullet points in the “Ways to Join in the Mass” chart for your child. Ask your child to identify what’s happening in the pictures on this page.

Turn to Page 229,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Tarcisius.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you can show respect for Jesus in the Eucharist.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 231,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (see Page 323), during your night prayer this week.*



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

Listen to God's Word

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 241,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize Jesus' use of stories as a way to help us understand more about God and his Kingdom
- Examine the components of the Liturgy of the Word, including readings from both the Old Testament and New Testament
- Understand that the deacon or priest proclaims the Gospel reading and gives a homily to help us understand and apply God's Word to our lives
- Identify that the Liturgy of the Word ends with the Creed and the Prayer of the Faithful

Turn to Page 233,
Listen to God's Word

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *We are called to dwell in the Word of God, to find shelter and sustenance in the Scriptures, and to grow closer to the living Word of God, Jesus. Our lives are full of distractions that cause us to stray and wander from our true place in God's love. But if we take time to dwell in God's Word, we will always find our way home. Make a home for God's Word in your family and it will grow in your child's heart.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Gospel Acclamation/Alleluia
- Jesus' Stories

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that in the Bible, God tells us so much about himself. We learn how God wants to be with us.

Say: Let's hear one parable Jesus told to help us understand life with God.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus told his disciples many parables. The stories he told are God's living Word. We read them today in the Bible.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about the Word of God.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 234,
God's Word Proclaimed

Read aloud the text and have your child circle the word parables.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box.

Direct your child's attention to the illustration. Have your child locate the mustard seeds, the large tree, and the bird coming to nest.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Show your child a jar of mustard (if possible). Tell your child that mustard is made from the fruit of a spice bush. In the Palestine of Jesus' day, a tiny mustard seed might grow into a sprawling desert bush large enough for birds to nest in. The phrase "the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches" is an old Jewish proverb (or saying) used by the prophets to describe God's role over all people. This Scripture story of the tiny seed that grows to many times its size reminds us that if we have a little faith, God will help us grow.

Turn to Page 235,
The Scripture Readings Begin

Invite your child to think of ways in which Jesus continues to teach us using stories today.

Read aloud the first paragraph and summarize the bullet points.



Do the gold-star activity.

Read aloud the last sentence.

Explain that the reader says the same thing at the end of each reading, the acclamation, "The word of the Lord."

Ask: What do you respond? (“Thanks be to God.”)

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus used stories as a way to help us understand the Kingdom. Make Bible stories a regular part of your bedtime reading to your child.*

Turn to Page 236,
Jesus’ Good News

Read aloud the opening question and the text. Have your child point to and read the highlighted words **homily**, **creed**, and **Prayer of the Faithful**. Read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Turn to Page 237,
The People Speak

Read aloud the text. Have your child say, “Lord, hear our prayer” after each of the three bullets.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Praying for others is an important aspect of practicing our faith. Intercessory prayer is an ancient practice in Jewish and Christian tradition. We are called to feel such solidarity with all humans that we ask God’s blessing without limits, including even our enemies and those who persecute us. How is praying for others integrated into your family’s prayer? Find a regular time to do this, perhaps at dinner prayer or bedtime prayer.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 238,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the opening question and the first paragraph.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus used parables, stories that used everyday situations that were familiar to the people, but in a way that they could learn about God and the Kingdom. The parables such as the Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son have practical lessons for families.*

Turn to Page 239,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Paul.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what you would write if you were writing about Jesus.

Turn to Page 241,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (see Page 323), during your night prayer this week.*



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

Remembering Jesus' Sacrifice

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 251,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Explain the Mass as a memorial celebration of Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- Describe Jesus' Death on the Cross as a sacrifice and a gift that saves all people from the power of sin and everlasting death
- Appreciate the Liturgy of the Eucharist as the second main part of the Mass in which we receive Holy Communion
- Discover how the gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ

Turn to Page 243,
Remembering Jesus' Sacrifice

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *The Sacrament of the Eucharist is so vital to the Church that the Second Vatican Council called it the "source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, 11). Faith develops from participation, reverence, and love of the Eucharist. How does your family show the importance of this Sacrament?*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- We Proclaim Your Death, O Lord
- Jesus, You Are Bread for Us

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that Jesus reminds us that God needs to be first in our lives.

Say: Listen to hear what Jesus tells us we need to sacrifice in order to follow him.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Sometimes the things that we have, like our games or our toys, can distract us from following Jesus. If we spend too much time playing, or wanting more things, we take time away from getting to know Jesus.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about keeping God first in their lives.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 244,
Making Sacrifices

Read aloud the opening question. Have your child follow along as you read the definition of **sacrifice** from the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read the opening paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture story in the Parchment Paper box. Invite your child to explain why the young man went away sad?

Read aloud the last paragraph.

Ask: What is a time you had to give up something for someone else?



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *In the story of the Rich Young Man, Jesus asks us to place God first in our lives. Help your child understand the difference between want and need. Encourage family discussions about "How much is too much?" Ask questions such as, "Is eating dinner every night too much?" (No.) "Is eating dessert after every meal too much?" (Yes.) Weaving questions such as "Do you think our family wants this or needs this?" will help your family learn to distinguish the difference.*

Turn to Page 245,
The Greatest Gift

Show your child a crucifix you have in your home (or a picture of one).

Ask: What does a crucifix help us remember?

Read aloud the three paragraphs.

Ask: How do we remember and celebrate Jesus' Death and Resurrection?
(On Easter and every Sunday we celebrate a "little Easter.")

Read the definition of the **Last Supper** in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 244.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The Mass is a memorial celebration of Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Jesus' sacrifice is a gift that saves all people from the power of sin and everlasting death. Jesus showed us how sacrificing for another can be an act of love. In your everyday conversations, affirm and thank members of your family for the sacrifices they make for others.*

Turn to Page 246,
Liturgy of the Eucharist

Read aloud the opening question and first paragraph. Have your child place a finger on the word **Liturgy of the Eucharist** in the text. Read its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read the second paragraph.

Ask: Who prepares the gift? (the priest)

Read aloud the beginning of the third paragraph. Have your child read the "All" part as you read the part for the "Priest."



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The word Eucharist means "thanksgiving." Cultivate an appreciation for the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Discuss how you are grateful for Jesus' sacrifice. Also, think of ways we can practice showing gratitude and appreciation for family members and friends.*

Turn to Page 247,
The Eucharistic Prayer

Write the word "Eucharist." Remind your child that Eucharist means "thanksgiving." Ask your child what we are giving thanks for when we celebrate the Eucharist.

Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask your child what he or she learned about the Eucharistic prayer. Remind your child that we give thanks to God for sending Jesus, whose Body and Blood become present in the Sacrament.

Have your child place a finger on the word **consecration**. Read its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 248,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the opening question and the two paragraphs.

Direct your attention to the chart, “The Mystery of Faith.” Invite your child to join you in reading aloud each version of the Mystery of Faith. Have your child mark the ones he or she recognizes.

Turn to Page 249,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Blessed Imelda Lambertini.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about one message about Jesus you can share with someone else.

Turn to Page 251,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (see Page 323), during your night prayer this week.*



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

Supper of the Lamb

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 265,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Compare the story of the Loaves and the Fish to what Jesus gives us in Holy Communion
- Recognize the value of praying together the Lord's Prayer and offering each other a sign of peace before receiving Communion
- Understand that through the Eucharist, Jesus' followers are united with him and one another
- Appreciate that through the Eucharist, Jesus Christ is really and truly present with us, so we receive Holy Communion with reverence and adore him in the reserved Blessed Sacrament

Turn to Page 257,
Supper of the Lamb

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *There is nothing more beautiful to watch than a mother interacting with her first-born child in those first weeks of life. Aware of the sacredness of this child, she responds with reverence. As Catholics, we believe that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist. The Son of God offers his body to us each time we come to Mass. The only appropriate response is adoration and reverence. Teaching your child the body language to express reverence speaks loudly about our belief. Appropriate dress, genuflecting, and leaving time for sacred silence opens our hearts to the magnitude of the gift we have been given in the Eucharist.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- The Supper of the Lamb
- We Come to Worship You

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that a wonderful part of God's gift to us in the harvest is wheat and grapes. From that wheat and grapes, we make bread and wine.

Say: Let's listen with your heart to this story about bread.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus was telling his disciples that he is the bread that comes from Heaven. He gives us life. He is the Bread of Life. And so we can always have that life, Jesus gave himself to us in the Eucharist.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about the Eucharist and how God the Father takes care of us.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 258,
Jesus Feeds Us

Read the first paragraph.

Look at the illustration. Ask your child what he/she thinks is happening in the picture.

Say: Let's read God's Word to hear the story.



Proclaim the Scripture story (continued on page 259).

Turn to Page 259,
The Feeding of the
Five Thousand

Ask: How did Jesus take care of the people? (**He fed them.**)

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraphs under "The Lord's Prayer."

Read the definition of **Holy Communion** in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 258. Ask your child to retell it to you in his/her own words.

Explain that before people receive Jesus in Holy Communion, they share a sign of peace and they pray the prayer Jesus taught.

Activity

Discuss the first question in the Share Your Faith activity.



Have your child complete the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Have you been craving some quiet? For how long? People who find so much noise, so much activity in their lives, a bit overwhelming, can often find peace in the quiet of God's presence as they sit with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. During your busy day, as you go from one place to another, you might want to consider a fifteen minute respite before God. In breathing in his love and giving praise to his name you will be restored in body, mind and spirit.*

Turn to Page 260,
Holy Communion

Tell your child to silently read the page. Ask her/him to tell you what she/he has read.

Review the definition of **Real Presence** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 261,
Receiving Communion

Explain that great love and respect are shown for the Eucharist.

Tell the children that Catholics who receive Holy Communion without serious sin become one with Jesus and his Church. The priest asks God to bless everyone and to give them peace so that they can go forth to love others as Jesus did.

Read aloud the paragraph under “The Blessed Sacrament.”

Have your child read the definitions for the Catholic Faith Words, **reverence**, **Tabernacle**, and **Blessed Sacrament**.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

During the week ahead, make a visit to your parish with your child. Ask your child to find the Tabernacle. Say a prayer together before the Blessed Sacrament.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 262,
Our Catholic Life

Ask your child to read the first paragraph. Pause after the first paragraph to discuss the work of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion in your parish.

Read the second paragraph. Then direct your child's attention to the photograph, and invite them to describe the Tabernacle in your parish.

Ask: How can you respect Jesus' presence in the Eucharist? (We genuflect, or kneel on one knee, anytime that we are before the Blessed Sacrament or when we enter the Church in order to recognize and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.)

Turn to Page 263,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How does your family show their respect for the Eucharist?

Turn to Page 265,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning Prayer (see Page 324), during your morning prayer this week.*



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

Go Forth!

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 275,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand that in the Concluding Rites of the Mass, we are blessed and sent out to proclaim the Good News and give honor to God by the way we live
- Examine the Apostles' call to share the Good News
- Identify the Church's mission as sharing Jesus' message of love and the Kingdom
- Recognize that all members of the Church share in her mission and some serve as missionaries who travel far away to spread the Good News

Turn to Page 267,
Go Forth!

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Our actions really do speak louder than our words. At the conclusion of Mass, we are told to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." These are not just words; they are a call for us to act in the way God wants us to. We are sent to share the love we have received in the Eucharist with all the world, but we must begin by sharing this love in our own families*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Share the Light
- Take the Word of God with You

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that we are each called to share God's Word and life with others.

Say: Let's listen to hear how Saint Paul taught about Jesus.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Just as Saint Paul told everyone about Jesus Christ, we are called to do the same.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about the mission of Jesus.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 268,
Live the Gospel

Ask your child to silently read the two paragraphs.



Proclaim the Scripture story (continued on page 269).

Turn to Page 269,
The Church's Mission

Continue proclaiming the Scripture story.

Look at the picture and read the caption. Ask your child to tell you what they think would be challenging about being a missionary in a foreign country.

Ask your child to read aloud the two paragraphs. Stop at the highlighted words, **mission** and **missionaries**, and read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box. Give your child two index cards and have them write the words on one side and their definitions on the other. Collect the cards so they can be redistributed as flash cards at the end of the chapter and unit.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Listening to stories is one of the favorite pastimes of children. Whether they are found in books or made up on the spot, stories capture the imagination of our children. Sharing stories of the women and men who have been models for us of a holy life can help your child imagine what it is like to live a virtuous life. Many adults remember being moved by a story of a Saint or missionary as a young child. Read your children the stories of the lives of the Saints and help them to understand God's call to live a life of service and mission.*

Turn to Page 270,
An Example for All

Turn to Page 271,
Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

Read the story of Saint Frances Cabrini together with your child (continued on page 271).

Ask: Why did Frances Cabrini start her own community of sisters?

Discuss the things Frances Cabrini did to help those who were poor. Remind your child that Frances Cabrini carried out the Church's mission by working to build orphanages, schools, convents, and hospitals to help people.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity. Allow your child to look at a map or globe so they can decide where they might like to go to spread the Good News.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 272,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the first paragraph. Tell your child that these are the people who will help them grow in faith.

Activity

Fold a sheet of paper "accordion style." Then draw a basic silhouette of a person with their arms extended (you are creating a paper doll chain). Allow your child to cut out the silhouette and open the paper to reveal the paper doll chain. Have your child write the titles of each person on the front of the chain and have them describe what each person does on the back of the chain. You can use index cards as an alternative way to reinforce this information.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 273,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Anthony Claret.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How can your family help others learn about Jesus?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 275,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning Prayer (see Page 324), during your morning prayer this week.*



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

A Feast For Everyone

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 285,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define Heaven as life and happiness forever with God
- Relate the story of the Wedding Feast to God's invitation and our response
- Describe the Eucharist as the spiritual food that helps us to live with Jesus forever
- Recognize the need to say "yes" daily to God

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Oftentimes, our concerns of this world interrupt our long-range view. We forget that this world is not all there is. Eternity seems very far away. Yet, the time comes for everyone to face the reality that life in this world is just the beginning. God wants everyone to have eternal life with him. He sent his Son Jesus to show the way, and the way of Jesus is unfailing love. As a follower of Jesus, love of God and love of neighbor are the means by which you show your readiness to accept God's invitation to the heavenly banquet. As you tend to the daily needs of this world, remember to keep the long-range view.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- All That God Wants You to Be
- Hail Mary

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 277,
A Feast for Everyone

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that Jesus tells us what we need to do to follow his call in our lives.

Say: Let's listen to what Jesus says about who is important in God's Kingdom.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus is reminding us to listen for God's invitation to be his disciples. He calls each one of us.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about making Jesus a part of our lives.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 278,
All Are Invited

Ask your child to read the first paragraph. Have them read the definition for the Catholic Faith Word, **Heaven**. Have your child write the word on one side of an index card and the definition on the other side.

Ask: What does God the Father invite everyone to be a part of?
(the happiness of his great love on this Earth and in Heaven forever)



Proclaim the Scripture story (continued on page 279). Divide the parts with your child or you may want to enlist any other people in your home to help with this reading.

Turn to Page 279,
The Wedding Feast

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Listen to "The Great Feast" on the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 16. Lyrics are available at aliveinchrist.osv.com. Discuss the last verse of the song with your child.

Turn to Page 280,
With God Now
and Always

Read aloud the three paragraphs. Tell your child to listen for a sign of what Heaven will be like.

Tell them that every time they receive Jesus in Holy Communion, they are preparing for the great feast of Heaven.

Have your child read aloud the next paragraph.

Ask: What does God call you to do? (to know, love, and serve him) How will you answer him?



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 281,
Say "Yes" to God!

Read aloud the first two sentences, and then alternate reading each bullet with your child. After each bullet is read, brainstorm how to do each thing. Have your child give examples, with your help.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Sharing a great meal with family or friends is always a little piece of Heaven. Research tells us that food tastes better when we are sharing it with others. Love "flavors" the meal. One of the most beautiful images of Heaven is the image of the heavenly banquet, a meal where God's perfect love is shared by all. For a taste of that banquet, we do not have to wait until we die. We experience the sign of this heavenly banquet today in the Eucharist. As members of Christ's Body, we become one with him in and through the Eucharist, the Sacrament of love and unity and the sign of the glorious end God has in store for us. Going to Mass with your family is a way to experience the future in the now.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 282,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Read the first line of "Words of the Prayer." Then have your child read, as an echo, the first line of "What They Mean." Continue this process through the remainder of the chart.

Refer to page 326 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book and pray the Hail Mary slowly and thoughtfully with your child.

Turn to Page 283,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Mary Magdalene de Pazzi.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss what you think Heaven looks like?

Turn to Page 285,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Morning Prayer the (see Page 324), during your morning prayer this week.*



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