

God's Gift For Us

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 65,
the Family + Faith page.

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

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Discover that God created the world to show his love
- Appreciate that all of creation is God's gift to us, and his Son, Jesus, is his greatest gift
- Describe ways that people use God's gifts in the world to make things we need
- Understand that thanksgiving is showing God we are grateful for all that he's given us

Parents, Consider This: *Genesis actually begins with two creation accounts (Genesis 1:1–2:4/ Genesis 2:4–25). Common to both stories is the idea that all the wonders of creation are gifts from God to humanity, gifts that humans have a responsibility to cherish. Belief in the goodness of creation was one of the most important convictions that the people of ancient Israel passed on to the Catholic Church. In the course of a challenge in someone's day, you might hear them say "It's all good," as they try to make the best of it. When you grow in the awareness that all creation reflects God's goodness, it gives new meaning to "It's all good!"*

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 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.

- And It Was Good
- The Tiny Seed

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 57,
God's Gifts for Us

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 the world and everything in it.

Say: God has created so many wonderful gifts for us to enjoy. Let's listen to a reading from the Book of Genesis.



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 gives us many different kinds of gifts for us to see and to enjoy as well as to give us life.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about God’s creation and how God thought of so many different things.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 58,
Gifts from God

Point to the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to find the word that begins with the letter “J.” Write the name “Jesus” on an index card. Have your child look at and say his name. Ask him/her to listen for the word Jesus when you read. Tell him/her to stand at the name of Jesus.

Read “Gifts from God” to your child.

Ask: What is the greatest gift God gave us? What are some of the other gifts God gave us?

Share that God gives us the gift of the world and all that is good in it.

Using an index card, review the Catholic Faith Word **Jesus** and teach the word **praise**.

★ Point out the directions to the gold-star activity and read them. Have your child work to complete the activity.

Turn to Page 59,
God Made the World

Summarize the paragraph to prepare for the Scripture story.



Proclaim “The Story of Creation.”

Tell your child you are going to play a game. He or she should think of something good in God’s world that they can act out for you. After you guess what their gift is, then you can act out something God has made. Do this several times.

Emphasize that the whole world and everything in it is God’s gift to us.

Turn to Page 60,
Made to Help Us

Read aloud “Made to Help Us.”

Emphasize that God gave us everything we need to live and be happy.

★ Read aloud the directions to the gold-star activity. Then read the chart aloud together. Share with your child several people in your life that make you happy. Tell the reasons why. Include people your child knows but some he/she does not know. Ask him/her to share some with you.

Remind your child that God gives us people to love and care for us and to be our friends.

Turn to Page 61,
Thank God

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Introduce the word **thanksgiving** from the Catholic Faith Word box.

Read through the list of ways we can tell God thank you. After each sentence, discuss ways in which your family can remember to live these simple steps to holiness.

Turn to Grace After Meals on page 318 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book for an example of a prayer of thanksgiving.

Activity

Read aloud the directions to the activity. Direct your child to do the activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Sharing food with others is not only a function of survival but a way we connect with one another. Food feeds our bodies and our souls. Food can be a daily reminder that everything in our lives is a gift—the food we eat, the people that surround us. One of the most basic forms of thanksgiving is the prayer before meals. This prayer is a simple practice to help us become aware of God’s gracious gifts. Make a family commitment to pray before you eat no matter where you are.*

Turn to Page 62,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Ask: How do people use the things God made? (Answers may include we use trees to build homes, we use people to care for us, we use plants and animals for food.)

Read the second paragraph aloud. Then read the caption under each picture. Pause after each caption to make sure your child understands the sequence of changing natural substances into prepared food.

Ask: What other things can you make from God's gifts?

Turn to Page 63,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Nicholas.

Share your reactions to the information.

Talk about some ways your family can share your gifts with each other.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Live Your Faith activity. Talk through the activity together.

Turn to Page 65,
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 317) 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.