Made To Be With God

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 70,
the Family + Faith page.

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

Parents, Consider This: *The human heart longs for God; a longing planted in us by God. Through our longing, we encounter a God who is eager to be revealed, who wants us to know him and to experience his love. Our capacity to know him is, itself, a gift from him. God's gift of faith is first and primarily nurtured in your home. Your lived faith is the essential factor in cultivating your child's understanding of God and the need for faith to be supported in and through the Church. In a very real way, "You've got the power!"*

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand the sense of longing we all feel as part of the desire God put in our hearts to be truly happy with him
- Examine the search for happiness through the Gospel account of the Woman at the Well
- Recognize grace as a free, loving gift of participation in the life of the Holy Trinity
- Define faith as a belief and trust in God and the things that he has revealed to us
- Describe the Sacrament of Baptism as the beginning of the journey of 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 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.
- Holy Spirit, Come Now
- You Are Near

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 63,
Made to Be with God

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 everyone wants to be happy, but our longing for happiness cannot be satisfied by things. It can only by satisfied by God. He wants us to be happy with him forever. In this reading, we see just how much we long for God.

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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: There are all kinds of longings, and longing is a gift from God. Only God's grace can satisfy our longing for him.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about true happiness and our longing for God.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 64,
What We Want

Ask your child to share which of her/his relatives' homes is her/his favorite to visit and why.

Have him/her silently read the first paragraph.

Ask your child to find the chapter and beginning verse from Luke in your Bible. Read aloud the Scripture.

Invite your child to share what they think it would be like if Jesus came to your house. How would each member of the family react to this visit?

Discuss the questions that follow the Scripture story.

Turn to Page 65,
The Gift of Longing

Activity

Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Have him/her fold it into fours. In each block on each side of the paper (for a total of eight), have him/her write something he/she longs for. You do the same. When you are finished discuss your responses. How many of your responses have to do with things? How many of his/her responses have to do with things? How many have to do with personal issues? How many of them have to do with relationships?

Have your child silently read the text.

Discuss how many of the things mentioned in the paragraph were on your lists.

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Ask your child what the word **religion** means to her/him. Now read aloud the definition from the Catholic Faith Words box.

Read the paragraph.

Activity

On another piece of paper, direct your child to write the numbers 1-10 in a vertical column. Now ask her/him to write the ten things that are necessary for happiness, one being the most important and ten being the least important.

Parents, Consider This: *We hear many people today say they are spiritual but not religious. Religion sometimes has a negative connotation. Despite the fact that all religions are flawed because their members are flawed, we profess that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would be with his community—the Church. We need the Church to help us know God's truth that is revealed in Jesus. We need support to hold firm to our beliefs and we need the strength that the Sacraments provide us with to help us live as disciples.*

Turn to Page 66,
What God Gives

Read aloud the text to your child. Tell your child that as they listen to the Scripture story, they should think about what the Israelites longing for a savior really means.

Tell your child to read the Scripture story aloud, but you will read Jesus' part.

Have your child read and follow the instructions for the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 67,
God Satisfies You

Read the text silently.

Use the Catholic Faith Word definitions to clarify the meaning of **grace** and **faith**.

Discuss the illustration (on the previous page) of the Woman at the Well. How did the woman change? Remind your child that the word **Messiah** means "God's Anointed." Jesus was God's chosen and beloved Son who brought God's Kingdom to the world.

Ask your child to read aloud the text.

Activity

Now, read aloud the directions for Connect Your Faith activity and give your child time to complete the activity.

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Parents, Consider This: *Just as your child needs to experience a deep sense of belonging in a family, he/she also needs to experience a deep sense of belonging to a larger community, the Church. Our local experience of the Church is the parish. Studies indicate that children that feel connected to their parish are less likely to become addicted to substances, are less likely to be depressed, and are less likely to attempt suicide. The occurrence of these things you may fear most for your child are decreased when she/he knows where they belong. Being engaged in the life of your parish is a gift your family needs.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 68,
Our Catholic Life

Take turns reading the paragraphs.

Point out the illustrations on the page as they relate to the content.

Encourage your child to draw or write about one of their favorite prayer places.

Remind your child that prayer involves listening, as well as talking, to God.

Ask: What would help you be a better listener when you pray?

Turn to Page 69,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Augustine.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Saint Augustine's mother helped him to find his way to God. How can the members of your family help each other grow closer to God?

Activity

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

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.

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