

# Journeys of Faith

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 95,**  
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 help your child to:

- Compare Abraham's trust in God with our own trust
- Recall the faith stories of Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants
- Identify God's guidance in our journey of faith through prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Church
- Appreciate the need for daily prayer in order to deepen faith

**Parents, Consider This:** *One response to the gift of faith is prayer—honest and loving communication with God. As it did with Abraham, faith brings us to prayer and prayer brings us to faith. People of faith become more intimate with God through prayer. Often, the most fervent prayers emerge from situations that test a person's faith. Talk about prayer in your family. Recall a time when you were being tested in life and you turned to prayer. Share that story with your family. That is how they will know what to do in their hour of need.*

**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. This identifies the person of faith, Julian of Norwich, highlighted in this 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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- O God, You Search Me

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 87,**  
Journeys of Faith

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 verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

**Say:** Our ancestors in faith asked, "Who will be our devoted leader? Who will walk with us on the way of faith?" God answered them. Let's listen to God tell us who he is, through his Word.

 **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 all need someone we trust to be a leader for us. We all look for someone to walk with us on our way. God promises to be our leader and companion.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else your child might wonder about the journey of faith.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 88,**  
Abram and Sarai's Journey

**Have** your child silently read the opening question and first paragraph.

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

 **Proclaim** the Scripture story.

**Point** out that Abram and Sarai were not told in advance where they were to go. God told them to begin the journey, and they had faith that he had a plan for them.

**Discuss** the purple question at the bottom of the page with your child.

**Turn to Page 89,**  
The Journey Continues

**Have** your child silently read the introductory paragraph.

**Point** out that God changed the names of both Abram and Sarai as a sign of the covenant he made with them.

 **Proclaim** the Scripture story.

**Discuss** the purple question at the bottom of the page.

## Activity

**Have** your child do the Share Your Faith activity. Once they complete it, have them share their answers with you.

**Parents, Consider This:** Abram and Sarai left their country of Ur (which is now Iraq), traveling along the Fertile Crescent of the ancient world to the Land of Caanan (which is now Israel). They journeyed through Haran, Scephem, and Hebron to the Negev desert area. They traveled with a large number of followers, flocks, and herds. It is hard to imagine the amount of trust they had in God to make the journey and the courage they had to lead the way for this large group. They were a family, in many ways, just like any family who is willing to be led by God. Consider what your family can learn about radical trust in God in this story.

**Turn to Page 90,**  
God's Plan of Salvation

**Read** the question and the first paragraph. Together, make a family tree sketch of the names of Abraham's descendants' (mentioned in the text).



**Have** your child silently read the Scripture story of Joseph and retell the story to you.

**Turn to Page 91,**  
God Invites

**Have** your child silently read the first three paragraphs. Ask your child to underline the words in the text that tell who or what can help them on their journey of faith. (Bible, Seven Sacraments, Church, Jesus, the Holy Spirit)

**Review** the highlighted words. Ask your child to find the definitions in the Catholic Faith Word box on the previous page. Have them explain them to you in his or her own words.

**Summarize** the section "Faith and Prayer" and share that with your child.

**Discuss** the purple questions at the bottom of the page.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 92,**  
Our Catholic Life

**Discuss** the question, "What are some ways to develop your prayer life?" (read the Bible, pray different types of prayer, pray memorized prayer, pray in your own words)



**Do** the gold-star activity. Have your child share his or her answers with you. Review the "Forms of Prayer" chart after your child completes the activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** The Book of Psalms includes many different kinds of prayers. Prayers of blessing acknowledge God's gifts; prayers of adoration worship God the Creator; prayers of petition ask God for forgiveness of sin and care of needs; prayers of intercession pray to God for others; prayers of thanksgiving and praise thank God. The journey of faith involves communication with God. The Psalms are a rich source of prayers. Find a Psalm that is appropriate for your family. Share it as part of your family prayer this week.

**Turn to Page 93,**  
People of Faith

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Monica.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a time when your prayers were answered.

**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 (see Page 320), 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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).