

Pray and Worship

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 105,
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:

- Discover ways to show thankfulness and reverence to God and respond to his goodness and love
- Examine worship as a natural response to God, as we adore and praise him, especially in prayer and in the liturgy of the Church
- Recognize that in the liturgy, we participate in the saving work accomplished through Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- Identify the ways in which we experience the Holy Trinity in the celebration of the liturgy

Parents, Consider This: *In past generations of Catholic families, regular worship, especially of Sunday liturgy, was a non-negotiable part of family life. There appears to be a shift in the percentage of Catholics who attend Sunday Mass and observe Holy Days of Obligation. Studies of faith development clearly show that consistent faithfulness to these religious practices are very effective and powerful in helping our children become resilient and hopeful persons in life. Cultivating such faith is a gift that lasts a lifetime.*

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.

- Praise the Lord
- For the Fruits of this Creation

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 97,
Prayer and 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.

Say: Prayer is more than talking to God. It is listening to God and responding to him when he speaks to us. The following ritual reminds us that God loves us and hears us when we pray.

 **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 make our requests known to God when we pray. Liturgy is the Church's official public communal prayer. Liturgy celebrates the love that the Holy Trinity has poured out on the world.

Share a memory of your childhood participation in liturgy.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about worship, prayer, and the liturgy.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 98,
God with Us

Have your child silently read the opening question and paragraph.

Explain that the Ark of the Covenant was a lavishly decorated portable chest that contained the Ten Commandments.

 **Proclaim** the Scripture.

Ask: What do you think was in David's heart as he danced before the ark? Have you ever felt so happy that you wanted to dance? Listen to your child's responses and discuss them.

Turn to Page 99,
Responding to God's Love

Have your child silently read the first paragraph.

 **Proclaim** "The Early Church Gathers."

Summarize the rest of the paragraphs and discuss them with your child. Inquire as to how he or she thinks the early Christians resembled or differed from the Christians of today.

Point out the Catholic Faith Words box and review the definition of **reverence** with your child.

Activity

On a separate piece of paper have your child make a list of what words and actions during the Mass show reverence for God.

Parents, Consider This: Help your child understand that there is a difference between formality and reverence. While the liturgy has a formality to its form that we respect, reverence comes from a deeper place of love and gratitude in our hearts. As we are formed internally in our awareness for all God has done for us and given us, our reverence is an expression of that love and gratitude.

Turn to Page 100,
The Work of God and His People

Review the words **worship** and **liturgy** in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Have your child silently read the text and complete the gold-star activity.

Review the material in “The Catholic Church’s Liturgy” chart. For extended review, turn to page 322 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your child’s book and read a couple of prayers from the liturgy.

Turn to Page 101,
The Role of the Trinity

Read aloud the text.

Say: From the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of Mass until the final blessing, the entire liturgy is a celebration of the saving love of the Holy Trinity.

Activity

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

Parents, Consider This: According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a blessing comes from God and gives life. The proper Christian response to God’s innumerable blessings is to “bless” God in return—to offer him adoration, praise, and thanksgiving primarily through the liturgy of the Church. The next time you attend Mass as a family, invite your family to spend some time thanking God, especially for the blessings most taken for granted, such as a safe home, nourishing food, and our friends.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 102,
Our Catholic Life

Read together the opening question and the first paragraph.

Discuss the question, “How do you pray with your whole self?”



Do the gold-star activity together.

Turn to Page 103,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Cecilia.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how we praise God with music and song.

Activity

Do the Live Your Faith activity if it is something that interests your child.

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 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.