

Responding to God

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 157,
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:

- Connect that Noah said “yes” to God, and God promised to always keep him safe. The rainbow is a sign of that promise
- Understand that Jesus invites everyone to God’s Kingdom—the world of love, peace, and justice that is in Heaven and is still being built on Earth
- Appreciate that the Church shares Jesus’ message about God’s love
- Identify the Church as the community of baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus

Parents, Consider This: *Open up the newspaper and you may feel like burying your head in the sand. The world isn’t exactly a picture of God’s Kingdom. Facing the challenges and difficulties of this world alone can be overwhelming. However, God does not ask you to wade through troubled times by yourself. Instead, he invites you to be a part of a community that says “yes”—yes to faith and yes to sharing his love with one another. With the support of the faith community, you can live in the peace of the Kingdom of 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 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.

- Saying Yes
- Get On the Boat

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 149,
Responding to 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 we are invited to say “yes” to God.

Say: Each one of us is invited in faith to say “yes” to what God asks of us. This Bible story tells us how Noah said “yes” to 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: Noah listened to God and said, “Yes.” Every day, we are invited by God to say “yes” to him.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about faithfulness to God and how God speaks to us.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 150,
Trust in God

Say: We are going to read a story about a special man named Noah. God will ask Noah a big question. Listen for Noah’s answer.

 **Proclaim** the Scripture story. Tell your child to say “Yes, I will!” during the reading whenever you point at him/her. Read the Scripture aloud with enthusiasm. Pause at the end of the third and fourth paragraphs and point.

 **Have** your child underline what God told Noah to do.

Turn to Page 151,
Noah Says “Yes” (cont’d)

 **Proclaim** the rest of the Scripture story.

Ask: Why were Noah, his family, and the animals safe? *(They were in the ark; God was taking care of them.)*

Ask your child to remember a time when she/he has seen a rainbow. Tell them that the next time you see a rainbow you will pray, “Thank you God for protecting me.”

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child trace the letters.

Turn to Page 152,
All Are Invited

Tell your child it is important to say “yes” to God. Share with them some of the ways you say “yes.” *(taking care of your family, helping your neighbors, using the gifts of the Earth carefully)*

Invite your child to read aloud the definition of Kingdom of God. Have your child write “Kingdom of God” on an index card. You can use these cards to review vocabulary throughout the year.



Proclaim “The Parable of the Great Feast.” Ask your child to guess who the rich man is and what the big party is. Explain that God invites everyone to join him and be happy with him forever.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 153,
The Church

Tell your child that she/he is the servant, or helper, in the story Jesus told. Reinforce that the rich man asked the servants to go gather everyone in.

Explain that the members of the Church are like the servants in the story. God sends out the people who make up the Church to invite everyone to his Kingdom.

Read aloud the text.

Create an index card for **Church**.

Activity

Ask your child to complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Have you ever been deeply hurt when you watched your child reach out to another child or group of children and be rejected? The cry in the heart of both you and your child is simply to be accepted. It is in that yearning that we encounter the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the source of communion, of oneness. In the communion of the Church, we are nourished and sent to spread the Good News of God’s love.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 154,
Our Catholic Life

Ask: How did Mary answer God’s question?

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

Help your child recall that Mary is the Mother of Jesus.

Review the pictures and words in the yellow box marked “Key.”

Read aloud the picture story. Pause at each picture and let your child supply the appropriate word.

Ask: How can you say “yes” to God?

Turn to Page 155,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family listens for God's voice.

Activity

Discuss the Live Your Faith activity. Have your child complete the activity.

Turn to Page 157,
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.