

The Sacraments

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 163,
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:

- Describe the Seven Sacraments as special signs and celebrations that come from Jesus and give us a share in God's life and work
- Understand that Jesus continues to share his life and love with us through the Sacraments
- Explore Baptism as the first Sacrament we receive that frees us from sin and makes us children of God
- Learn that in the Seven Sacraments, we receive the gift of God's life and help, or grace
- Identify the Sacraments of Initiation as the beginning of our life in the Church

Parents, Consider This: *There are moments in our lives when we are moved beyond our daily concerns. Remember that moment when your infant smiled, looked directly into your eyes, and you were overwhelmed with love? Sacraments are much like that. They are moments when God is present and inviting us to look directly into his eyes. Our hearts are overwhelmed with love for him as we respond to his incredible gift of love for us. Receiving the Sacraments regularly needs to be at the heart of your family life. The grace that you receive strengthens you to face the challenges that will surely come.*

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.

- The Seven Sacraments
- Belonging Through Baptism

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 155,
The Sacraments

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 sometimes people speak with words and sometimes with actions. People tell us about themselves if we pay attention to what they say and do.

Say: Listen to this story about Jesus and pay attention to what we learn about him.



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: Every person wants someone to love them—a mom, a brother, a friend. God made us to be loved and to love others. But no one loves us like God loves us. The Seven Sacraments are a wonderful way that God continues to share his love with us.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about love and the Seven Sacraments.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 156,
Signs of God's Love

Have your child name some things Jesus did to show others God's love.

Summarize the first paragraph.



Proclaim the Scripture Story.

Ask your child what is happening in the art at the top of the page. (Jesus after the Resurrection [indicated by his wounds] is sending the Apostles out on mission.)

Discuss the questions at the bottom of the page.

Turn to Page 157,
Signs and Celebrations

Read aloud the first paragraph. Remind your child that signs can be both words and actions.

Ask: What is happening in the photograph on this page? Talk with your child about what she/he remembers from a sibling's, relative's, or friend's Baptism.

Read aloud the second and third paragraphs.

Have your child name two things that happen during Baptism.

Ask your child who their godparents are. What does she/he remember from the stories that people tell about that day? Share something she/he might not know about the day.

Ask your child to read the Catholic Faith Word definitions for **Seven Sacraments** and **Baptism**. Have them tell you the definitions in their own words. Make sure he/she includes all the elements of the definition.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Complete the activity.

Turn to Page 158,
The Seven Sacraments

Read aloud the first paragraph. Ask your child to put her/his finger on the word **grace**. Ask her/him to read the Catholic Faith Words definition.

Explain the key points in the second paragraph: God's action we can't see and our words and actions in the celebration, help his life in us grow.

Randomly read the names of the Sacraments across the bottom of the spread, one at a time. Ask your child to find the Sacrament and tell what each drawing represents. (Baptism: candle, Jesus is the light of the world; Confirmation: dove and flame, symbols of the Holy Spirit; Eucharist: bread and wine, the Body of Christ; Penance: Cross, Jesus' sacrifice of forgiving love; Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: oil, healing; Matrimony: rings, never-ending love; Holy Orders: Book of the Gospels and cross, being Christ's representative)

★ **Complete** the gold-star activity and discuss.

Ask your child which Sacrament Catholics celebrate first.

Read aloud the last paragraph on page 158. Do you have any remembrances of your Baptism, candle, garment, pictures? Your child would love to see them.

Explain that the word *initiation* is also used to describe the process of becoming a part of a group.

Turn to Page 159,
The Sacraments of Initiation

Read aloud or summarize the information on page 159.

Activity

Give your child a piece of art paper and utensils for decorating. Direct him/her to make a welcome to the Church card for someone who will be baptized in your parish. Decorate the front of the card with signs of Baptism. Help your child decide what to write on the inside (What a happy day! Jesus will be with you always. Welcome to our Catholic Family). Give the card to your Catechetical Leader to give to the family.

Parents, Consider This: *This is a perfect time in your child's life to begin to explore the meaning of the Sacraments. Think about how many times a day you say, "Get your hands off of that," or, "Keep your hands to yourself." Children love to touch. When we gather as Church to celebrate the Seven Sacraments, we are following in Jesus' footsteps, doing "the works of the Father." God uses the gifts of his creation—water, oil, bread, wine—and works through the ordinary gestures of human interaction—words, touch—to reveal his presence in our midst and to share grace with us.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 160,
Our Catholic Life

Read the introductory paragraph.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Read aloud parts of the chart on the right. As each part is read, explain what each sentence means.

Direct your child to match the Sacrament in the left column to how it helps the Church in the right column. (Notice that the first three are self-contained. Each section is color-coded.)

Remind your child that the grace received from the Sacraments not only helps individuals, but also helps the Church as a community.

Turn to Page 161,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Pius X.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Share with each other about times when you feel close to Jesus.

Turn to Page 163,
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.