

Called to Serve

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 163,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define vocation as God's plan for our lives, the purpose for which he made us
- Describe priesthood, consecrated religious life, committed single life, and married life as four distinct ways people respond to God's call
- Appreciate that all baptized members of the Church are called to serve God and the Church using their gifts and in ways appropriate to their state of life

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

Parents, Consider This: *There has never been a time when God was not in charge. From the first light of creation to this morning's sunrise, all humans have been under the loving dominion of God. His plan for humans also has existed from the beginning. Humanity was created to live in peace, in justice, and in love. It is in the sacred space of your family that your child will grow to understand what God's plan is for her/his life will be. Your child's grand adventure to eternity begins in your arms.*

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.

- Gifts
- Act Justly

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 155,
Called to Serve

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 God called Saul to do his work.

Say: Saul was the first King of Israel. When Samuel told Saul that God had called him to this great work, Saul was overwhelmed. Listen to the Word of God that tells the story of Saul being chosen from among all the men of Israel.



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: Many of the people gathered with Samuel that day had come from long distances. As they waited to see who God had chosen to lead them, they were not expecting to find their leader hiding in the baggage. Saul was afraid. Answering God's call requires courage and a willing heart.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about hearing and responding to God's call.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 156,
God's Call

Read aloud the first paragraph to your child.

Discuss the meaning of the Catholic Faith Word **vocation**. He/she may confuse this with vacation. Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Word box on the opposite page and ask him/her to read the definition to you.

Ask: How wonderful is it to know that God has a plan for you?



Proclaim "The Call of the First Disciples."

Discuss what Jesus meant when he said, "fishers of men."

Share a time when you felt that God really wanted you to do something or make a certain choice. (choosing to marry your spouse, visiting a friend who was sick)

Say: How great it must have been for the first disciples that they could hear Jesus' voice. How hard do you think it was for them to say, "Yes"?

Turn to Page 157,
Vocation and God's Kingdom

Have your child read the first two paragraphs to discover the vocation of all Christians.

Point out and read aloud the definition of **Kingdom of God**. Make vocabulary cards for vocation and **Kingdom of God**.

Summarize the paragraph on “Ways to Respond to God’s Call.” Ask your child to point to pictures of people you are describing as you read.

Tell your child about a priest, religious sister, deacon, or brother who was a model of faith for you.

Invite your child to name people they know who serve God.

Have your child make a vocabulary card for the Catholic Faith Word **vows**.

Turn to Page 158,
Serving the Church

Read the first paragraph, which will introduce your child to the many people who serve the Church in your parish.

Create a vocabulary card for the Catholic Faith Word **laity**.

As you read the titles of those who serve in the “Many Gifts” chart, see how many people in your parish you can name who participate in these ways.

If you have a video from your child’s First Communion, play it and identify those who are serving. When you attend Mass this Sunday, encourage your child to speak with someone who participated in the Mass in any of these ways.

Turn to Page 159,
Venerable Anne de Guigné

Share the story of Venerable Anne de Guigné. Ask your child to listen carefully while you read. Have them underline Venerable Anne de Guigné’s secret to happiness in life.

Read the “Using Your Gifts” paragraph.

Tell your child that Venerable Anne de Guigné has a special gift for prayer, and everyone has his or her own unique gift to share.

Ask your child what gift they believe they can share in order to help build God’s Kingdom here on Earth? Share a gift you believe he/she has.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: As Christians, we do not “invent” ourselves. We discover who God created us to be. God invites you to live a life of meaning and service. Single or married, ordained or layperson, you participate in making the whole world holy. The wonder of this is that you are asked to live your vocation exactly where you are at the moment. Vocation is God’s plan for your life; the purpose for which he made you. Using your gifts to benefit others is answering God’s invitation with an open heart and willing hands. This way of thinking leads us to ask, “What do you think God wants you to do with your life?” instead of saying, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 160,
Our Catholic Life

You may want to share part of your child’s Baptism video with her/him. If you cannot find it or do not have one, share with your child some memories you have of the day.

Read the first paragraph.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 161,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Choose one thing your family can do this week to be a sign of God’s love.

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 (see Page 322), 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.