

# Love God and Neighbor

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 139,**  
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe the Great Commandment as the two-fold command to love God above all and your neighbor as yourself
- Deepen their understanding of the Theological Virtues as gifts from God that help us to believe in him, trust his plan for us, and love him with all our heart, soul, and mind
- Connect that loving God leads to sharing his love with others, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us in the ways to do so

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

**Parents, Consider This:** *You are about to discuss with your child Jesus' teachings of the two greatest Commandments, love for God and love for neighbor. How do we love our neighbor? Wishing someone well or showing common courtesy is a good start, but it is not enough. We are called to show Christian charity to others by caring for their basic needs. How can your family become involved in addressing the issues of poverty and the basic needs of others in your community? Consider one action you can do together as a family to care for someone in 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.
- *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).

- Whatsoever You Do
- This Is My Commandment

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 131,**  
Love God and Neighbor

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 being a follower of Jesus means loving God and our neighbor.

**Say:** Saint Paul often describes what it means to be a follower of Jesus. He helps us understand what it means to have faith in Jesus and to live what we believe.



**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:** Sometimes people think the word “generous” only describes someone who gives away a lot of money. People are also generous with their time and talents. People with generous hearts see what people need and try to help.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about imitating Christ and being generous.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 132,**  
The Great Commandment

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.



**Proclaim** the Scripture. Have your child repeat aloud the two parts of the Great Commandment. Encourage your child to memorize these verses.

**Read** aloud the last paragraph. Review a list of the Ten Commandments on page 316 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book.

**Tell** your child that the first half of the Great Commandment sums up the first three Commandments, which are ways of loving God. The second half sums up the next seven Commandments, which name ways to treat our neighbors.

**Turn to Page 133,**  
Following Jesus

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph.



**Proclaim** the Scripture “The Rich Young Man.”

**Tell** your child to imagine how he or she would respond to Jesus' words.

**Have** your child silently read the paragraph following the Scripture story.

**Ask:** Why do you think the young man could not give away his possessions? (because he was very rich and he could not imagine giving away everything) What possession would be hardest for you to give away? Why?

**Turn to Page 134,**  
Love God

**Read** aloud the opening question and the paragraphs under “Love God.”

**Point** out the highlighted words **Theological Virtues, faith, hope, and charity**, and read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

**Read** aloud the paragraph following “Love Others.”

**Emphasize** that Jesus cared most for those who were poor, helpless, and suffering, and he calls his followers to do the same.

**Review** the “Theological Virtues” chart. Have your child explain each virtue in his or her own words.

**Turn to Page 135,**  
Acts of Charity

**Read** aloud the text.

**Review** the definitions of **Corporal Works of Mercy** and **Spiritual Works of Mercy** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

## Activity

**Have** your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** During family discussions, use language that treats families with dignity. Avoid the overuse of phrases such as, “the less fortunate,” “the needy,” and “the poor.” Remind your child that all families and all people need help at times, and that each person has dignity and worth.

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 136,**  
Our Catholic Life

**Have** your child silently read the opening question and the following two paragraphs. Remind your child that people do God’s work on Earth when they perform the Works of Mercy.

**Refer** to page 317 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of your child’s book for more information on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.



**Do** the gold-star activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** Empathy is distinct from sympathy. Empathy requires us to identify with a person rather than only feel sorry for him or her. When we empathize, we understand how someone feels for someone else. Cultivate empathy in your child. Use language that helps your child identify with people who need assistance. Remind your child that, at times, we all will find ourselves in need of another’s help or assistance.

**Turn to Page 137,**  
People of Faith

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Katharine Drexel.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what Works of Mercy your family has done.

## Activity

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

**Turn to Page 139,**  
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 Hail Mary (see Page 321), 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).