

God's Kingdom

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 279,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 559

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:

- Appreciate that we can pray for the coming of God's Kingdom, and work with God for the Kingdom
- Connect that through Jesus' action of being forgiving, treating others with respect, and helping those who are hungry and in need, he showed us how to work for the Kingdom
- Recognize that when we are kind, share, play fair, and include others, we are spreading peace

Parents, Consider This: *What would you give to raise your child in a world without crime, poverty, and hunger? Think about what the world would be like if it were filled with righteousness, peace, and joy. These qualities mark the Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed. When we hear the news, it is easy to get caught up in the fatalistic, "It is impossible" or "I can't make a difference," yet, Jesus calls his followers to believe in the coming of the Kingdom. Beyond simply asking us to believe, Jesus teaches us that we can work together with him as he builds his Kingdom here on Earth. It is never too early to begin to help your child see the many ways he/she can use his/her heart and hands in the service of God's Kingdom.*

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.

- Right and Just
- Building God's Kingdom

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 271,
God's Kingdom
Vivos en Cristo, Page 543

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: God teaches us how to live. He guides us every day to live a good life. Listen to a reading from the Bible to hear what God asks us to do.



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: God asks us to do what is right, show love, and to live simply in peace with one another.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about knowing what is right or being a peacemaker.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 272,
Love and Peace
Vivos en Cristo, Page 545

Read aloud both paragraphs.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Emphasize that when we treat others with love, we are working with God as he builds his Kingdom.

Point out the bulleted list and read it aloud. Help your child understand that Jesus taught us with his actions. He wants us to do what he did. He wants us to act with peace, love and justice.

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Turn to Page 273,
The Kingdom Grows
Vivos en Cristo, Page 547

Explain that the good things we do each day help God’s Kingdom to grow.



Proclaim God’s Word.

Explain that God’s Kingdom started small. God’s Kingdom has grown over time and continues to grow. Every time we do good things, we help God’s Kingdom to grow.

Share with your child a way you have seen her/him help God’s Kingdom grow.

Remind your child that we pray for the Kingdom of God when we pray the Lord’s Prayer. To reference the Lord’s Prayer, go to the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the student book, page 317.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 274,
Living for the Kingdom
Vivos en Cristo, Page 549

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Tell him/her that the world would be so happy if everyone worked to be more peaceful. Have them pretend that they are going to be in charge of the happiness in your home.

Ask your child what each family member could do to make your home a happier place.

Show them an index card with the Catholic Faith Word **peace** written on it. Ask your child to read aloud the definition of peace.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 275,
Living for the Kingdom
(cont'd)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 551

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Listen to the song, “Mustard Seed,” from the *Songs of Scripture* CD. Lyrics can be downloaded at aliveinchrist.osv.com.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 276,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 553

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

Draw attention to the text on the puzzle pieces. Alternate, with your child, reading aloud the bulleted items on each puzzle piece.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *You may be thinking that having these conversations about living and dying with your first grade child is somewhat premature. While thoughts of the final journey into eternity may seem far away, the daily dying and risings of each day help prepare us for the ultimate passing into new life. Guiding your child to cope with loss and change by placing those experiences into the bigger picture of God’s promise to bring life from death, will help him/her become a person of hope. They will develop a capacity to trust in God’s goodness no matter how much darkness surrounds them. What a blessing that will be for your child!*

Turn to Page 277,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 555

Read the paragraph about Saint Pedro Calungsod.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about the talents of the members of your family and how they could use them to spread God's love.

Turn to Page 279,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 559

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning Prayer (see Page 318), during your morning prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.