Jesus Teaches Love

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 133,
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:

- Identify words and actions that are signs of love
- Understand that a Commandment is a law that God made for people to obey
- Recognize that in the Great Commandment, Jesus taught to love God above all else and to love others the way you love yourself

Parents, Consider This: *The Great Commandment is not difficult to comprehend, but it is challenging to live. We are to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. But we must be open to who our neighbor is. Jesus died for all people out of love. He died even for those who were his enemies. The Lord asks us to love as he does, loving even those who are most difficult to love. We learn how to love and who to love within the context of family life. Discuss, as a famil,y if there is someone you know who is difficult to love and ask for God's grace to grow in tolerance to be kind and to love that person.*

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: This song connects the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.
• Loving God

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 125,
Jesus Teaches Love

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 gave us laws to help us live together.

Say: Jesus came to show and teach us about God's love. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Mark to find out more.

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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: Love is very important in each of our lives. God loves us as we are and asks us to love others as much as we love ourselves.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about God's love and how we share with others.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 126,
Show Your Love

Read aloud "The Gift" (on pages 126–127).

Do the gold-star activity.

Ask: What do you think Brooke will give her grandpa?

Turn to Page 127,
Show Your Love (cont'd)

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Discuss with your child how doing one's chores joyfully can be seen as gifts to the whole family. Have your child ask family members about what they do to help the family. Ask your child how he or she helps the family. Have a conversation about attitude and intention and how we can approach chores out of love for each other.*

Turn to Page 128,
Love God and Others

Read aloud the question and paragraph.

Explain to your child that people have always argued about the best way to please God.

Tell your child that one man asked Jesus if his answer is correct.

Read the Scripture.

Do the gold-star activity.

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Turn to Page 129,
The Great Commandment

Read aloud the paragraphs.

Find the words **Commandments** and **Great Commandment** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Read the words and their definitions.

Refer to page 314–315 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of your child's book to learn more about the Great Commandment and the Ten Commandments.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The concrete way of thinking that is characteristic for a child at this age may sometimes make it difficult for them to know how to love God, whom they cannot see, above all things. However, as a parent, you can make this practical for your child by helping them to understand that we show our love for God by talking to him in prayer and making choices he would have us make. We also show love to God when we are kind and loving towards others.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 130,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the first sentence. Then draw attention to the chart by reading the second sentence.

Read aloud the "Love God" side and then the "Love Others" side of the chart.

★ **Do** the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *People have different ways of expressing affection, often related to family history and cultural customs. Help your child see that love, affection, and friendship can be expressed in a variety of ways, from kind words to comforting gestures. Remind your child that expressions of affection may be appropriate or inappropriate depending on the people and circumstances involved. Assure your child that she or he can come to you anytime they have a question about this.*

Turn to Page 131,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about St Thomas Villanova.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Saint Thomas Villanova gave food to anyone who came to his door. He did not judge them. Discuss a time when your family has given food to the poor.

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Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 133, 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 317), 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.

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