

Living Image of Christ

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 129, the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize Jesus as King and note that wise people still seek him
- Define the mystery that the Son of God took on a human nature in order to save all people as the Incarnation
- Recognize Jesus as the fullness of God's Revelation
- Explore how we are created in the image of God and how we can be a living image of Christ every day

Turn to Page 121, Living Image of Christ

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

Parents, Consider This: *How can you show your child that he or she is made in the image of God? Do you regularly tell your child what is wonderful and unique about him or her? The scriptural creation story points out that God created humans "in his image" (Genesis 1:27). What a wonderful message that is! This message should be foundational to our self-worth and self-esteem. Make sure you share this important truth with your child.*

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.

- You Are God
- Jesus Is Our Friend

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

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: Today's reading tells us that we are made in the image of God. Think what that says about the way we are to treat others and ourselves. Think about the importance of our actions. What do you tell others about who God is?



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 created you and all people in his image and likeness. When you care for others, you reflect God’s image.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about being made in God’s image.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 122,
Honoring God

Tell your child that they are going to read a Scripture story about the three Magi, or wise men, who visited the newborn Jesus.

Read aloud the first sentence on this page.



Proclaim the Scripture, alternating paragraphs with your child.

Turn to Page 123,
The Visit of the Magi

Discuss the questions at the end of the Scripture story.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: The word *magus* (plural: *magi*) once specified a member of a hereditary clan of priests in ancient Iran. By Gospel times, the term was applied to “wise men” of every sort, including astrologers. The writer of the Gospel of Matthew may have had astrologers in mind when he used the word *magi*. Later, Christian tradition focused only on three *magi*—Caspar, Balthasar, and Melchior—all of whom were revered as both seers and kings. The feast of the Epiphany that tells this story is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. Share this Scripture background with your child so he or she brings more understanding to this feast. Remind your child of the gifts that they have received from God. They should share these gifts unselfishly with others in order to give honor to God.

Turn to Page 124,
In His Image and Likeness

Have your child silently read and identify for you the most important ideas in the text. (Jesus came for all people. Incarnation means “coming into flesh.” Jesus is both fully divine and fully human. Jesus means “God saves.”) Help your child with any ideas he or she missed.

Review the highlighted words **Incarnation** and **Savior** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Turn to Page 125,
God’s Image in You

Have your child silently read this section and discuss together the question following the text.

Invite your child to continue reading silently “Signs of God’s Love.” Review the highlighted words **free will** and **soul** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Who has shown your family that he or she is following Jesus? Perhaps a relative, a neighbor, a person in the news, or someone from our Catholic Faith Tradition has been a living sign of God’s love. Our faith grows by paying attention to this. Talk about this as a family. Thank this person if that is appropriate. God works through our ordinary lives to teach us about his extraordinary love.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 126,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Activity

On a separate piece of paper, list the titles, “Lamb of God,” “Good Shepherd,” and “Son of Man.” Invite your child to write a sentence or explain to you what each title tells us about Jesus. Help your child if this is difficult for them to do independently.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: Your child is at the age when he or she is ready to think more figuratively about how they are made in the “image of God.” While this is still somewhat of an abstract concept for a child of this age, they can be challenged to see Jesus as a perfect model of God’s image in human form, because he himself is God. Talk with your child about this concept and how it relates to his or her dignity and worth as a human person and child of God.

Turn to Page 127,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Blessed Maria Vicenta Rosal Vásquez.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how you reflect the image of God in your life.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 129,
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.