

God's Faithfulness

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 81,
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 help your child to:

- Describe faithfulness as the loyalty and steadfastness that God shows to all humans even when they sin
- Discover that the first man and woman brought sin and death into the world through free choice
- Identify one of the effects of sin as separation from God
- Recognize that Jesus is the "new Adam" because he makes amends for the disobedience of Adam
- Develop a deeper understanding of Jesus as the fulfillment of the new covenant

Parents, Consider This: *Because humans are created in the image of God, they are given the gift of freedom. As Genesis recounts the story of the fall of our first parents, it becomes clear that sin entered the world through humans who turned away from God's love. As a parent, you know what it is like when your child chooses something that you know will do them harm. Your heart is overwhelmed with pain and grief at the thought of what will now befall him/her. Your love always seeks her/his happiness. As you read the story of the fall of creation, imagine what God can see that Adam and Eve cannot.*

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 Near
- Lord of All Hopefulness

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 73,
God's Faithfulness

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: Listen to what Saint Paul tells us about faithfulness.



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?

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: If our faith should falter, we can still know that God has faith in us.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about God's faithfulness.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 74,
Humans Turn From God

Point out that these two pages will address how God responds to human disobedience. Read aloud the first paragraph to introduce the Scripture story.



Have your child silently read about what happened in the Garden of Eden. Ask her/him to summarize the story of humankind's first sin.

Read aloud the paragraph at the bottom of the page.

★ **Have** your child underline what happened as a result of Adam and Eve eating the fruit of the tree. Spend some time discussing responses to the question on "forbidden fruit." Ask him/her what a 6th grader might be tempted to do. Share what you think an adult might be tempted to do in this world.

Turn to Page 75,
God Makes a Covenant

Ask your child to read aloud the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Direct your child to read the first two paragraphs silently.

Parents, Consider This: *All of the stories before Abraham are considered pre-history. Because it is God's inspired Word, the Holy Spirit speaking through the Church helps us to know what God wants us to learn in these stories. In all of these accounts the Church emphasizes that despite our sin, our failings, God is always faithful. Even while humans live in the consequences of the harm and unhappiness they have chosen, God is planning to send his Son to save them. Helping your child to understand this now will help him/her to trust God's providence in the future when life becomes even more challenging.*



Proclaim the Scripture passage to your child.

- Ask your child what is important about the Noah story. (God, promising his faithfulness forever, makes a covenant with Noah.)
- Together write a short sentence that you can both repeat that reminds you of your need to be faithful to God. Tell your child that he/she can repeat this one line prayer over and over when they are confronted with temptation or are feeling alone. The sentence should have no more than 14 syllables. (Help me to return the love you have given me.)

Turn to Page 76,
Sin and God's Faithfulness

Introduce the Scripture story, remembering that this story is in the pre-history part of Genesis.



Proclaim the Scripture story.

- Remind your child that this account teaches us that the consequence of sin is people's inability to live in harmony.

Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Word box and have him/her read the definition aloud.

Read the paragraph under "Free Will," stopping at the highlighted vocabulary words and asking your child to tell you what they mean.

Turn to Page 77,
The New Covenant

Have your child recall the definition of the word covenant. (a solemn agreement or contract between two parties)

Ask him/her to silently read the text to find out how God revealed himself through a new covenant.

Read aloud the paragraph under "The New Adam."

Discuss with your child why Jesus is called the new Adam. (Jesus "undoes" what Adam did. He restores our relationship with God the Father that was ruptured by Adam.)

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 78,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the first two paragraphs.

Explain the different meanings for the statement "God is faithful."

Talk about the importance of being reliable and faithful to others. This applies to both adults and children.

Have your child read the bubbles and then add his/her own examples.

Parents, Consider This: Often, children this age have not developed skills to express their feelings appropriately. Accusing others (“Marcus took the CD”) or judging how others feel (“Rose doesn’t like me”) leads to further dissatisfaction and arguments. Teach your child to use “I” language (for example, “I saw Marcus pick up the CD,” or “I don’t think Rose likes me very much”) so as not to lead others to act defensively. In using this technique, you can help your child (and you) to develop healthy and faithful relationships.

Turn to Page 79,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Blessed Peter To Rot.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about the courage it would take to be faithful to God if you were not free to practice your religion.

Activity

Discuss the last part of the Live Your Faith activity. Write a description of your child’s faithfulness on a sheet of paper and ask her/him to describe yours on another sheet of paper. Talk about what you have learned from each other in this activity.

Turn to Page 81,
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.