

PARENTS: Read the whole plan. Focus on the yellow to prepare. Then, cover the blue, green, pink and gray highlighted sections a piece at a time.

The Mystery of God

Preparation for the Session

This session has parts that will take place at different times. You will gather with your child for Part 1: Invite. Your child will then work independently on Part 2: Discover, and you will read that section of the chapter on your own as well. Finally, you will come together again later in the week for Part 3 to review and complete the In Summary & Live section.

In this chapter, your child will cover the following objectives:

- Examine the unique role of humans and the purpose of human intellect and reason
- Differentiate the ways we can come to know God
- Recognize that humans cannot fully understand God, so he remains a mystery until we know him completely in Heaven
- Recall Old Testament accounts showing God did not abandon his People and remained true to his promise to save them
- Identify that God planned from the beginning to give his only Son to reconcile all of creation to himself
- Examine fundamental beliefs about God: he is eternal, he is truth, and he is love
- Reflect on the attributes of God

Parents, Consider This: *One of the great gifts of young children is their sense of wonder and awe. Everything is new to them. They are seeing things for the first time, and their response is often amazement. Over time, we tend to become jaded, and so many things that once were “miraculous” become mundane. As you begin Chapter 1 of **Alive in Christ**, you and your daughter/son will be contemplating the mystery of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. You will be reminded once again that you are God’s creation, made in his image. You will hear the truth that is the joy of the Gospel—you were created in love and then saved by love. If you and your child approach this mystery with childlike hearts, you will be overwhelmed with wonder and awe. That is the appropriate response in the presence of a miracle!*

Children at This Age: *Two big questions in the minds of adolescents are “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” We find beautiful answers to those questions in our Catholic faith, which can support young people as they develop in their identity. Your child is beginning to see that life is not always an either-or proposition. This can be frightening as he/she realizes some childhood beliefs may require reexamination. Seventh-graders are constantly being pressured to take sides on issues such as fashion and pop culture. In our polarized culture, religion, too, can be a contentious issue for them.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 51,
The Mystery of God

Make sure you have a Bible, writing tools for both of you, and some paper.

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 Together make the Sign of the Cross. Have your child take the role of leader and read aloud the prayer. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Say: Today’s Scripture invites us to listen for God’s plan for all of creation. Discovering God’s plan for all things leads to a life of meaning and purpose.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word ritual you learned in the Introduction Session.

- Proclaim the Scripture 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.

Ask: When you look at something you have never seen before, do you wonder about its purpose? How important do you think it might be to know the purpose of something?

Discuss these questions together.

Now, look at the *Have you ever thought...* box.

Invite your child to respond to the questions found in the box in the Student Book, also listed here:

- What was it like at the first moment of creation? (This answer invites the imagination, but it is important to include that God’s goodness gives birth to all things.)
- How did we get here, and why we are here? (While Scripture does not address from a scientific perspective how creation happened, Scripture does teach us that all creation exists to give glory to God by living out our created natures.)

Ask what else your son/daughter might wonder about God’s Word and what it means to us today.

Turn to Page 52,
Getting Started

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions and complete the activity on page 52. When he/she is finished, share two things you have learned about God through the Bible. Ask your child to share two of his/her thoughts.

Turn to Page 53

Preview the Catholic Faith Words at the top of the page. Ask your child what she/he thinks the words mean. The definitions can be found in the glossary at the end of the Student Book.

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have your child complete the activity in the book. You can complete this activity on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with each other one moment you were conscious of the gift of creation. Discuss whether you remembered to give God thanks.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 54–59. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

Be sure to read these pages as well. Doing so will give you insight into chapter topics and will help you engage your child in later discussions.

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 59,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words.

Turn to Page 60

Direct your daughter/son to silently read Our Catholic Life.

Parents, Consider This: As you begin the Our Catholic Life section of this chapter, you will be reading about the prayer of adoration. Your child is asked to consider the connection between adoring God and knowing our place as his creatures—the real meaning of humility. Forgetting our place in the order of creation causes so much disorder. When we think we can control things, or we think that we can create our own happiness, or we try to control others, we go down empty pathways. The picture on page 60 calls attention to our Catholic practice of being present before Jesus in the Eucharist, reserved in the Tabernacle or exposed in the

monstrance, as shown in the picture. The next time you pass by a Catholic church, take a few minutes to stop in and show your adoration. Honoring God as the all-powerful and almighty will help you to know that you are not! And in that you will find peace.

Ask: What happens in the world when a person begins to believe that they are a “god”? (Share some examples like Hitler or Saddam Hussein.)

Say: Everything becomes disordered and power becomes destructive. When we sin, our lives and the lives of others become disordered. That is why it is so important to understand that we are just creatures and that God is the Creator. Praying prayers of adoration helps us to remember that. Look at the picture on the page. Do you know what is happening there? (A young man is in front of a monstrance—a special sacred container that displays the Eucharist so that we can see it. You can see the Host in the middle of the circle.) The boy is sitting in silence, adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Say: Now let’s read about Mary, the Mother of Jesus and how she received the title of Our Lady of Fatima.

Read aloud People of Faith.

Say: We have learned about adoration, especially the practice of sitting quietly in front of Jesus in the Eucharist. Mary also reminds us that her Son, Jesus, should be the center of our lives. So now, look at the Identify activity. We are both going to do this activity and then talk about it.

Once you have both thought of three people and how they reflect the attributes of God (see page 59 for the list), share with each other who those people are.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Faith on Page 387.



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