

# Jesus, Sign of God's Love

## 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:

- Explain that Jesus is the perfect Revelation of God the Father
- Understand that God's new covenant is made present in the world through the Eucharist
- Describe how being baptized in Christ gives us a share in his Divine life as sisters and brothers of Christ
- Explore the ways Jesus points us to the coming of God's heavenly Kingdom on Earth
- Define natural moral law
- Recognize that God's revealed law in the Ten Commandments directs us to live in right relationship with him and with one another

**Parents, Consider This:** *Your child has been on a search for love since she/he was born. You were the first love that she/he knew. And in some ways you might believe that no one will ever love your child like you do. But your love is not enough. That longing for love is only satisfied in God's love for us and our love for God. Jesus is the perfect sign of that love. As your child learns more about Jesus' relationship with his Father, remind your daughter/son that like God's love, your love for her/him is unconditional and sacrificial.*

**Children at This Age:** *At this age, adolescent development includes the shift from thinking of themselves based upon their role within your family (son, daughter, grandchild) to identifying themselves in more independent ways (student, soccer player, musician). Your child is learning new ways to show love and respect for the adult members of your family. While your child still wants to know he/she is loved, your son/daughter is experimenting with new ways to express that love (a pat on the back instead of a hug). The first experiences used by young people to understand the relationship of Jesus and the Father is usually their own relationships with their parents or guardians. This is why the Church calls you the first and most important teacher of the faith. The way you show and express love is a glimpse into the heart of God.*

## PART 1: Invite

**Turn to Page 75,**  
Jesus, Sign of God's Love

**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."

**Explain** that God reveals himself through the works of creation, his Word, and his Son, Jesus.

**Say:** John the Evangelist tells us that "God so loved the world he sent his only Son..." for our salvation. Listen to how God describes his Son in today's Scripture passage.



**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.

**Say:** God made a promise to his People; he fulfilled this promise when he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from sin and death.

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 promise did God fulfill in Jesus? (the promise to save us from sin and restore eternal life)
- How would God define love? (God's best definition of love came in the living example of his Son, Jesus.)

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

**Turn to Page 76,**  
Getting Started

**Invite** your child to read aloud the first paragraph. Complete the activity together. Think of an example you can share with your child. Discuss your answers. Remind your daughter/son that knowing God's love for you personally and how to respond in turn is a foundation for every choice we make as Christians.

**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.

**Turn to Page 77**

**Complete** the activity on this page. This is a powerful activity and will prompt a great conversation. Working separately, each of you will rank the definitions for *love* (list yours on a separate sheet of paper). Each of you should then share your order and explain why you ranked them that way.

Now, write your definitions for *love* and don't forget to name a way you have witnessed that love in your life. Share with each other.

## PART 2: Discover

**Direct** your child to independently complete pages 78–83. 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 83,**  
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 84**

**Read** and review the Our Catholic Life text together. Share what you do to make sure your relationship with your best friend continues to be a priority for you. Ask your child how important she/he thinks it is to stay connected to God right now? Tell him/her why you think it is important.

**Move** to the People of Faith box. Ask your child to silently read the story of Saint Maria Goretti.

**Parents, Consider This:** *There are many forces at work trying to form your child's conscience. Our culture, his/her friends, and the school community are all voices that he/she hears each day. Research tells us however that the voice that speaks the loudest to your child is yours! While that is a great comfort, it can also be a great challenge. How often do you "give voice" to the laws of God with your words or actions? While we rarely if ever teach our children to act against God's commands, we can find ways to be even more committed and intentional about teaching God's truth. The result will be a truly happy child who becomes an adult who lives a meaningful and joy-filled life.*

**Read** the People of Faith story yourself. Share your thoughts and questions about it. (The sin that the story alludes to is sexual intercourse.) Your child may have questions about Maria's mother's forgiveness of her murderer. Be honest in explaining how hard this would have been without God's grace and strength.

**Ask** your child to complete the Identify activity and then share a couple of his/her answers.

**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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).