

The Church Is Holy

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:

- Recognize holiness as intentionally living in God's presence and with his love each day
- Identify angels as spiritual beings that praise God and serve him
- Explain why we are called to share the goodness of God with others
- Relate Jesus' holiness to the holiness of the Church
- Relate holiness to prayer and loving actions
- Identify that we must intentionally choose to grow in holiness throughout our lives

Parents, Consider This: Have you ever longed to do something that you just couldn't imagine was possible? Maybe it was losing weight or changing your profession or even developing a talent that you have or wished you had. People who study motivation would tell us that not being able to imagine it is exactly the problem. We cannot become what we cannot imagine. Not putting effort into becoming holy may in fact be rooted in our inability to imagine ourselves as holy people. Fuel your child's imagination by helping her/him to be aware of the "holy" choices people make every day. Point it out in film or on TV shows you watch, in your family members, friends, and acquaintances. Remind your daughter/son regularly that you believe she/he is capable of holiness.

Children at This Age: Younger adolescents often think about God, but not in a deep theological way. As your child grows, you can lead him/her through prayer and conversation into deeper ways of appreciating that faith matters every day, no matter what his/her age. You can help your child better appreciate the holiness of God while learning about the lives of saintly people in the world today. Taking every opportunity to point out "saintly" behavior in the people in your child's life helps her/him to understand the truth that a holy life is possible and NECESSARY in the world today.

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 75,
The Church Is Holy

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 is most holy, and we are called to be holy.

Say: God wants us to put our trust in him and know that he made us and we belong to him. Let’s learn more about seeking holiness and God’s Kingdom.



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 wants us to live each day as holy people.

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:

- How can anyone completely trust in God? (It takes a lifetime of trying based on past experiences to recognize that God is with us in every moment even when we can’t tell right at that moment.)
- What does it really mean to be holy? (to live each day doing God’s will and giving him praise and thanks)

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

Ask your child to read aloud the first paragraph.

Direct him/her to read and do the activity. When your son/daughter is finished, encourage him/her to discuss the ideas he/she wrote in the chart. Help your child think of a holy person beyond someone who devotes his/her life to prayer.

Turn to Page 77

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 complete the word search in the Solve box.

Check if she/he found all the words. (seek God, give alms, don't fear, prepare, love, pray)

Read the last question and share your answer with your child. What is one way you have witnessed or experienced holiness?

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

Have your child silently read Our Catholic Life.

Parents, Consider This: *Do you count your blessings every day? It's an old saying that speaks to a deep truth. Not only is it necessary to acknowledge our blessings but also to understand that every blessing is a gift from God. We are out of practice in our culture in connecting those two thoughts. People recommend gratitude journals as a source of peace. But naming things we are grateful for is not enough. Gratitude has to be directed toward someone. Have you noticed that although we used to say “God bless you” when someone sneezed, today, more often than not, we hear “Bless you.” Naming the source of blessing will help your child not only understand how blessed he/she is, but will also reinforce that God is the source of all blessings.*

Talk about the blessings your family already says or hears—“Bless us O Lord,” “God bless you,” and the blessings the priest offers us at the end of Mass—and ask your child to think about what it means to bless yourself with the Sign of the Cross. Does your daughter/son see athletes doing this? Ask her/him: Why do you think they are doing this? What does it mean?

Ask your child to read the People of Faith box; then discuss how Blessed Miguel might have been a blessing to the people of Mexico.

Skip the Identify activity on the page and instead work together to write a blessing for your family that you would say as you begin a journey in your car, or a blessing your child might say before she/he takes a test, or a blessing for both of you when you have to face a difficulty. Print it several times and place a copy in the car, on the refrigerator, and/or make a copy small enough to keep in a wallet.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Faith on Page 385.



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