

Encountering Christ

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 why Jesus was criticized for associating with sinners and the sick
- Explore the Scriptures to see how Jesus interacted with the people he met
- Recognize that as the Apostles' friendship with Jesus deepened, so did their understanding of who he was and what he taught
- Identify how the early Christians changed after Jesus' Ascension and then Pentecost

Parents, Consider This: *As we mature, we begin to understand relationships differently. Learning how to be and make good friends is a road that is filled with joy and disappointment. This is a critical time for your child as she/he begins to walk this road. Friends are very important to young people of this age. They form strong bonds within their peer groups, and learn a great deal from one another. Don't miss the opportunity to help your child recognize that Jesus is his/her friend—actually, a true BFF! In Christ, your child will find total acceptance and the support he/she needs to become his/her best self—a child of the Father.*

Children at This Age: *As you well know, the role of your child's peer group is very important. In order to fit in, your daughter/son may attempt to emphasize her/his belonging by speaking harsh words and participating in behaviors at the expense of others. Insecurity can lead her/him to be highly critical and even cruel to those who are at the lower end of the adolescent social structure. It is important to help your child to remember the value of kindness and charity as well as your expectation that she/he will speak and act with compassion. Encourage your child to respond to others in a loving way.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 131,
Encountering Christ

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. Invite your child to read the first part of the leader prayer. You will read the Psalm verse. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Explain that Jesus wants to have a relationship of love and friendship with us.

Say: Let’s listen to God’s Word and hear Jesus speak of the complete unity he shares with his Father.



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: Jesus invited everyone to change their hearts and return to the Father. We should look to Jesus as an example of how to treat others in our lives.

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 is Jesus’ relationship with his Father like? (*Jesus and his Father are perfectly one.*)
- Did Jesus have friends? If so, what did he expect from them? (*Jesus expected the same things from his friends that we do: faithfulness, support, enjoying time spent together.*)

Turn to Page 132,
Getting Started

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

Read the first paragraph.

Direct your child to read the instructions and complete the chart on page 132. When he/she is finished, ask your child to share a couple of his/her answers.

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 133

Complete the first two sections of the activity by discussing them together. Ask your child the third question. Offer some insight when he/she is finished that reflects our belief that all love begins within the relationship of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So anytime we love, we are sharing the love that begins in God with another person.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 134–139. 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 questions 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 139,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Alternate reading the bullet points with your child. Invite him/her to share any new things he/she learned about Jesus and relationships from this chapter.

Turn to Page 140

Ask your child to silently read the Our Catholic Life text.

Parents, Consider This: *How many times have you said to someone, “Oh we have to do lunch!” Food, family, and friends quite naturally go together for human beings. In fact, research tells us that both the frequency AND the length of our encounters with others directly impacts our happiness and decreases stress. The same was true for Jesus. He invested much time and energy in those around him. The Gospels are filled with stories of Jesus sharing a meal with others. It is important for your child to understand that the true meaning of friendship is defined in and through our friendship with Christ. Learning to love as Jesus loves is the sure way to develop lasting and meaningful friendships. Frame the many discussions you will have with your daughter/son about friends and friendship inside of her/his life of faith.*

Share with your child any evidence you see that one of his/her friends is a good friend—a friend like Christ.

Read the story of Prisca and Aquila, friends of Saint Paul and devoted followers of Jesus.

Point out the Rank activity. Both of you will make a list of the five qualities of friendship that you believe are most important. Compare the qualities you came up with and then share with each other how your best friends have shown those qualities.

Conclude the session by praying the Act of Love on Page 386.



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