

One in 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:

- Examine the beliefs contained in the Creeds that unite members of the Catholic Church
- Discover that the Church is apostolic
- Compare the Latin (Roman) Catholic Church and the Eastern Catholic Church
- Discuss the distinctions in the celebration of some of the Rites in the Eastern and Latin Church
- Describe events leading to the Great Schism
- Examine the origin and the consequences of the Protestant Reformation
- Explain why Catholics pray, hope, and work for unity among all Christians

Parents, Consider This: *Even though as adults we have a pretty good understanding of the concept of time, living in the United States can color this understanding. For example, in this country, we stand before historical buildings and think about “long ago” in terms of a couple hundred years. In other places around the world, people stand before ruins of “long ago” that are thousands of years old. Growing in appreciation that our faith has been handed down to us for thousands of years helps us to understand the awesomeness of Jesus’ promise that the Holy Spirit would always be with us. Pondering the mystery that along the way there are many people who have given their lives or endured hardship so that we might be given the gift of our faith can be somewhat overwhelming. It’s important to understand that the authority of the Catholic Church comes from Jesus through the Apostles. However, the responsibility to hand on our faith begins right in your family.*

Children at This Age: *At this point, your child has not yet completely developed the skills of critical thinking that would allow him/her to understand the sometimes fine distinctions between different realities. For instance, he/she may be susceptible to the notion that one religion is the same as another because their belief systems are basically the same. As your child begins to develop friendships with others outside of the Catholic Church, it’s important that she/he knows and understands the essentials of the Catholic faith. This will help her/him to express with confidence the truths and values of the Catholic Church.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 155,
One in 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. Have your child take the role of leader and read aloud the prayer. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Say: Our Church is a community of diverse people who share in the mission of Jesus. Let’s listen to God’s Word as Saint Paul describes some of the spiritual gifts we are given as followers of Christ.



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: The Catholic Church is made up of people from many different cultures, but we are united by our common beliefs and practices.

Ask: Is this something that is easy to see when we go to Mass? Why or why not?

Discuss your thoughts.

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 do all Christians have different gifts yet one belief? (*We are all brothers and sisters of Christ through our Baptism, yet God made each of us for a different purpose.*)
- What does it mean to be different but to share one faith? (*Because we live all over the world, the way we pray and worship may be somewhat different, but all Catholics believe in the same Creed.*)

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

Turn to Page 156,
Getting Started

Read the first paragraph and direct your child to fill in the Examples of Our Unity web with things that unite the Catholic Church no matter where she is, such as beliefs, practices, or prayers that we hold in common.

Invite your daughter/son to share her/his answers. You might encourage her/him to revisit this graphic organizer at the end of the chapter to add any additional information she/he has learned.

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 157

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, discuss your insights. This will not only give you a window into your child's relationship with a friend but also a glimpse into one another's thinking and heart.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 158–163. 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 163,
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 164

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

Parents, Consider This: We often hear the phrase, “I come from a long line of...” Inherent in that phrase is the need to identify ourselves in relationship to our past. It is important for our emotional and psychological well-being to see ourselves inside of a bigger picture. That’s what makes ancestry-based websites and trips to Ellis Island or the town our grandparents came from so popular. Our Catholic Church is far more than an institution. It is our family of faith that is a community made one by our belief in Jesus and the power of his Holy Spirit. Your child NEEDS to be consciously connected to Jesus’ Body as much as he/she needs the things you do to keep his/her physical body healthy and strong. As you read through the first paragraph on this page, recommit your family to strengthening your life in the Church. It is a gift you have been given.

Share with your daughter/son the things in the Catholic Church that are most important to you.

Ask: What is one thing that you wonder about the Church? (If you cannot provide the answer, e-mail the director of your faith formation program and ask for help.)

Read together the story of Saint Peregrine, the patron Saint of people who suffer with cancer. It seems that every family has someone who is struggling with that disease. Look for more information online and, if possible, make a votive candle for the person you know who could use your support and the support of Saint Peregrine.

Complete the List activity separately. Then come together to share your answers with one another.

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.