

New Life in Christ

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 207, the Family + Faith page.

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Identify the Sacraments of Initiation
- Describe the Sacrament of Baptism as a participation in the role of Jesus as priest, prophet, and king
- Recognize that through the Seven Sacraments, God shares his divine life with us
- Begin to appreciate the need for conversion
- Understand that the Church welcomes new members (and some children) through the RCIA process

Parents, Consider This: *When we hear the phrase, “He had a change of heart,” we generally mean it as a good thing. Someone has been swayed by persuasive conversation, or time for reflection, or perhaps even prayer, to do the opposite of what he/she had originally thought. In some ways, it implies a softening of a person’s heart. Each of us stands before the Lord, sinners. As St. Paul says, we often do the things we should not, and don’t do the things we should. Thank goodness for the Church. She is constantly calling us to a change of heart. Understanding the need to live more deeply connected to the Sacraments will help both you and your child stand before the Lord, ready to allow him to shape your hearts.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let’s Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Yes, Lord, I Believe/ Sí Señor Yo Creo
- If You Believe and I Believe

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 199, New Life in Christ

After gathering the supplies that you will need, 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 Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Today’s reading from Romans is proclaimed at the Easter Vigil as the Church gets ready to baptize new members. Baptism is the Sacrament that washes us in the waters of salvation and makes us adopted children of God. Through Baptism, we die and rise with Christ.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word 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.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Baptism gives you a share in God's life. God's grace is a gift, but you must cooperate with grace.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about Baptism.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 200,
Sacraments of Initiation

Tell your child to silently read the text.

Direct her/him to note the three ministries or "offices" of Jesus.

Give your child a blank sheet of paper. Fold the paper in thirds. In the columns, write the words Priest/Prophet/King. Under each column, ask your child to find the sentence in the text that describes how he/she participates in Jesus ministry and write it in the appropriate column.

Parents, Consider This: *When you reflect on the passions in your life—golf, gardening, or perhaps scrapbooking—is there ever enough time to enjoy them? Or is there ever a time when you say, "I don't want to learn anymore. I know enough"? When the Church speaks of continuing conversion, she is speaking about what should be our primary passion—knowing, loving, and serving Jesus Christ. Living a moral life requires turning away from the things that become obstacles to receiving his grace. Witness to your child a life of continuing conversion. Read the Scriptures and pray with her/him. Attend Mass. Participate in on-going adult faith formation. Let your child see your passion!*

Find the highlighted words, **Confirmation** and **Sacred Chrism**, in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to read their definitions.

Turn to Page 201,
The New Life of Grace

Have your child silently read the text to learn about the effects of Baptism.

Point out how "dying" to sin and "rising" to new life connects us to Christ.



Proclaim the Scripture passage. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, instructs us that we “are living for God.” Share with your child what that Scripture means to you. Perhaps, you can talk about the difficulty of remembering that truth as you wake up to face the challenges of each day. Ask her/him to help you think of ways that will remind you both how to be more conscious of living for God.

Read aloud the “Grace and Conversion” text.

Emphasize that God gives grace to people because he loves them. Conversion results when people accept God’s grace and live a Christian life.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 202,
One Step at a Time

Summarize the first paragraph.

Tell your child that you are going to follow along as a young man named Jeremy takes steps to become a member of the Catholic Church.

Read Jeremy’s story on both pages, alternating paragraphs with your child.

Turn to Page 203,
Becoming and Elect

Stop at the highlighted words, **catechumen**, and **sponsor**, and review their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Discuss the reasons why someone would want to become a member of the Catholic Church. Ask your child to share what he/she would tell someone if they asked, “What’s so great about being Catholic?”

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 204,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Have your child silently read “The Tools” chart on tools for growing in faith. Invite him/her to share practical examples of using these tools.

Ask your child to add his/her own ideas in the spaces provided.

Ask: What part of your faith life would you like to improve? What might help you be stronger in faith? Answer these questions as well and discuss your thoughts with your child. Remember that on-going conversion is the process of growing in faith that requires intentional choices.

Turn to Page 205,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Cyril of Jerusalem.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Look at Baptism pictures of a family member and share memories.

Turn to Page 207,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Love (see Page 323), during your night prayer this week.*



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