

# Models of Virtue

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 173,**  
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:

- Describe a Saint as a person whom the Church declares has led a holy life and is enjoying eternal life with God in Heaven
- Identify Mary as the perfect model of holiness, accepting God's will throughout her life and remaining faithful to him
- Recognize the Immaculate Conception as the truth that God kept Mary free from sin from the first moment of her life
- Recognize that Mary is called the Mother of the Church because she holds her Son's followers close to her heart

**Parents, Consider This:** *Some people are extraordinary. They rise above the norm. Unfortunately, oftentimes in our culture, we only recognize those in sports or the entertainment world who are "extraordinary." Having someone who is a model helps us to aspire to be more than we are at the present moment. That is why the Church has Saints. They are the people who we aspire to become. Introducing your child to the lives of the Saints will help them imagine what holiness is. Find a Saint that shares some of the qualities of your child and place a statue or picture of that Saint in his/her room. Give them something substantial to aspire to!*

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

- Immaculate Mary
- We Gather Around Your Throne

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 165,**  
Models of Virtue

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.

**Explain** that God calls all of us to holiness, like the Saints.

**Say:** We do not become holy because we do so much for God. We are holy because God has done so much for us. Those we call Saints know this. Their faith lights up the way of holiness for us.



**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:** The holiness of all God's People shines in the Saints. As we grow in faith, we can add our light to theirs.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else she/he might wonder about how to be the light of the world.

## DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

**Turn to Page 166,**  
Holy Ones of God

**Say:** After reading this paragraph, we will know who models faith for us.

**Invite** your child to silently read the paragraph.

**Discuss** what Jesus meant when he said, "fishers of men."

**Point** out the Catholic Faith Words **canonization**, **Saint**, and **Beatification**. Direct your child to read aloud the definitions of each term. Have your child make vocabulary cards for all three terms.

**Show** your child the location of Italy, and then of Siena, on a map.

**Tell** your child that you are going to read a story about a woman who lived in Italy many years ago.

**Read** aloud the biography of Catherine of Siena (continued on page 167).

**Turn to Page 167,**  
Saint Catherine of Siena

**Explain** that Saint Catherine had a great deal of influence for a woman of her time (1347-1380).

**Ask:** What do you admire about Saint Catherine of Siena?

**Refer** the children to page 311 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student book for more about the Saints.

## Activity

**Read** the directions for the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child write her/his ideas. Discuss their ideas and then tell your child about someone who was a great teacher of the Church in your life.

**Turn to Page 168,**  
Model of Holiness

**Ask:** How is Mary a model of holiness?

**Read** aloud the introductory paragraph. Tell your child to listen to learn about Mary, the greatest Saint of the Catholic Church.

**Review** the Catholic Faith Word definition of **Mary**.



**Have** your child proclaim “The Canticale of Mary.”

**Explain** that many people still call Mary’s canticle (song) by its Latin name, the *Magnificat*.

**Listen** to “Mary’s Song of Praise” (Track 8) on the *Songs of Scripture* CD. Play that song in your car as you move from activity to activity this week.

**Turn to Page 169,**  
Your Will Be Done

**Read** aloud the first two paragraphs.

**Point** out that Mary’s Immaculate Conception makes her unique among all the Saints.



**Have** your child circle the ways in which Mary is the perfect model of holiness.

**Read** aloud the definition of **Immaculate Conception**. Have your child create a vocabulary card for the term.

**Invite** your child to finish reading “Your Will Be Done.”

**Ask:** Have you ever been given a very big responsibility? What did you say or do?

**Read** aloud the paragraph “A Guide for You.”

**Have** your child create a vocabulary card for **patron Saint**.

## Activity

**On** a separate sheet of blank paper, ask your child to write the words “Mary, our Mother,” in a vertical column so they can create an acrostic. Use each letter to think of a word or phrase that describes Mary.

(M, arried to Joseph, A, lways faithful to God)

**Parents, Consider This:** *It was probably when you became a parent that you started to become more deeply aware of the role a parent plays in a child's life. You developed a capacity to understand the needs of someone who, in the beginning, could not even verbalize them. As Catholics, we hold a special place of honor in the Communion of Saints for Mary. She is our Mother. As a mother, she understands our needs and helps us to understand that our deepest needs and longings can only be satisfied in God. Entrusting yourself and your child to Mary, our mother, can bring you and your child both peace and comfort.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 170,**  
Our Catholic Life

**Ask:** How can you follow the example of the Saints?

**Read** aloud the first paragraph. Summarize the second paragraph.

★ **In** the boxes, have your child write a “D” for the things they are doing, a “G” for the things they are growing in, and a “Q” for the things they have questions about.

**Encourage** your child to name other ways of growing in holiness.

**Ask:** When have you felt God's love growing within you? Give an example from your own life to start the discussion. *(when I first saw you and knew I would love you forever, when I helped someone in need)*

**Turn to Page 171,**  
People of Faith

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Bernadette.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Think of ways your family could be more aware of Mary's presence in your daily lives.

**Turn to Page 173,**  
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 Prayer to the Holy Spirit (see Page 322), 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](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).