



DISCOVERING & SHARING
THE
KERYGMA
ALIVE IN CHRIST



Religion Curriculum • Grades 7 and 8 and Young Adolescents

ALIVE IN CHRIST

for Young Adolescents

Equipping Young Disciples to Live Lives of Faith



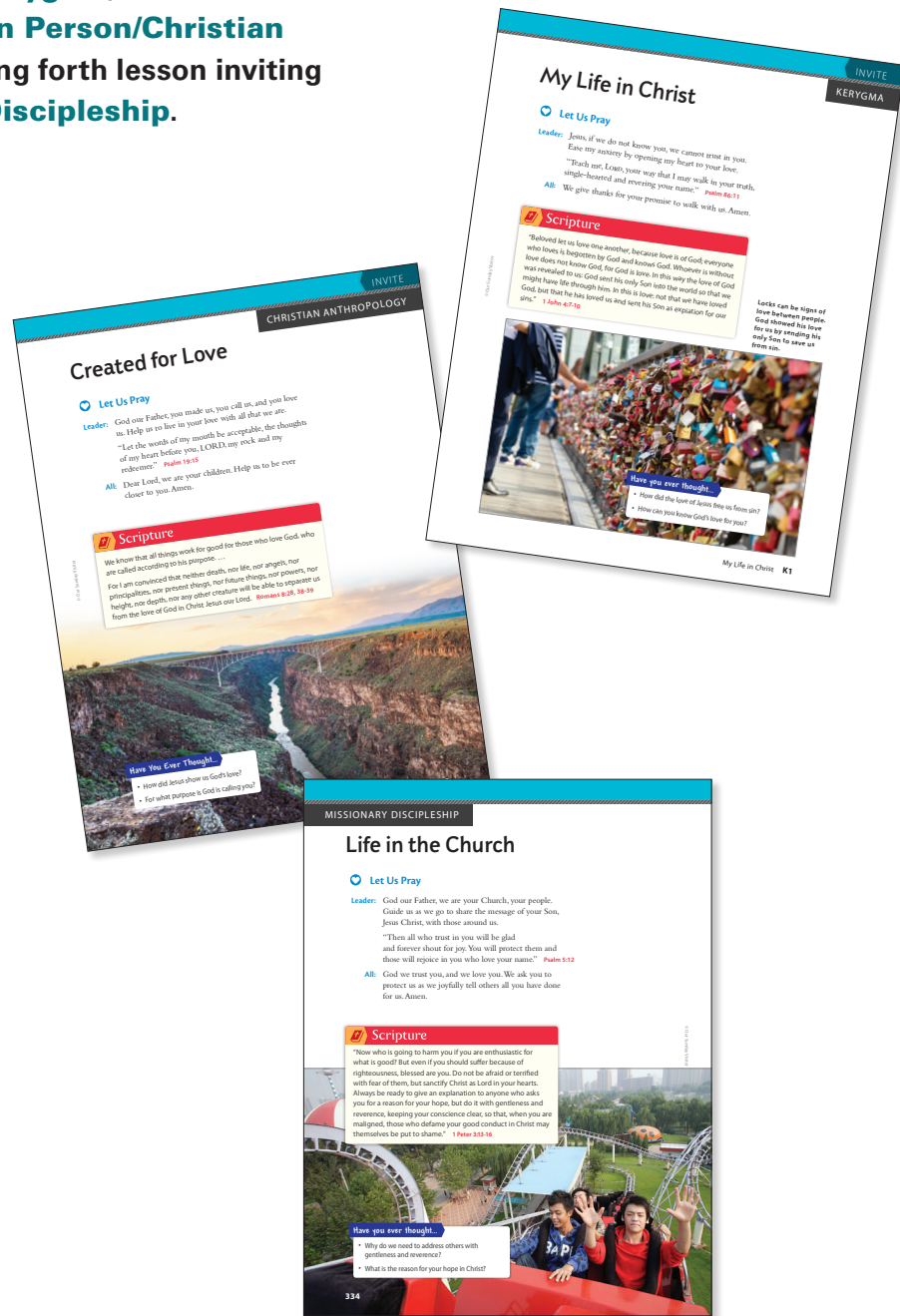
Discovering & Sharing the Kerygma



Three new lessons have been added to *Alive in Christ: Discovering and Sharing the Kerygma*. Each grade will begin with a lesson focused on the **Kerygma**, will include a supplemental lesson on **The Human Person/Christian Anthropology**, and end with a sending forth lesson inviting learners to live a life of **Missionary Discipleship**.

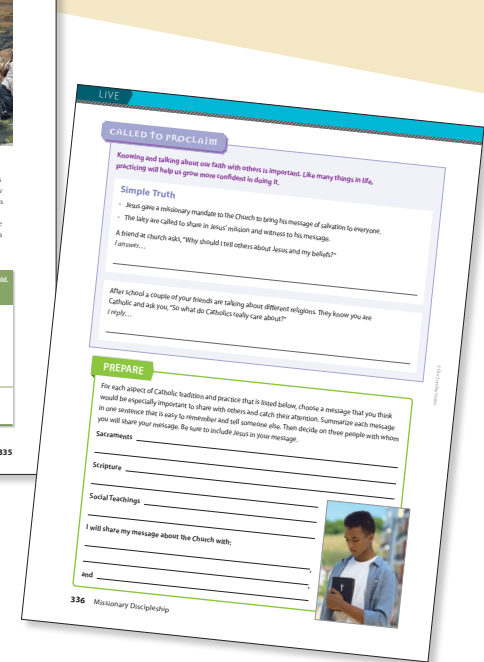
Kerygma

- ◆ The **Kerygma** lesson is the first lesson in every grade because it is the anchor of our Catholic faith and the pre-requisite to the formation of faith.
- ◆ The **proclamation of the Kerygma**, the core, saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is presented in the context of the unique grade-level emphasis.
- ◆ The **Kerygma** lesson includes a passage from Scripture focused on the Kerygma and offers an opportunity for the learner to respond to the invitation of Christ in a practical way.



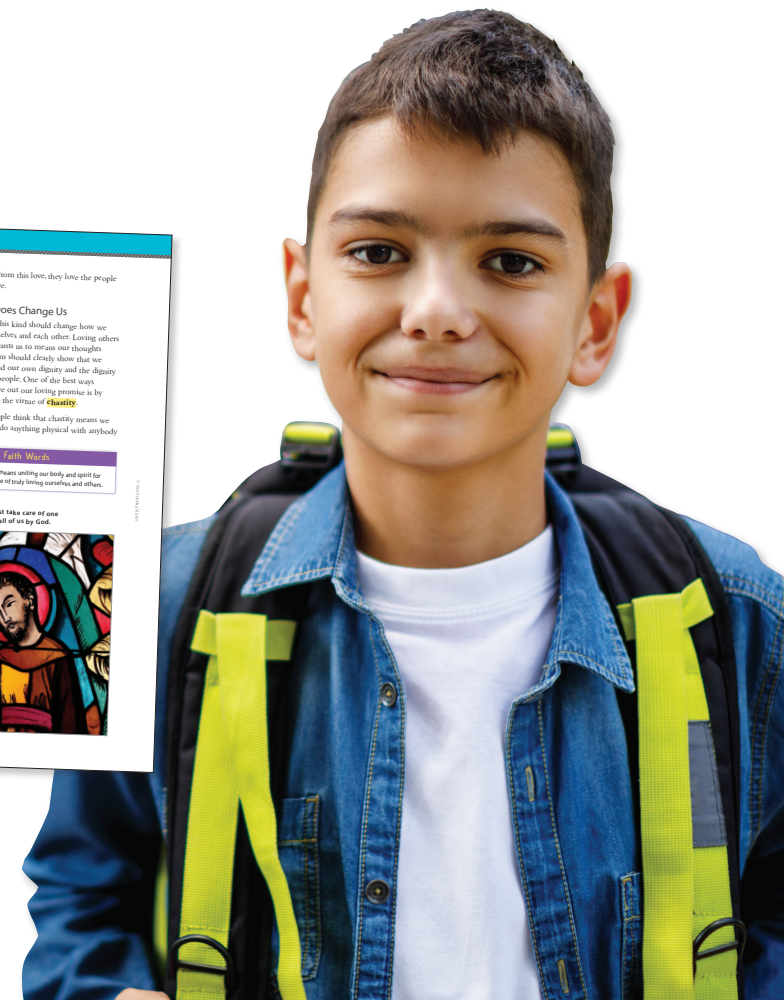
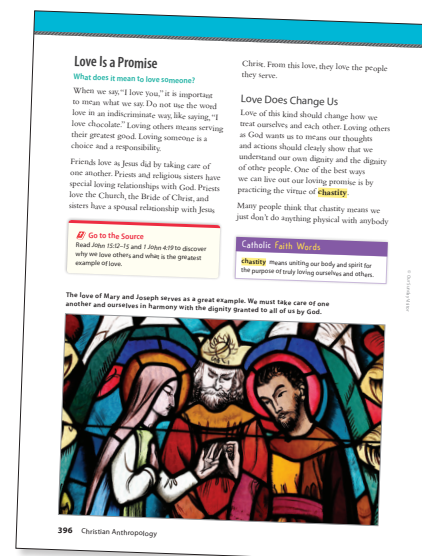
Missionary Discipleship

- ◆ The 4-page **Missionary Discipleship** lesson can be used as the sending forth lesson to help learners remember what they have learned throughout the year and consider how it might be lived out in their daily lives. They are provided practical support for responding to the call to live as missionary disciples.
- ◆ **Two new features** have been added to engage learners in living as missionary disciples.
 - **Take on the Mind of Christ** - invites learners to remember that Jesus is their role model and to make a commitment to share their love for Jesus with others.
 - **Called to Proclaim** - learners are given the opportunity to recall and apply what they learned throughout the year.



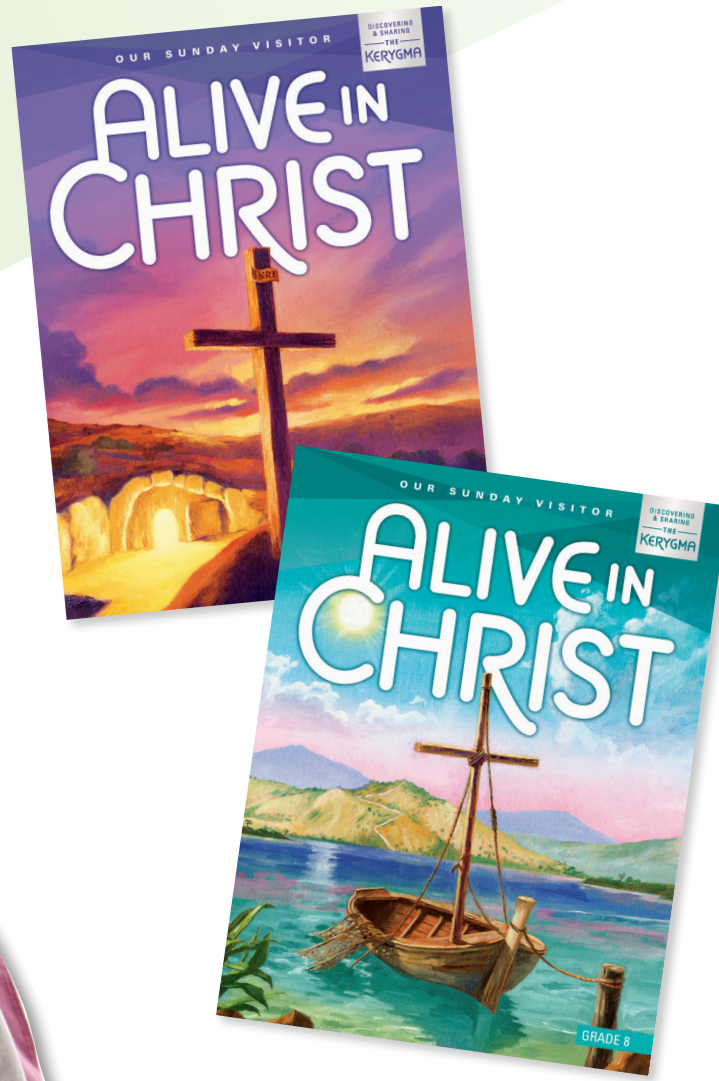
Christian Anthropology

- ◆ The **Christian Anthropology** supplemental lesson is designed to convey the unity of body, mind and spirit.
- ◆ Drawing from the homilies and writings of Pope Saint John Paul II on the **Theology of the Body**, the content provides a developmentally appropriate presentation of Catholic teaching on the human person, marriage and family life.



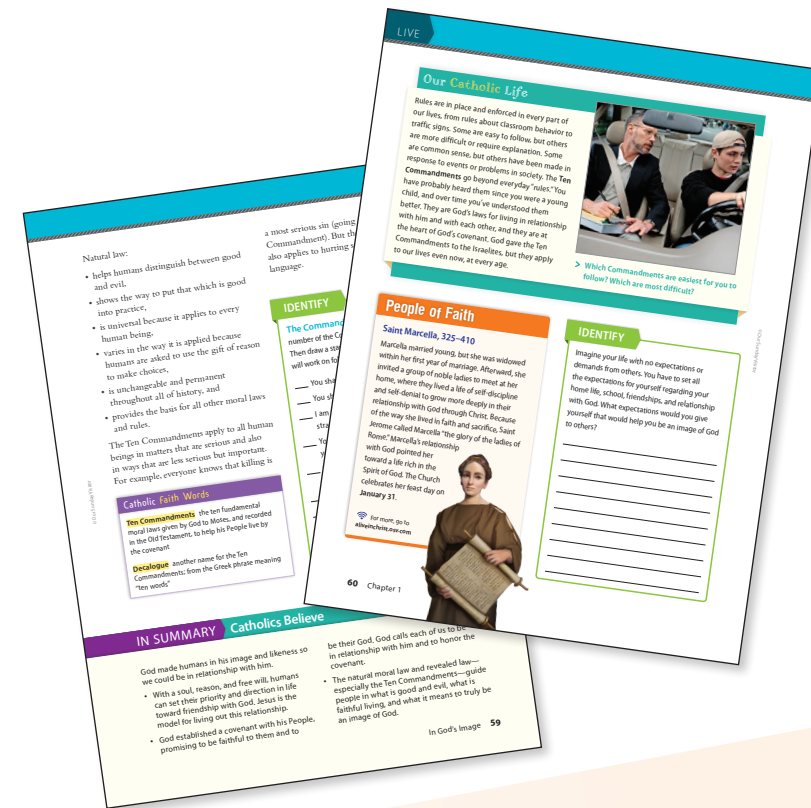
Grades 7 and 8

Alive in Christ: Discovering and Sharing the Kerygma for grades 7 and 8 respects the way adolescents learn today by offering learning activities that are developmentally appropriate, engaging, image-rich, multi-sensory, and varied in learning style.



- ◆ Students discover the depth of church history through **the Church History Timeline** that provides a historical context to timeless church teaching.
- ◆ **Our Catholic Tradition** and **Our Catholic Life** forecast the fundamental Catholic beliefs, teachings, and practices presented in the chapters of each unit.

- ◆ Keeping with the effective three-step process of *Alive in Christ: Discovering and Sharing the Kerygma*, students are called together to begin in prayer, inviting them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in **Sacred Scripture**.
- ◆ **Go To The Source** directs the reader to a Bible passage to learn more or to continue reading the Scripture referenced in the lesson.
- ◆ **Where it Happened** provides historical, geographical, or cultural connections with regards to the chapter, enhancing the lesson.



- ◆ **Catholics Today** points to another Catholic practice or historical point and shows how the Church of today is connected to the Church of the past.
- ◆ **In Summary/Catholics Believe** is a student-friendly summary of core Catholic beliefs that align with the chapter.
- ◆ Seasonal Lessons are designed for more individual connections to the **Fruits of the Holy Spirit** and **Our Catholic Life**.

Online Resources

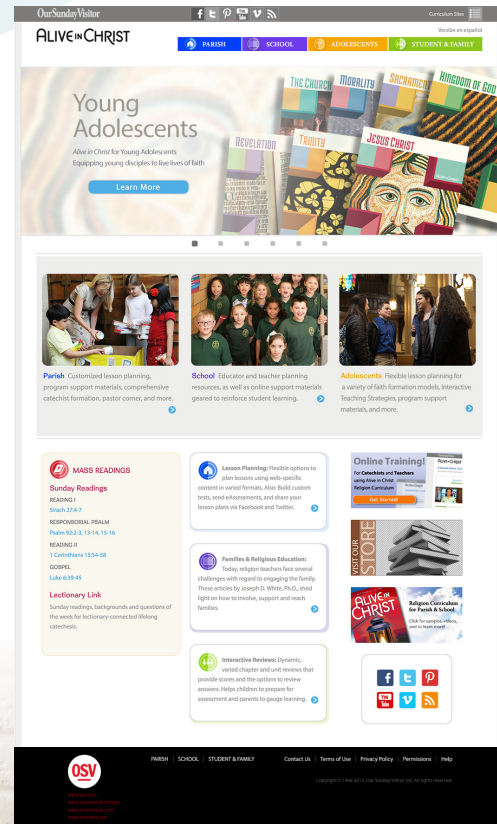
Aliveinchrist.osv.com offers extensive online catechist/lesson leader, parent, and parish leader resources.

Complete Online Lesson Planning

- Background and instructional material from the Leader Guides facilitate planning anywhere, anytime.
- Web-only resources: reproducible prayers for each lesson, additional activities, catechist backgrounds, and teaching tips
- Handouts and templates needed for Interactive Teaching Strategies
- Customizable lesson reviews
- Home Lesson Plans
- Family + Faith Gathered Sessions

Program Support Materials

- Scope and Sequence, correlations, and more
- Catechist formation
- Multimedia glossary
- People of Faith extensions
- Lectionary planning and connections for each week
- Sunday readings and questions of the week



Comprehensive

Alive in Christ for Young Adolescents Faith Guidebooks are invaluable to catechists as they help youth become evangelizers through actual practice in sharing their faith with others.

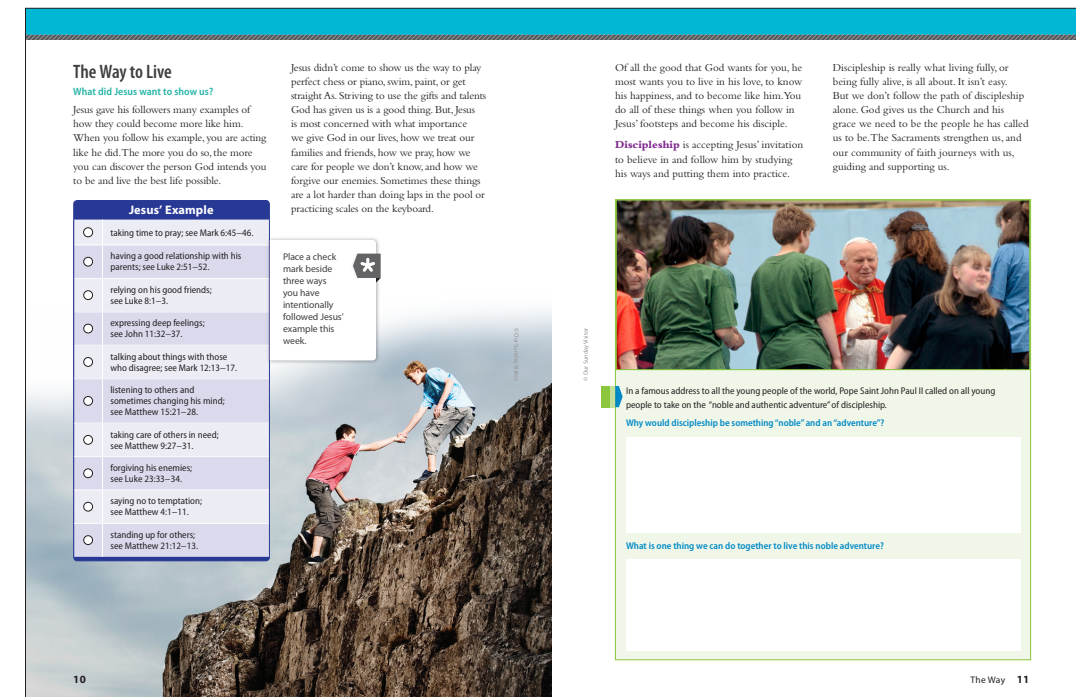
Created by a team of experts in education, catechesis, and theology.

On page content and activities connect to **dynamic, interactive teaching strategies** and multiple learning methods that convey lesson objectives.

Catholic Social Teaching is woven throughout the lessons, and each course has a Live Your Faith section that provides an in-depth exploration of one of the principles.

Each course purposefully calls attention to the **presence and power of the Holy Spirit**, beginning with a Prayer to the Holy Spirit uniquely connected to each course's theme.

The Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit are reflected upon in each lesson as youth consider which they would most need when facing a defined dilemma.



Developmentally Appropriate

Alive in Christ for Young Adolescents Faith Guidebooks incorporate the most trusted research on how young people learn, communicate, and grow in their faith. The lessons are designed to engage young people from 6th to 9th grades.

A strategic, varied use of questions focuses reading, prompts reflection, and reinforces learning—including both lower and higher order of thinking.

Relevant life situations illustrate how faith matters in their daily lives.

Sacred art and contemporary photos are purposefully used for reflection,

processing and reinforcing concepts, and touching hearts.

An intentional ratio of text to art addresses how youth treat and understand image as content.

Text is organized in **smaller "chunks," charts, and bullets** to facilitate reading and understanding.



Alive in Christ for Young Adolescents is flexible and adapts to many models of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry programs.

The program can stand alone, used with young adolescents in grades six through nine, for ongoing faith formation and/or remote preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Catechetical leaders can sequence the courses of study to best suit the needs of their

young people and parish community. Catechists might teach multiple courses or specialize in one theological theme.

Lessons can be completed in an hour and fifteen minutes, or can be extended to two sessions. Online suggestions will provide a general framework for covering a lesson over two sessions.

3-YEAR PLAN	
Year 1	2 Courses
Year 2	3 Courses
Year 3	2 Courses and immediate preparation for Confirmation

2-YEAR PLAN	
Year 1	4 Courses
Year 2	3 Courses and immediate preparation for Confirmation

2 YEAR SUMMER PLAN	
YEAR ONE	
Week One	2 Courses
Week Two	2 Courses
YEAR TWO	
Week One	2 Courses
Week Two	1 course and Confirmation immediate preparation

Partnering with Existing Youth Ministry Models

For leaders looking for a systematic and intentional component for an existing video based or one-session topical program, course(s) can be added to increase the comprehensiveness of content already being presented.

Including parents in Faith Formation

Whether implementing multiple year or summer plans, for any one course of study:

- Parents and youth attend 2 catechist-led sessions together in the parish
- Parents and youth complete 4 online Home Sessions

Preparing for Confirmation with Call to Celebrate Confirmation

Liturgical catechesis, prepares for the sacraments by promoting a deeper understanding and experience of the liturgy. This explains the contents of the prayers, the meaning of the signs and gestures, educates to active participation, contemplation, and silence. It must be regarded as an 'eminent kind of catechesis.'

—GENERAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS, 71



This program features 8 complete sessions—each with an opening prayer **ritual** that unfolds the signs, symbols, prayer, and gestures of the Rite of Confirmation.

Candidates are introduced to *Witnesses of our Faith* and hear someone their age reflect on the influence that person has had in their lives.

Faith Focus helps the young people explore the treasure of our **deposit of faith** through creative and interactive strategies that engage them with God's truth.

Confirmation is intentionally set within the Sacraments of Initiation to draw attention to their role in a life of **missionary discipleship**.

Alive in Christ for Young Adolescents Leader Guides build confident, capable, and successful catechists. Whatever model your parish follows, those teaching youth serve an essential catechetical role. Leader Guides support experienced and new catechists/lesson leaders through every step of the lesson with consistent features and easy-to-use resources.

Background material introduces the lesson content through adult reflection and prayer, and provides information on how **young adolescents**, understand and relate to faith concepts in the lesson.

Key concept and **learner objectives** are fully explained and conveniently located at the beginning of each lesson.

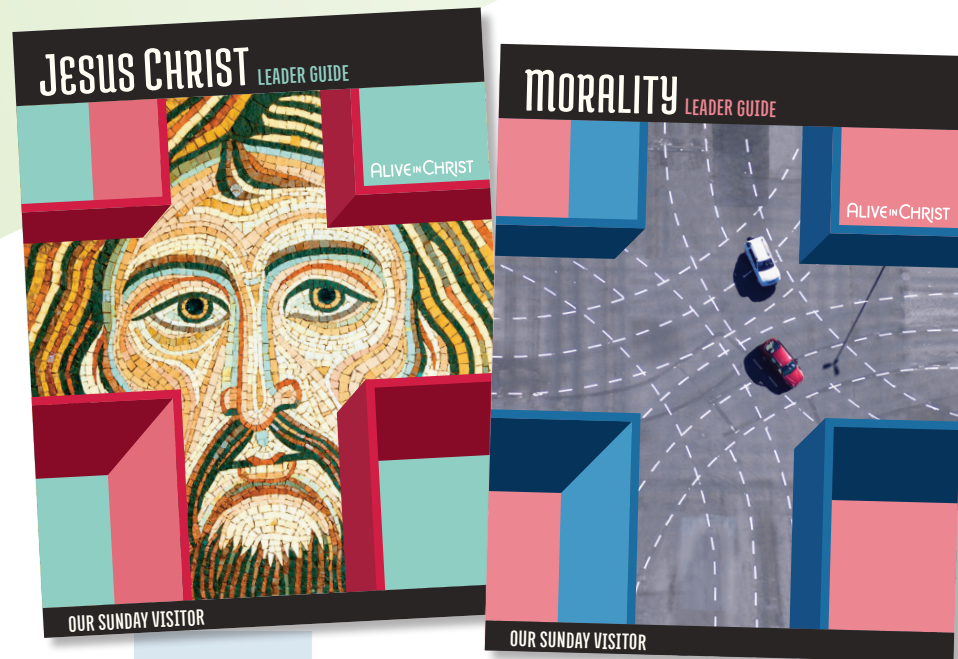
A **Lesson at a Glance** offers a quick overview of what happens in Invite, Discover, and Live steps.

Getting Ready and **Materials** give leaders what they need to effectively prepare for a successful lesson, including when they will model faith sharing.

An easy-to-follow **lesson plan** guides the leader page-by-page through the lesson.

Detailed instructions support the leader in facilitating group activities, youth reflection, and the practice of faith sharing.

An **Interactive Teaching Strategy** provides a dynamic way to teach part of the Discover step. A variety of methods—such as using movement, video selections, role playing, creative art—respect the way adolescents learn today.



Pages 8-9 **Jesus Is the Way to God**

Interactive Teaching Strategy: We Are Never Alone

Using a clear window film, the group will see a visual representation of Jesus' fully human and fully divine nature. The young people will then be given an index card with a syllable written on it and participate in a game that explains that Jesus is the Substantial Image of the Father because he is a visible image of the nature of God.

Preparation

Cut two large circles out of the window film or contact paper. Cut the circles with rough edges so they do not look identical.

- Use a red marker on one circle to draw wavy lines across the film. Be sure to leave some white space between each wavy line so the pattern is visible. On the other circle, use a blue marker to draw the same type of wavy lines across the film.
- Create wavy lines on both circles until all of the clear window film is covered up. Place each circle on a piece of paper.

Make index cards.

- Write one syllable from each of the following words on large unlined index cards: gen/er/ous; sac/ri/ficial; for/giv/ing; mer/ci/ful; com/pass/ion/ate; jus/tice
- Place a tiny dot of the same color on cards that belong together, for example, the three cards for generous could have a tiny blue dot.

Select a volunteer to play Jesus.

- Explain that he or she will be putting the syllables on the index cards in order to spell out the words generous, sacrificial, forgiving, merciful, compassionate, and justice.
- Explain that the other participants will be holding the index cards with each syllable, and they will need to pay attention to the dots in order to group the syllables together in proper order.

Post the Catholic Faith Words page and introduce the term *Mediator*. Ask a volunteer to read aloud the definition.

Hold up the red and blue circles and display them to the group. As you speak, hold up one circle at a time when you say the phrase fully human and fully divine.

Say: Jesus is our Mediator because he is fully Divine and fully human. He is the intermediary or bridge between God and humans.

Take the paper backing off of the red circle and attach it to the wall.

Say: This circle will represent Jesus' divine nature. Jesus always was one with the Father and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity makes the decision to enter our human experience to save us from the sin we have chosen. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity takes on human flesh. Who remembers what this truth is called? *(The Incarnation)*

aliveinchrist.osv.com

14 Jesus Christ Leader Guide

Invite

The **Invite Step** of the catechetical process begins with a **Sacred Scripture** reflection and asks the young people to enter into silence and open their minds and hearts as God personally invites them to an **encounter** with him.

INVITE
1

The Way

Let Us Pray

Leader: Jesus, our brother, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You know our struggles and our joys. Be with us and guide us to know the Father's love.

"Praise the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever." **Psalm 136:1**

All: God, help us become our best selves.

Scripture

"Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross." **Philippians 2:5-8**

Have you ever thought...

- How is Jesus true God and true man?
- What does Jesus being fully human mean for how we live?

The Way 5

Young people are called together to **begin in prayer** to set sacred space.

A **Scripture** passage begins the reflection that is modeled on the practice of *Lectio Divina*. * This model helps the youth listen for God's personal invitation to deepen their relationship with him. They learn the practice of breathing in "Holy" and out "Spirit" to enter sacred silence. Through stillness and active listening they encounter him in his Word. They are then invited to share what they have experienced.

Have you ever thought... questions connect to chapter objectives and prompt interest in discovering the treasure of our faith.

**Lectio Divina* means "Divine Reading" and refers specifically to a method of Scripture reading practiced by monastics. It is a traditional Catholic practice of Scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word.

Discover

The **Discover Step** of the catechetical process helps form Catholic identity through the study of Scripture, knowledge of Church teaching, and an understanding of Catholic practices. During this step the young people process and reinforce what they have learned. Precise theological language allows them to establish mastery over our common language of faith.

Use of sacred and contemporary art, images, and illustrations with the captions help the youth access the content of the page through visual learning.

Go to the Source directs the reader to a Bible passage to learn more or to continue reading the Scripture referenced in the lesson.

The art of asking intentional questions that employ higher and lower orders of thinking are particularly significant at this stage of development. Learners are asked both affective and evaluative questions.



Jesus Is the Way to God

How does Jesus show us the way?

Before they were called "Christians," the disciples who followed Jesus were called followers of "The Way." Jesus showed them the way to God. He also showed them a new way to live, a way based on truth and love.

Scripture

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

Go to the Source

Jesus used words to describe the Father. Read Luke 11:9-13 and find out why Jesus spoke about giving a hungry child a scorpion or a snake, instead of an egg or some fish.

8 Jesus Christ

The Apostles and disciples of Jesus learned about God in two ways. Jesus talked about God, letting them know that God is Father, and Jesus showed them God the Father through his life, the life of the Son. Jesus used words to describe what the Father was like, and Jesus used actions to demonstrate what he was like.

Jesus was able to give us a better picture of God—a picture of a loving, gentle, and affectionate Father—a God who takes care of us and gives us what we need, including expectations and rules to keep us safe and help us grow. He is eternal Father and source of all life. Jesus told us, "For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds..." (Luke 11:10) Jesus' words and actions still show us the way today.

> How does "The Way" help you trust in God?

An important element of the **Discover Step** is the Interactive Teaching Strategy, found in the Leader Guide. A fifteen minute activity teaches the content of two Discover pages. Strategies can involve movement, video selections, role playing, creative art, and more.

Jesus

Jesus is known by many titles that describe what he does. You're probably familiar with Savior, Lord, Christ, and so on. How about Mediator and Image?

Jesus brings together those who might be separated or apart, reconciling them. Because of his sacrifice, Jesus is the true God and true man. Jesus is the mediator between God the Father and humans. As our intermediary or bridge to God the Father, and by his sacrifice that makes reconciliation possible, Jesus is

called the Mediator. He brings us closer to the Father by his words and his actions.

When Jesus became man, he remained God. So when we look at Jesus, a human being, we get to see God in living color. He is sometimes called the Substantial Image of the Father. An image is a visible likeness. Substantial implies belonging to its nature. When we say Jesus is the Substantial Image of the Father, we mean that he is a visible image of the true nature of God. In the Son of God, you can see what God the Father is like. Here are some ways Jesus used actions to demonstrate God's love for us:

- healing many people who were sick or injured (see Matthew 8:14-17)
- spending time and eating with people who were unpopular (see Luke 5:30-32)
- feeding people who were hungry (see Mark 6:30-44)

> What does knowing Jesus better help you to understand about the Trinity?

Scripture

"For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as ransom for all."
1 Timothy 2:5-6

Gather in small groups to identify the kind of things you think Jesus expects people your age to do in order to be an image of him to the world. Describe what things you think Jesus doesn't expect people your age to do.

What Jesus Expects	What Jesus Doesn't Expect

The Way 9

In theologically precise language, the truths of our faith are explained in developmentally appropriate ways.

On page activities help the young adolescents to reinforce, process, relate to, or apply what they have learned.

Live

The **Live Step** of the catechetical process helps the young people respond to the need to connect what they believe to how they live.

Our Catholic Life takes a deeper look into our Catholic practices, devotions, and rituals. It invites the young disciple to examine ways to grow in faith as a member of the Catholic Church.

Made in Love responds to the need for youth to understand the beauty and truth of God's gift of sexuality and chaste living. Each course presents different aspects of six principles of Christian anthropology and human sexuality.

LIVE

Our Catholic Life

Jesus tells us that discipleship involves praying to God the Father, studying his teachings, participating in the Eucharist, and living the virtues. Discipleship also means bringing the Good News of Christ to others. It requires us to understand and live by what we've learned from Jesus and his Church. It is part of the Church's mission to continue Jesus' work, teaching others about him and helping God in his work of spreading his Kingdom. Being a disciple means living a life of compassion, love, justice, and service, for the glory of God. It includes seeing people as our brothers and sisters, no matter their race, nationality, religious beliefs, social group, or income level. We are all made in God's image, and we can all be disciples.



> What is one way the people in your school or parish are examples of discipleship?

Made in Love

Created for Love in God's Own Image Everything we are – our bodies, our souls, our present and future selves – is created in the image of God, who is one God in three Divine Persons, united in love. This means that we are also designed and destined for love: with God and with one another. We have the power to make our relationships here on earth reflect the love of God in heaven.

The love for which you are created and meant to share has a name: Jesus, the Beloved Son of God. Jesus is literally the physical embodiment of the love God has for you. His witness teaches us how to reflect God's love in our relationships.

And, he is unwilling to let you settle for less than your true self: a child of God, made by and for love. Your family and friends, people you don't know, even those you don't like should feel by the way you treat them that they are beloved children of God.

Right now, it may seem that the things you like about your body are outnumbered by the things you don't. It is incredibly important to remember that your body is a miracle. Everyone's is.

> Think of two things you like about your body. What help could you give others whose bodies cannot to do what they used to?

Live

Throughout this movement various learning strategies—directed at both the heart and the mind—invite the young person to fully engage in the life of discipleship.

Take on the Mind of Christ responds to the objection of adolescents that faith does not apply to their lives. Youth discern how to act with a disciple's conviction to a relevant dilemma.

Take on the Mind of Christ

Taking on the mind of Christ means thinking about things the way Jesus would. As disciples, we share our understanding of God's will, plan, and purpose.

Dilemma: My friend wants me to download a rated M app without my mom knowing.
Thinking like Christ, I would...

The Gift or Fruit of the Holy Spirit I would pray for in this moment is...

CALLED TO PROCLAIM


Knowing and talking about our faith with others is important. Like many things in life, practicing will help us grow more confident in doing it.

Simple Truths

- Jesus is true God and true man, fully Divine and also fully human.
- Following Jesus' example helps you discover the person God intends you to be.

Someone I know asks, "Why would Jesus want to be a man when he's already God?"
I answer ...

A friend who is not Christian says, "Jesus was alive a long time ago. What he said and did really doesn't make sense in our world today."
I reply ...




Called to Proclaim responds to the need for youth to understand and share basic Church teaching with confidence. Learners practice answering questions that they may face at this age about their faith.

"...adolescent catechesis is a seed-sowing endeavor that we hope will lead to a lifetime of encounter, growth, and living witness within the Catholic community."

— THE JOY OF ADOLESCENT CATECHESIS, PAGE 10

The Heart of a Disciple responds to the call to develop an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ. Adolescents have a glimpse into the intimate and personal relationship between God and the Communion of Saints. They share in a sacred encounter with God.



Heart of a Disciple

Read these words from a disciple who wanted to grow closer to God.

“ Jesus, help me to simplify my life by learning what you want me to be – and becoming that person. ”

–St. Thérèse of Lisieux

How can these words help you to know God more deeply?

People of Faith

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, 1894–1941

When Raymund Kolbe became a priest, he changed his name to Maximilian Maria in honor of Mary. During World War II, he provided shelter for those fleeing the Nazis, including 2,000 Jews. In 1941, Father Kolbe was arrested by the Nazis and taken to the death camp of Auschwitz. While he was there, the Nazis decided to starve some prisoners to death as a punishment. He offered to take the place of a man who had a wife and children. The man whose life he saved was present at the ceremony of his canonization in 1982. The Church celebrates his feast day on **August 14.**

For more, go to aliveinchrist.osv.com


Truths of Our Faith

Jesus Christ is the only Son of God. He took on human flesh to redeem us from sin and show us the way to the Father.

Jesus has two natures. He is fully man and fully God. Jesus is the Second Divine person of the holy trinity.

Because he is true God and true man, Jesus Christ is "the way" to the Father. Through his words and actions Jesus brings us back to the Father and gives us the perfect example of how to be the people God always intended us to be.

Jesus became man to reconcile us to his Father and show us how to live. We need to follow his example and become followers of the Way, disciples who strive to live fully as God's children.



In **People of Faith**, youth hear the stories of Saints, Blesseds, and Venerables whose lives exemplify faith filled living and reflect lesson content. These stories are meant to inspire them to learn more about our Church family.

Truths of Our Faith is a learner friendly summary of core Catholic beliefs covered in the lesson.

A N A L L N E W E X P E R I E N C E

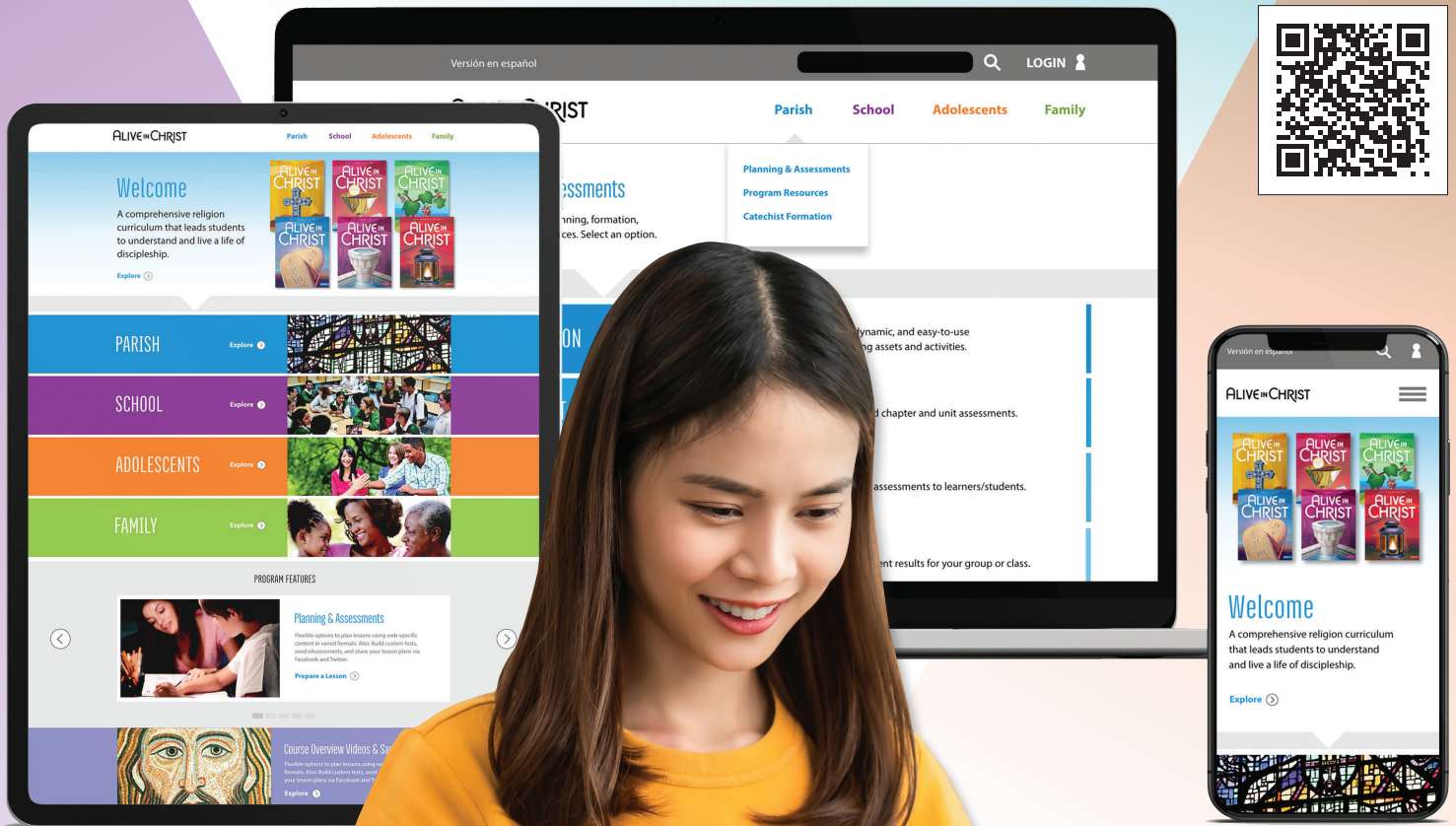
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