

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



## Focus on Faith

### Jesus Dines With Zacchaeus

**W**hen our children hurt one another, we can feel discouraged. We know that even though apologies are given and accepted, resentment can remain. Luke presents an account of reconciliation in the story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector whom people hated. Jesus did not scold Zacchaeus when they met, but rather asked Zacchaeus to invite him to dinner. Jesus' eating with Zacchaeus meant that Jesus forgave him and accepted him. Zacchaeus responded by vowing to pay back everyone he had cheated. Jesus teaches us that we can help our children be reconciled with God and with one another. The family dinner gives us the opportunity to share conversation and build relationships.

### Spirituality in Action

Your child is learning about reconciliation. Remind your child that we also pray for reconciliation among groups of people. Explain that criticizing others because of their appearance, religious beliefs, or way of life is not appropriate and is hurtful to them and to God. Encourage your child to get to know those who may be from other cultures or backgrounds.

### Dinnertime Conversation Starter

**A**rrange a time to invite to dinner someone with whom your family needs to rebuild a relationship.



### Hints for at Home

Create walk-in-peace footprints for the entryway to each bedroom in your home. Make one pair for each room. You will need poster board, markers, scissors, and double-sided tape. Have your child trace his or her feet on the poster board once for every bedroom in your home. Decorate the outlines and write *Walk in peace* on them. Cut out the outlines. Use the tape to attach one pair to the floor outside each bedroom door, facing out from the bedroom. Remind your family members to walk in peace as they leave their bedrooms each morning.



### Focus on Prayer

Your child is learning to pray the Act of Contrition. Pray it with your child at bedtime after he or she reviews the good and hurtful things that were done that day.

