

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

## Focus on Faith

### Jesus' Obedience and Ours

Jesus was a faithful Jewish boy who loved and obeyed his parents. We like to emphasize this when we talk to our children. We tell them that they should be obedient to their parents, just as Jesus was obedient to his. The root word for *obedience* means "to hear or to listen." As parents, we need to listen carefully to our children in order to recognize their concerns and respond to them. Becoming a good listener is one obligation we have if we are to raise our children in the ways that Jesus wants. As Christian parents, we have authority over our children. We are called to exercise this authority by nurturing our children's growth in the Christian life.



### Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Explain to your children that you are always ready to listen, whether they have good or bad news. Tell them that their honesty is more important than any mistake they might make. Be sure not to criticize them when they are honest. Instead, discuss what they should do in the future to act according to Jesus' teaching.



## Our Catholic Heritage

Catholicism has developed into a truly global religion. For example, in recent years Catholicism has shown tremendous growth in Africa. Approximately 390 million people in Africa are Christian; of those, roughly 115 million are Catholic. As recently as the early to mid 1990s, there were fewer than 100 million Catholics in Africa.

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## Hints for at Home

Help your child create a Time for Prayer clock. You will need a paper plate, crayons or markers, construction paper, scissors, and a brass fastener. With crayons or markers, decorate the paper plate to look like a clock. Create praying hour and minute hands by tracing your child's hands, fingers together, onto the paper. Cut out the hands and attach them to the center of the clock with the fastener, and hang the clock in a special place. You may wish to designate a special family prayer time, such as before dinner or at bedtime. You may also allow time for prayer when the moment is appropriate, such as when asking for guidance or expressing special thanks.



## Focus on Prayer

**The family provides a nurturing environment in which your child can learn to pray. Be a positive role model. Guide your child to understand that speaking and listening to God can be done at any moment.**