

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

Focus on Faith



Acting in Freedom

Sometimes we do not know what to make of the Old Testament. There are so many violent stories of war and betrayal. The story of David and Bathsheba could appear in today's scandal sheets. David had a moral choice to make, and he made the wrong one. He abused the freedom he had as king when he took Uriah's wife and had Uriah killed. The prophet Nathan called David back to his senses and to repentance. Unfortunately, like David, we can be tempted to interpret freedom as a right to do what we want. Our children are especially susceptible to this temptation. Christians can find true freedom only in Christ. Christian freedom is not acted out in selfish ways but in service to God and others.

Our Catholic Heritage

For hundreds of years, people have made pilgrimages. For example, during the Middle Ages pilgrimage to holy sites was a popular activity. At that time there were three primary pilgrimage destinations:

Jerusalem, Rome, and Santiago de Compostella in Spain. In Jerusalem Catholics walked in the footsteps of Jesus where he had carried his cross. In Rome they visited the center of the Catholic Church, where Saints Peter and Paul had died. At Santiago de Compostella pilgrims went to the tomb of the apostle James, who was the first apostle to be martyred.



Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Have a discussion about what "freedom" means in your family. Have members share how they would like to be free. Lead the conversation to the relationship between freedom and the necessity on the part of everyone to act in a responsible way.



Spirituality in Action

Examine what your family does to serve others. What can you do in the parish or neighborhood? Talk about things you can do for others nearby or far away.

Focus on Prayer

Psalm 51 is a prayer seeking God's forgiveness and asking for his everlasting closeness. Read Psalm 51 with your family. After reading the psalm, ask family members to share some of the ways they need God's understanding and nearness. Formulate some of these thoughts into a prayer that your family can pray together.