

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

Reconciling Meals

In the Scriptures an invitation to a meal and eating together is a sign of reconciliation. That is why people were upset when Jesus ate with Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10) and why religious leaders criticized Jesus for eating with people whom they considered sinners. John 21:1–19 tells the story of Jesus' preparing a meal for Peter and some disciples after the Resurrection. Peter and the others were fishing when they saw Jesus on the shore. Jesus invited them to a breakfast of bread and fish. This invitation and the meal they ate together was in itself a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation. Taking time to prepare and have a meal together creates opportunity for families to remain reconciled and live in harmony.

Our Catholic Heritage

Father Lawrence Jenco provides an example of what forgiveness means. Jenco was held hostage in Beirut, Lebanon, for 564 days, enduring beatings and threats to his life. He was kept in solitary confinement for six months. Once during his captivity, a guard asked Jenco for forgiveness. Jenco admitted to the guard that there were times when he hated his captors, but while talking, Jenco realized that he was able to forgive and ask for forgiveness in return. Jenco wrote that he knew at that moment that he was freed. After his release he wrote a book about his experiences titled *Bound to Forgive*. Jenco died in 1996 at the age of 61.



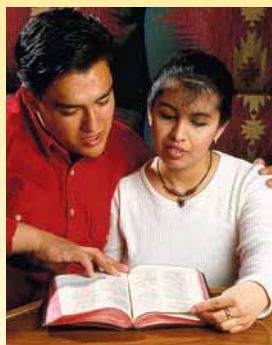
Dinnertime Conversation Starter

With your child plan a meal that you can prepare together to celebrate the oneness of your family.



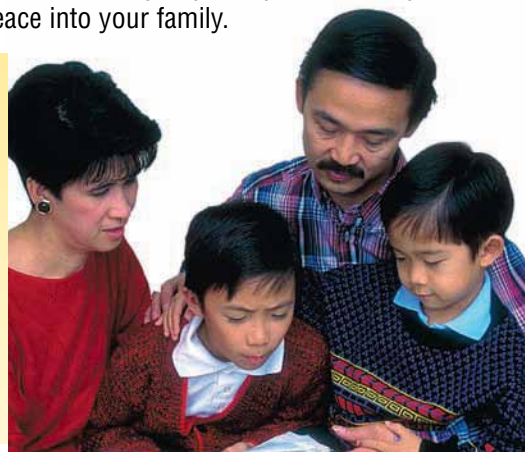
Spirituality in Action

With your family read one of the following passages from Matthew, Chapter 18: the lost sheep (10–14) or the unforgiving servant (21–35). Then say a prayer of forgiveness together. Make a promise as a group that you all will try to bring a spirit of peace into your family.



Focus on Prayer

Your child is reviewing the Act of Contrition. Say the prayer aloud as a family. You will find the words to this prayer at www.FindingGod.org.



www.findinggod.com