

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

## Focus on Faith

### God Calls Us to a Peaceable Life

In Chapter 3 of his letter, James describes the damage that can be done by an unbridled tongue. James calls the tongue “a restless evil, full of poison” that no one can tame. Just as a spark can set a forest ablaze, an uncontrolled tongue can create a forest fire of damage in human relationships. It is important to reflect on James when considering our role as parents. Does criticism of our children come more easily than praise? Do we find it easier to criticize our children’s accomplishments than to build their self-esteem? In response to the unbridled tongue, James calls us to gain the wisdom that comes from God that is “peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy.”

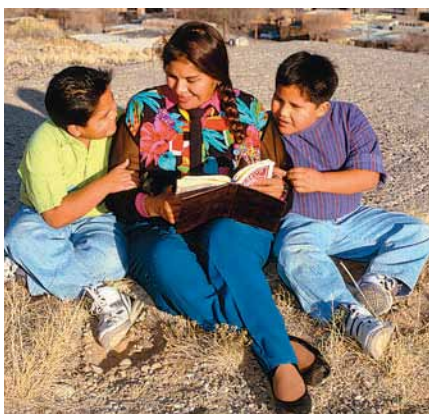
### Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Talk with your child about the effect on others of compliments, praise, and kind words. As a family, make an effort to say one positive thing to each other daily.



### Hints for at Home

Take time to use words positively in your family by doing the following activity. Once a day throughout the week, each of you is to say something positive about a family member or to tell



why that person is special to you. By the end of the week, each of you should have said something positive to each family member.

[www.findinggod.com](http://www.findinggod.com)



## Our Catholic Heritage

Some sayings have long been part of the Catholic tradition. Others are newer and express ideas that are meaningful to us as Catholics:

To God who is the best and greatest.—A MOTTO OF THE

BENEDICTINES

Pray and work.—A MOTTO OF SAINT BENEDICT

All for the greater glory of God.—A MOTTO OF SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.—A MOTTO OF THE CHRISTOPHERS

(The Christophers is a nonprofit organization founded by Father James Keller in 1945 to spread a message of hope and understanding to people of all faiths.)



## Focus on Prayer

Your child prayed a psalm about how we should use our words. Together as a family pray this psalm (Psalm 34:2, 14–16).