

# RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page

## Focus on Faith

### God's Rainbow

A rainbow is a marvelous sight! It can come at the end of a summer thunderstorm, when the blackness of the day, the fearsome lightning, and the quaking thunder pass. Against the clouds, the sun brightens the sky with an arc of color. The people in biblical times were as affected by the sight of the rainbow as we are. They saw it in the context of the story of Noah and the Great Flood. Through Noah and his family, God had saved the human family. At the end God promised that he would never send another such flood. The rainbow was the sign of his promise, called a covenant. God promises to treat the human family with mercy and love, a promise he will never break.



Noah's Ark, Edward Hicks, 1846

### Dinnertime Conversation Starter

We can make covenants within the family, promises to support one another in important ways. Identify with your family a promise that each can make to support the family during the next week. End your family conversation with a prayer and a pledge to ask God for help in keeping the promises made.

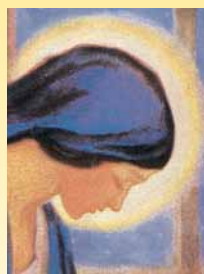
### Our Catholic Heritage

Throughout the years, Catholic artists have put animals in their artwork to represent different Christian ideas. Lambs, peacocks, lions, owls, and lizards have been painted on the walls of tombs and churches. One animal, the dove, has been used as a symbol for many things: the soul, the Holy Spirit, and peace. It was a dove that gave hope to Noah after he drifted for a long time on the water. He released a dove that returned with an olive branch; thus, Noah knew that land could not be far away.



### Focus on Prayer

Your child is reviewing the Hail Mary. To help with the review, pray the Hail Mary together as a family. You can find the words to this prayer at [www.FindingGod.org](http://www.FindingGod.org).



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

### Hints for at Home

Begin a habit in your family called the "Lord, have mercy moment." Whenever someone is having trouble, any person in the family can say, "Lord, have mercy!" When someone is frustrated or sad, it's all right to ask whether this is a "Lord, have mercy moment." Sometimes it may even be appropriate to stop and pray the Hail Mary or some other short prayer, asking for God's help. A humorous version of this is a "Mom, have mercy" or "Dad, have mercy" moment. One of these expressions can be used when a child has made a mistake, forgotten instructions, or spilled the milk. By using a "Mom" or "Dad" version, your child can relate God's love to a parent's love.

