

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

Honoring Our Parents

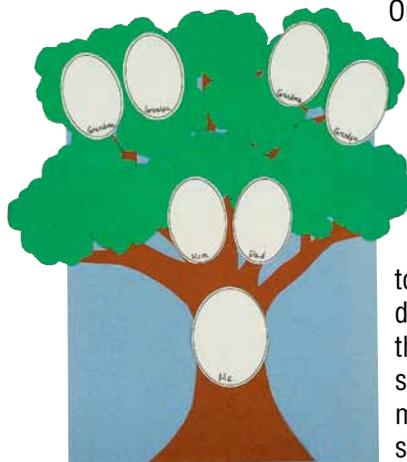
It is tempting to interpret the commandment that tells children to honor their parents as a call for instant obedience. In biblical times honoring one's parents meant respecting them as sources of wisdom and making a commitment to care for them in their old age. We, as sons and daughters ourselves, are the most influential example of what it means to respect parents. Especially now, while our children are in their formative years, we are teaching them the fundamental attitudes they will act out in their behavior toward us as they get older.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Share with your family your favorite memories of your parents, your children's grandparents. Discuss ways your family can make life easier and more enjoyable for older relatives.



Hints for at Home



One simple and fun way to teach children that they belong to part of a larger community is by creating a family tree. A family tree is a great visual teaching tool that allows children to learn about the relationships they share with other family members, while also strengthening personal and family identities.

With your child, create a tree, and adorn it with drawings or photographs of people in your family. Be sure to share interesting stories and funny memories about each family member.

Focus on Prayer

Your child has learned a simple version of the Evening Prayer, to be said before bedtime each night. Set aside some special time to say the prayer together and talk peacefully and quietly about one another's day. Visit www.FindingGod.org for the words to the prayer.

www.findinggod.com

Our Catholic Heritage

Early Christian Celts were deeply spiritual people and took time to craft prayers for many of life's activities. Following is a traditional Celtic bedtime prayer, written in Scotland long ago:

*I LIE DOWN THIS NIGHT
I LIE DOWN THIS NIGHT WITH GOD,
AND GOD WILL LIE DOWN WITH ME;
I LIE DOWN THIS NIGHT WITH CHRIST,
AND CHRIST WILL LIE DOWN WITH ME;
I LIE DOWN THIS NIGHT WITH THE SPIRIT,
AND THE SPIRIT WILL LIE DOWN WITH ME;
GOD AND CHRIST AND THE SPIRIT
BE LYING DOWN WITH ME.
FROM CARMINA GADELICA*