

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Vittore Carpaccio

Focus on Faith

Seeing People for Who They Are

We all live with stereotypes. It is easy to make assumptions and to label people according to their looks, clothes, or ethnic origins. In this session your child read about Joseph and Mary's coming with the baby Jesus to the Temple. Their humble offering of two turtledoves immediately labeled them as poor and unimportant, and this is how most people saw them. Simeon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, saw beneath the surface to recognize the promised Messiah in Jesus. The Holy Spirit also calls us to see everyone through the eyes of faith and to discover how each person is sacred and loved by God. When you look at your child today, whom do you see? How can you nurture the sacred person within your child?

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Discuss a movie or television show you have all seen in which a character starts out looking like a villain but is revealed as a hero at the end. Explore together what this can tell us about looking beyond first impressions.

Hints for at Home

Create and display a simple family tree. Include grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. Talk about how your family members reflect God's presence in your lives. You might add items that reflect God's presence in the ordinary. For example, you might include pine cones, seashells, twigs, and leaves in the display. You might add pictures of your immediate and extended families as well as family pets. Over time, continue to add to your display.



Focus on Prayer

Your child is learning the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. In this prayer we ask the Spirit to remain with us through everything we do, say, and think. The prayer reminds us to call on the Spirit for guidance when we are experiencing struggles or difficulties in our lives. Pray the prayer together and invite your child to discuss what it means to him or her. The words to the Prayer to the Holy Spirit are found at www.FindingGod.org.



www.findinggod.com

Our Catholic Heritage

Your child has read the story of Simeon in the Temple (Luke 2:25–32). The message of the story is that Simeon, guided by faith, was able to recognize the presence of God in the ordinary. Although he saw a poor, helpless baby, Simeon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, recognized Jesus as the Messiah. Read the story with your child. Spend a few moments together thinking about the ways we might recognize God in the people we see every day.