The Holy Family with Sparrow,
Bartolomeo Esteban Murillo

Focus on Faith

Joseph Was a Kind and Just Man

Joseph is not known as much for the job he had as for his relationship to his family. As the story in the Gospel of Matthew tells us, Joseph did not know what to make of Mary's situation until God revealed that she would be the mother of the Messiah. Joseph listened. He loved and cared. In response to Herod's threat, he led his family out of danger into an unknown land. He then led them home and protected them throughout his life. God is calling us as parents to lead our families into the future. He does not leave us alone in this task. The same Holy Spirit who led Mary and Joseph is here with us on the way in our journey of faith.

Hints for at Home

Help your child understand the importance of the family and the community as social institutions. You might play a simple game of "helping hands." Write out situations on cutout paper hands or on simple slips of paper. Have family members take turns choosing one situation and telling how they would help. Situations might include a neighbor who is sick, a child who is picked on, or a family that needs food.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Ask each person in the family to name something that he or she would like to ask Joseph about his life with Jesus and Mary. Discuss what his answers might be.
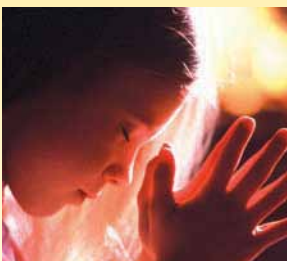
Spirituality in Action

Help your child to be sensitive to the feelings of others. Begin at home by discussing ways that family members speak to one another. Talk with your child about how curt, sarcastic, or mean words can hurt feelings. Discuss ways to avoid bullying with words at home and at school.

Focus on Prayer

In the Apostles' Creed we state our belief in Jesus, our Savior. Your child has been introduced to the first three sentences of the Creed. Help him or her to say and understand this part of the prayer. The remaining parts of the prayer will be learned in upcoming weeks. You can find this prayer at **www.FindingGod.org**.