

RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Abraham, Sarah, and the Angel, Jan Provost

Focus on Faith

Journeys of Faith

Were we to explore the histories of our families, we would find at least one story of a long and difficult journey. At some point our ancestors crossed a body of water. They crossed either the Bering Strait north of Alaska or the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans. On this journey they were sustained by their faith. The faith of our ancestors is now part of our Catholic heritage. As parents, we ask ourselves how our children will grow in the faith. Telling stories of the journey in faith that is your family heritage is the best way to begin to help your child.

In this session the children have learned about Abraham and Sarah's journey in faith. You can show your child that, in your own life and in the lives of your family members, this journey continues.

Hints for at Home

Read one of the following stories from the Old Testament with your child: Genesis 12:1–7, the call of Abraham, or Exodus 3:1–17, the call of Moses. Share ideas about it by asking questions such as these: What happens in the story? What does the story teach us about God's plan?

Spirituality at Home

Jesus teaches us that God is our loving Father. In calling God our Father, Jesus is emphasizing the close love and care that God has for us and how he wants to nurture us. This also emphasizes that we as parents are the first example of God's love and concern that our children experience. When they hear of God's loving concern as Father, they filter it through the lens of their experience of us as their parents. In what kind of atmosphere are we raising our children? How will they experience God's fatherly concern for them based on what they experience from us as the primary examples of that concern?

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Share a favorite story about a grandparent, an aunt, or an uncle. Invite your child to do the same.

Our Catholic Heritage



Saint Jerome, Giotto di Bondone

Around A.D. 400, Saint Jerome translated the Bible into Latin. An English-language translation of that version, with comparisons to the original Hebrew and Greek, was made in the late 1500s and

early 1600s. Called the Douay-Rheims Version, it was the Bible that was most widely used by English-speaking Catholics for centuries. *The New American Bible*, commissioned by the U.S. bishops, was translated from the original languages in the 20th century. It is a contemporary American translation.

Focus on Prayer



Pray the Lord's Prayer with your child. Then spend a few minutes thinking or talking—whichever is more comfortable for your child—about what it means. The exact words for the Lord's Prayer can be found at www.FindingGod.org.