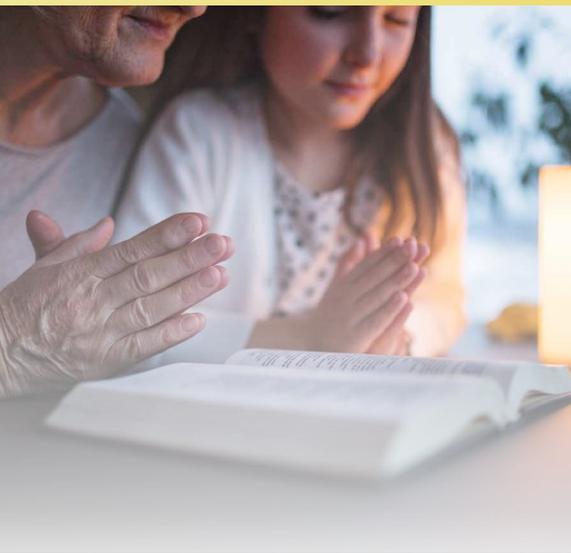




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At Home with Faith

Jesus calls us to love him more than any other created thing.
If we do, our relationships with our family and friends will be stronger.



“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Mt 10:37)

Why did Jesus say this? What’s wrong with loving our parents and children?

Because Jesus is God, our love for him strengthens our ability to love others, just as our love for our parents deepens our relationship with our siblings rather than detracts from it. The better we love him, the better we can love our family.

Being a good parent means occasionally living through times when our children are mad at us. Our love for Jesus can help us stay the course and do the right thing during those times.

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don’t have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

2 Kings 4:8-11; 14-16a

This time next year, you will be holding a baby son

Psalms 89

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord

Romans 6:3-4; 8-11

You must be dead to sin and alive in Christ

Matthew 10:37-42

Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it

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Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

- Listen to the Gospel reading while at Mass and ask your children if they heard how Jesus said, “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Ask them what they think about that. See if they are having a hard time understanding it.
- Tell your child a story about when you had to put your relationship with God ahead of your feelings for a person that you really cared about. It can be a story about when you had to say no to him because it was good for him — but only if that was far enough in the past that your child can see that you were acting in his best interest.
- Encourage your child to think about times when following God might mean acting in a way that might not please her friends. Encourage her to think about how sometimes this will make her a better friend in the long run.



One of the most difficult things for parents is having to discipline our children or thwart their desires.

Just about every parent has endured his or her children’s anger. In our deep frustration, we may even find ourselves asking, “Is this issue worth the fight?”

In those moments when tensions are high and emotions are strong, our judgment can be weak. That’s when our relationship with Jesus can ground us. If we pray regularly, pay attention to what we hear each week at Mass and think about what our faith teaches, we can ask, **“What does God want me to do right now?”** Reflecting on this question will give us the courage we need to stay the course if we are doing the right thing, and the wisdom to know when we need to compromise.

No matter what, our job as parents will lead us to some kind of sacrifice. When the going gets tough, it helps to remember that Jesus told us we would have to take up our cross and follow him. We can make that sacrifice with confidence in his promise that “whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Mt 10:39)

For more resources, including previous issues of At Home with Faith, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>