

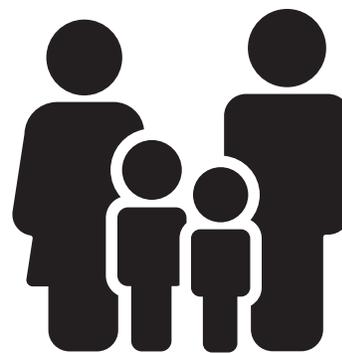
# Building FAITH at Home



368 pages of resources  
for Family Faith Formation



# Building FAITH at Home

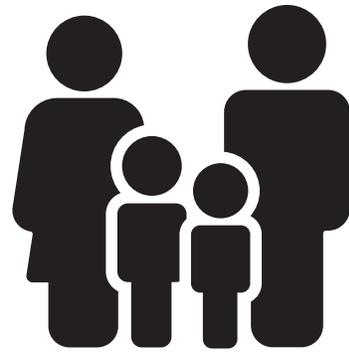


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By David Rueter. Art and design: Jamie Wyatt. © 2017 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in the church or home.

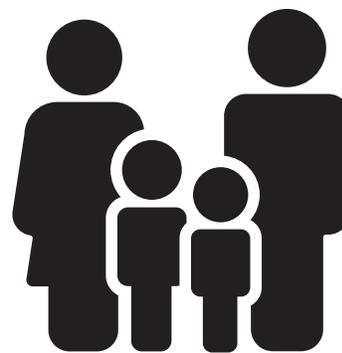
# Building FAITH at Home



## About the Kit

This is a kit of resources and weekly handouts for 52 weeks of the year (for 3 years) for pastors to provide to families to build faith at home. Ideas for talking points, suggested questions to spark engagement, thoughts on when and where to gather to be in communication with God, and practical activities to stimulate spiritual growth are included. Written by David Rueter, a professor who trains youth and family ministers.

# Building FAITH at Home Introduction



There is no better place than the Christian home for faith formation to take place. Numerous studies as well as much anecdotal evidence have shown the value of the Christian home in building the faith in children and youth. There simply is no better place for this critical work to be done.

Parents are the single best agents of faith formation in their children's lives. As a parent, I have more influence in the lives of my sons than anyone. As a career youth worker, this is both concerning and comforting. This truth is concerning in that as a children's or youth ministry worker, we sometimes believe that we should have a larger impact in the faith lives of the children and youth in our churches. After all, considering the amount of time and effort made in providing quality learning environments, how could my impact be less than the top of the list?

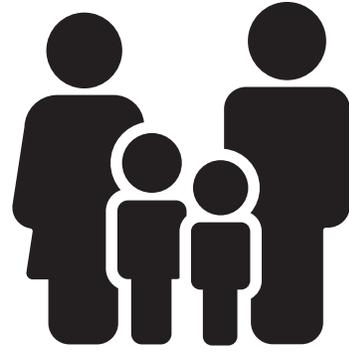
This truth is comforting in that it takes the pressure off and in fact redirects my efforts in children's and youth ministry toward equipping parents. There are perhaps thousands of great children's and youth ministry workers in churches across the country. They put a fantastic effort into the training of your children each and every week. However, their impact is a mere shadow compared to the lifelong shaping that your example of a life in Christ is in the lives of your children.

Having worked for churches as long as I have, and now as I seek to equip future workers at Concordia University Irvine to enter into ministry themselves, I have come to believe that the equipping parents to build faith at home is of critical importance. The church, however, cannot simply announce that it is the job of the family to build faith at home. Rather, the church must walk alongside parents to prepare and equip them to do so. I have had many conversations with parents, especially fathers, who experience apprehension and perhaps even an element of fear when asked about their taking a larger role in faith formation in the home.

Kids ask complex questions, even at a young age. As a dad, I like to have the answers for the questions my boys ask. However, I do not always know what to say. They regularly ask questions that I have not considered. It is my prayer that this workbook will serve as a tool for you as a parent to gain confidence in talking about faith matters at home and developing your own approach to building faith at home.

—Dr. Dave Rueter

# Building FAITH at Home



## About the Workbook

This *Building Faith at Home* workbook has been designed to provide you as a parent with a structured method to help you connect what takes place on Sunday in church to your daily lives and, in turn, to the faith conversations that you have with your children at home. It is never too early or too late to begin talking about what you believe with your children. If you have little ones at home, keep it simple. But do not think that you have to wait until they are older and understand more. Learn through this process how to bring God's Word to them at their level. If you have older children or teens in your home and are just starting to talk about matters of faith with them, use this workbook to get you thinking about what topics they might be wrestling with or questions they might be asking.

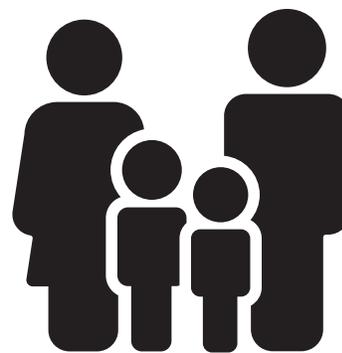
**Step One: Reading and Reflection on God's Word:** Using the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) Lectionary, this workbook will help you reflect on the weekly readings that your church may use in worship on a Sunday morning. (If your church does not use this or any other lectionary, you can still make use of the readings to provide you with a structured path through God's Word.) In the weeks that follow Pentecost labeled Propers, not all the weeks listed here will be used in every given year. Check the date range for each week listed to know when to use the material.

**Step Two: Reflecting on Daily Life:** Life can move rather fast, especially when you have young children. Learning to stop and gather in the events of your day in order to reflect on them is a lost art. In this step, you will be challenged to capture thoughts from the events of your daily life.

**Step Three: Connecting Readings to Daily Life:** We all want to know how our Christian faith connects to our daily living. Our children are no different. Taking time to consider connections between what we see or experience in our daily lives can provide rich material for discussing how faith informs our lives and can do the same for our children.

**Step Four: Planning Faith Conversations at Home:** In this final step, before your actual conversations, you will take time to think through how you might be able to bring up or connect the learning you have made in steps one, two and three in faith conversations with your children. This is where building faith at home really starts to take place.

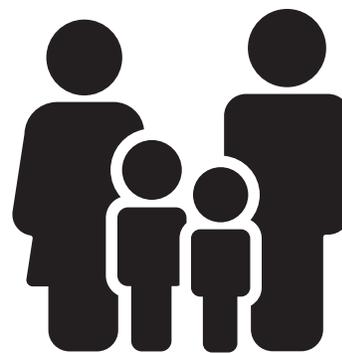
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# Building FAITH at Home



## First Week in Advent

Step One: Reading and Reflection on God's Word

Sunday

*Old Testament Lesson:* Series A: Isaiah 2:1-5; Series B: Isaiah 64:1-9; Series C: Jeremiah 33:14-16

What key words or thoughts from this passage particularly grabbed your attention?

What did you learn from this passage that was new or challenging to you?

What comfort were you able to see in this passage?

*Epistle Lesson:* Series A: Romans 13:(8-10) 11-14; Series B: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Series C: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

What key words or thoughts from this passage particularly grabbed your attention?

What did you learn from this passage that was new or challenging to you?

What comfort were you able to see in this passage?

*Gospel Lesson:* Series A: Matthew 21:1-11 or Matthew 24:36-44; Series B: Mark 11:1-10 or Mark 13:24-37; Series C: Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:25-36

What key words or thoughts from this passage particularly grabbed your attention?

What did you learn from this passage that was new or challenging to you?

What comfort were you able to see in this passage?

### Summary Questions

Series A Question: What do we do to fend off the darkness according to Paul in Romans 13?

Series B Question: What did you learn about the character of God from Isaiah 64?

Series C Question: Why should we pray that we are able to see God face to face as noted in 1 Thessalonians 3?

Thinking about all three lessons, what theme(s) did you notice that connected some or all of the passages to one another?

What significance can you see in the theme(s) that you identified that connect the lessons to one another?

### **Step Two: Reflecting on Daily Life**

**Monday:** Write a brief summary of the important, unusual or interesting things that took place today at work, on your commute, at home or during any other activities you were a part of:

**Tuesday:** Write a brief summary of the important, unusual or interesting things that took place today at work, on your commute, at home or during any other activities you were a part of:

**Wednesday:** Write a brief summary of the important, unusual or interesting things that took place today at work, on your commute, at home or during any other activities you were a part of:

**Thursday:** Write a brief summary of the important, unusual or interesting things that took place today at work, on your commute, at home or during any other activities you were a part of:

**Friday:** Write a brief summary of the important, unusual or interesting things that took place today at work, on your commute, at home or during any other activities you were a part of:

**Step Three: Connecting Readings to Daily Life**

**Saturday**

Review your comments in Step Two for this week. Note anything especially interesting here:

Review the Scripture Lessons from Sunday. Note any connections that you can see between the lessons and things that took place during your week.

## Step Four: Planning Faith Conversations at Home

### Saturday

List ideas you can glean from the connections made in Step Three to possible teachable moments in your children's lives. Possible learning times might include dinner, driving to and from school, bedtime, during daily chores and many more.

Creative  
Communications  
Sample