



A Home for Faith

Mentor Information

Children have a distinctive need to discover their world. We know the truth of Augustine, “Our souls are restless until they rest in you.” As First Priests, parents are called to journey with their children as they discover the wonder of their world and the God who created them. As parents engage this process on a daily basis faith is nurtured. This meeting will be a time to reflect on how each parent experienced faith nurture in their childhood home and explore how they can create a home for faith in the life of their children.

Purpose

To support parents in creating an intentional home for faith

Child/Family/Faith Formation

- Children have a distinctive need to discover their world
- As First Priests parents are called to guide their children in the discovery through the eyes of faith

Word

The context, connection and related conversation in this meeting are found in the scripture of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (The Sh'ma)

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Context

- The Sh'ma is Israel's confession of faith, its creed. It is followed by all of the ways by how all of God's people should live out their faith and raise up their children each day

Connections

- Living out faith and nurturing children is a daily activity

Conversation

- How did you envision God when you were a child?
- How is faith now present in your family and home?
- What will you do in order for your child to become acquainted with God?
- What are the strengths you bring as a parent that will guide you in raising your child in faith?



A Home for Faith

For this meeting you will need:

- ☐ Flipchart
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ One copy of the Promise of Faith for each family
- ☐ One pen for each family



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Allow 15 minutes
for the Gathering.

Gathering

Use the questions below to begin the meeting.

- Are there any milestones that took place for your family that you would like to share?
- How has faith been a part of your life since we last met?

Read the chosen scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Connecting the Word

God is present in your life each and everyday. Loving God and creating intentional room for faith in your home and in the life of your children requires you to clear space in your life, home and being for faith to grow and develop.

Celebrating the Word

Large Group Discussion

Begin the discussion by saying:

Allow 30 minutes
for the discussion.

Creating an intentional home for faith is an invitation to first reflect on your own faith experiences during your formative years while providing the opportunity to explore what you are doing or can do to make a home of faith for your family.

Ask the group the following questions one at a time—

- How was faith present and nurtured in your growing up years?
- How does your home currently reflect your faith in God?
- What do you believe are the five most important things your child needs from you in order to grow in faith?
- What are the distractions that currently get in your way of tending to faith in your home?
- What ideas about God have contributed to your belief systems?
- Who was formative in your faith development?

Write the responses
on the flipchart



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Engaging the Word

Ritual

Allow 25 minutes
for the Ritual.

Introduce the families to the ritual activity for the meeting by saying:

When you recognize God's presence through everyday miracles, you have begun the process of creating a home of faith. Knowing, seeing and feeling God will give you the insight to guide your child in knowing, seeing and feeling God. Amidst the everyday tasks of raising children, creating a home for faith often becomes unintentionally secondary. Just as you made promises together in marriage, what promise to create a home for faith can you make to your children?

Pass out a copy of the Promise of Faith and a pen to each family. Ask them to find a quiet place to write a Promise of Faith to their child.

Allow 25 minutes
for this activity.

Explain that the blank lines in the document are for them to insert the name of their child.

When everyone has finished, ask each family to read the promise to their child.

Sending

Oh God, continue to guide us in our knowing of you as we wrap our children in the comfort of your grace. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



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A Promise of Faith

Before God Who has given us the gift of _____, we promise to bring _____ up in your love. In your presence, we are humbled by the recognition that now, as parents, we face a new future, one in which love is continuing to unfold.

We acknowledge that we have a role in becoming the first priest in the life of our child and will create a home for faith by . . .