



# GREAT CONVERSATIONS



## Cheat Sheet

### 1. Make Space for God

**Dinnertime** Make table a sacred space. Put electronics away, begin with grace, have conversations about what's going on in your children's lives.

**Bedtime** Another sacred space. Create a buffer by putting away electronics an hour before bedtime, embrace quiet, read to your children, and pray with them.

**Sunday** Make Sunday Mass part of your lives. Mass shows children that God has a plan for them.

### 2. Teach Repentance

- We all make mistakes, but we are all called to grow!
- Instruction is sometimes necessary, but stories are far more relatable. Don't be afraid to share your own stories of growth.
- Communicate in a calm and loving way. Offer encouragement rather than shame or fear.
- Give children opportunities to go to confession - and go as a family!

### 3. Teach Children they were made by God, for God

<b>Our bodies are sacred</b>	We were created beautifully!
<b>Our soul is the breath of life</b>	It is the part of our being that connects us to God.
<b>Our hearts were meant for God</b>	"O God, you made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." (St. Augustine)
<b>God has a call for us</b>	It's our job to listen to His call!

### 4. Form Community

- Family** Teach children that they share in the history of their family - their family identity becomes their identity.
- Neighbor** Teach children about the responsibility to help form a better world through service and example.
- Church** Teach children that the Church is their home by participating actively in our parish communities and getting to know other parish families.

# CONVERSATION STARTERS

## Discussion Guide



Talk with your child about something about them that is a gift from God: they are tall, they have a strong voice, their smile reminds you of someone you love. Ask them about the gifts they think God gave them.



Tell stories about some of the blessings that God has granted people in your family. Was there someone who was good at mathematics, writing, music, athletics, an advocate for the disadvantaged? Describe how you see signs of those gifts in your child.



Tell your child about a time when you really wanted something and thought 'If I can just have this, I won't need anything else.' Then you got it and you still felt like you need something more. Ask your child if they ever had an experience like that.



Tell your child a story about a time when you had to learn to make a better decision.



Ask your child 'What is something about you that is your gift to God?' Share with them some ways in which you think God would be pleased with them: showing kindness to others, using their gifts for the good of others, etc.



Talk with your child about the things you really enjoy about your parents and your extended family. Tell them stories that reveal these good things about them.



Talk about a time you gave up something you really wanted for God.



Tell your children a story about how you did the right thing at a time when it seemed like everyone else was doing the wrong thing. Tell them how it worked out for the good.



If you are married talk about how you met your spouse. What about them made you think they would be a good person to marry? Ask your child what kind of person they would want to marry.