

Family Nights



A Family Enrichment Resource
of the Archdiocese of Baltimore
Department of Evangelization

Reconciliation

Opening Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Think about This

From the Bible, read Mark 14:10-11 and John 19: 23-25. How often do we put things before people or betray one another like Judas did Christ for a few coins? How often have we been unaware or indifferent to another's sufferings, like the soldiers who rolled dice for Jesus cloak? How often have we been hurt by someone else's thoughtlessness? How often have we hurt others with our words or actions?

Activity Ideas

Young and Middle Years Families

Penance Sharing – Materials: Bible, candle, matches, large heat-proof glass bowl, small pieces of paper (idea: magician's flash paper burns brightly and quickly in the flame of the candle), pencils. Light the candle and gather around it with all the other room lights off. Read aloud, Matthew 5: 23-24. Pause and have each person reflect on the particular ways he or she may have offended or hurt another family member. Have each person write the offense on a slip of paper. Then reflect on some ways you have been hurt by someone else. Write these down also. Each family member, taking a turn, folds his or her paper and burns it in the bowl. Encourage family members to seek forgiveness, later in the evening, of whomever they have hurt. Add some dice and a purse with coins to other symbols of Lent in your family dining area.

Adult Families

Read aloud Luke 6:27-38, then Matthew 27: 35-39, and lastly Matthew 5:23-24. Discuss each passage. Share what it is like to try to be reconciled with someone who refuses you. Describe how the

experience feels. What do you do when this happens? Make an overture of reconciliation with a person in your family, or extended family, with whom you are distant.

Snack Time

Crackers, cheese, and grape juice.

Entertainment

Play Yahtzee, a simple dice game for all ages.

Sharing

- The thing I like best about this family is.... Why?
- Share a time someone felt left out or excluded at school or in the family
- Recall a time your family extended hospitality to others.

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for this Family Night. Teach us to be more aware of one another's needs and help us to become better listeners. Thank you, Lord, for our family. Amen.

Contact Lauri Przybysz, Coordinator for Marriage and Family Life, Division of Catechetical and Pastoral Formation, Archdiocese of Baltimore, lprzybysz@archbalt.org, 410-547-5420.