



Faith in Five- Children
Ordinary Time Week 16

1. Read Matthew 13:24-43 as a family. **Do you remember what parables are?** They are stories that teach us about God and the kingdom of Heaven. **What is the good seed in this parable?** The good seed is the Word of God, Jesus' teachings. **Who is the enemy?** The enemy is the devil, who doesn't want us to have eternal life in Heaven. **Did you know that sin grows?** Just like the weeds that grow in this story, little acts of selfishness or little acts of dishonesty grow into bigger sins. Weeds can also crowd out the crop of wheat. In our hearts, we want the wheat, our virtue and love of God and neighbor to grow free and tall and reign over sin. At the end of our lives, we want to be welcomed into Heaven, just the same way that wheat would be gathered into the barn.
2. **Who is St. Anne?** St. Anne is the mother of our Blessed Mother! **How do we know anything about Mary's parents?** Traditions about these great saints come from ancient writings, writings that are not part of scripture but still studied by the faithful and very useful for historical purposes. Anne was born in Bethlehem and shared a devout life of faith with her husband Joachim. Their life was filled with sadness because they were not blessed with any children. Anne promised God that if she was blessed with a child she would dedicate to the Lord's service. After many, many years of marriage, the couple both received visions from an angel that they would have a baby! **Did Anne really give up Mary to the Lord?** Yes, when Mary was 3 years old Anne brought her to the Temple in Jerusalem. St. Anne is the patron saint of grandmothers, women in labor, and finding a husband. **How can we celebrate St. Anne?** The best way to honor St. Anne is to go to Holy Mass. It is also a great day to visit or call your grandparents!
3. **How can we strengthen our faith during the Summer months?** Use the extra time off school to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Even just ten minutes in Eucharistic Adoration is a powerful act of worship! Attend or help out at your parish's Vacation Bible School! Take a family pilgrimage- maybe go to the closest shrine or basilica. Also, don't forget to go to Holy Mass when you are on vacation!! It is really neat to attend Catholic churches in different places.
4. **Apologetics- Do Catholics believe that our church is the one true church?** In John 10:16 Jesus began just one church when he said "There will be one flock, one shepherd." Thanks to historical records and the writings of the apostles and their followers we know that the Catholic Church IS the one Church Jesus founded. It was the Catholic faith that collected and preserved the writings of the New Testament. **Does this**

mean that we don't believe that other Christian denominations are true? No, we recognize that the protestant faiths declare faith in Jesus Christ, but we also know that the Catholic Church has the FULLNESS of truth. We pray for the unity of all Christian denominations!

5. **What is actual grace?** "Actual grace is a supernatural help of God which enlightens our mind and strengthens our will to do good and to avoid evil" (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 9) **How do we obtain grace?** The best ways to obtain grace are by praying and frequenting the sacraments, especially Holy Eucharist. It is such a comfort and a help to know that just in asking Our Lord for grace, he sends us special help when we need it! Thank you Jesus!

REVIEW QUESTION: What is sanctifying grace? Sanctifying grace (God's life in us!) makes us holy and pleasing to God, adopts us as God's children, makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and gives us the right to Heaven! We receive sanctifying grace in our soul at our Baptism! (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 9) Sanctifying means purified and set apart as holy.

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