

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What is the most difficult part of this program?

A: The biggest challenge to families is simply finding the time to do Family Formation each week. One of the most positive elements of this program however, is each family can choose a time that works for them. Some families may choose to team up with other families to help commit to a time to go through the weekly lesson.

Q: How do you include younger and older children in the Home Lessons?

A: Each Home Lesson offers parents a great deal of flexibility and a variety of activities. This allows parents, who are the best judges of their children's skills and attention spans, to tailor lessons to their own family's needs.

We encourage parents to challenge, but not overwhelm their children. With younger children, it is best to approach topics at the most basic level knowing that they will be covered again the next time through the three-year cycle.

Q: Can you use Family Formation with high school students?

A: *Family Formation* is designed primarily for use with kindergarten through sixth grade students, but many families get all their children (including preschoolers and high schoolers) involved in doing the Home Lessons. The games, stories, and activities that reinforce each lesson are fun for the entire family, and there are many benefits to having your whole family learn the Faith together.

Q: What do you offer for sacramental preparation?

A: There is a separate *Family Formation* program for those preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Students in the program (typically second graders), meet at the same classroom time as regular *Family Formation* students. Instead of learning about the topic of the month, they are on a separate track, concentrating on their preparation for one of these sacraments.

Each sacramental prep student receives a booklet containing Home Lessons to do with his or her parents the other three weeks each month. Students prepare for their First Reconciliation

during the fall semester and, after receiving that sacrament, prepare for First Holy Communion in the spring.

Q: How can parents who aren't adequately catechized teach their children the Faith at home?

A: Parents do not have to be experts in the Faith to use *Family Formation*. Each lesson is written at an elementary school level, and is easily understood by everyone. By simply spending a small amount of time in preparation each week, parents can become familiar with the topic in the upcoming lesson. Additional references from Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* are given for those interested in further study of the topic. One of the richest blessings of *Family Formation* comes as families learn about the beauty and truth of the Catholic Faith together. Many parents have testified to the fact that, through *Family Formation*, they have come to learn and understand the Catholic Faith for the first time.

Q: What about children who go to Catholic schools?

A: Faith formation at home is critical, regardless of a child's school environment. By using *Family Formation*, a family can grow together in their faith, and the shared faith experiences offered make for many teachable moments throughout life. Children receive significant lessons in the importance of continuous education in the Faith as they see their parents giving priority to their own progress. At every age, growth in our faith is important!

Q: I am a single parent / my spouse is not Catholic. Will this work for me?

A: Absolutely! All parents are given the graces necessary to lead their children to our Heavenly Father. The additional effectiveness of family-based catechesis is a wonderful blessing to families in these more difficult situations. The clear, simple explanations of the Faith as presented in *Family Formation* lessons are a great way for a non-Catholic parent to learn about Catholicism and to have their questions answered. Simply use *Family Formation* in the same way as other families.