

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

In a world full of power plays and intrigue, Jesus calls his disciples to be servant leaders — to set aside concerns about being first and focus on loving the people God has placed in their care.



Photo: Adobe Stock

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

Parents are all too familiar with the drama that plays out in this Sunday's Gospel when James and John ask for a place of honor above the other disciples. It looks like sibling rivalry.

Especially when they are young, brothers and sisters tend to jockey for position over resources, affection and just about anything else. The same thing can play out among groups of friends. Though these conflicts can seem inconsequential to adults, they matter deeply to children.

We can learn from Jesus' approach. Jesus calls the disciples to step out of the worldly practices of power plays and intrigue. Followers of Jesus are called to be servant leaders who seek first to care for the ones they love.

Isaiah 53:10-11

Through his suffering, he will justify many.

Psalm 33

Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we place our trust in you.

Hebrews 4:14-16

We have an advocate who can sympathize with us.

Mark 10:35-45

Whoever wishes to be first among you will be slave of all.

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Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Teach your child how to be a servant leader when they experience conflict:

- **Listen for your child's vulnerability:** Beneath the surface of any conflict your child experiences will lurk some kind of vulnerability or fear. When your child tells you about a conflict, listen attentively. This means a lot to them. Be attentive to where your child feels vulnerable.
- **Reflect back what your child shared with you:** Ensure that your child knows that you understand their concern. It matters a lot that you are there with them in their vulnerability.
- **Share a story about a similar experience of vulnerability:** Tell your child a story about how you, or someone you respect, experienced a similar vulnerability and endured suffering in the form of fear or humiliation. I shared with my older daughter how having a little sister made me worry about losing my place in the family when my little sister showed up. I also remember learning that great teachers in the Church like St. Therese of Lisieux and St. John of the Cross endured serious criticism in their day.
- **Let your child know that God makes leaders from the vulnerable:** Let your child know that servant leadership means experiencing vulnerability. However, if we stay connected to Jesus and do the right and loving thing, even when it's hard, growth comes from that faithfulness. I am now grateful for having my sister in my life. St. Therese and St. John of the Cross grew enormously from their challenges. Servant leadership is hard, but worth the sacrifice.



“Relationships between brothers and sisters deepen with the passing of time, and ‘the bond of fraternity that forms in the family between children, if consolidated by an educational atmosphere of openness to others, is a great school of freedom and peace. In the family, we learn how to live as one. Perhaps we do not always think about this, but the family itself introduces fraternity into the world. From this initial experience of fraternity, nourished by affection and education at home, the style of fraternity radiates like a promise upon the whole of society.’”

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) #194

It's natural for siblings and friends to struggle with one another. They bring both joy and disruption into one another's lives. Conflicts among friends and siblings can be very frustrating and sometimes hurtful. They also provide opportunities for growth.

Encourage your child during these times of conflict. Let them know that, as difficult as this time might be, God is with them. And if your child acts as a servant leader in these moments, setting aside rivalry and fear, loving relationships will flow from their sacrifices.

Relationships between brothers and sisters **deepen with the passing of time.**

For more on the Year of the Family, visit <https://archseattle.org/yof>

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>