

My Sacred Self

A Call from God

God calls husbands and wives to be open to having children and to raise them responsibly. Tell your child how he or she is a blessing in your life. Give examples of positive aspects of his or her behavior and personality. You might say: ***You are a precious gift from God. I take the responsibility to care for you very seriously.***



The Stages of Pregnancy

Set aside some quiet time to gently broach this topic with your child, perhaps introducing it by asking a question such as, “Do you know how new life begins?” Don’t feel pressured to have all the answers at once; instead, open a dialogue with your child and continue building on that relationship of trust.

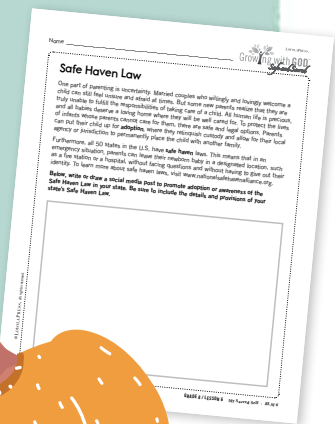


The Domestic Church

The family can be thought of as the domestic church. It is where we first learn about God and how to live as his children. Talk with your child about ways your family lives out this call, such as by loving and caring for one another, helping those in need, and practicing the faith. Remind your child that God is always present and gives us strength during difficult times. Pray together and thank God for the blessing of your family.

The Responsibilities of Parenthood

Being a parent includes caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children. Discuss with your child different ways parents care for their children. Guide him or her to recognize that parenting is both a blessing and a difficult job that requires serious commitment. Review with your child the Safe Haven Law handout.



Name _____

Safe Haven Law

One part of parenting is uncertainty. Married couples who willingly and lovingly welcome a child can still feel unsure and afraid at times. But some new parents realize that they are truly unable to fulfill the responsibilities of taking care of a child. All human life is precious, and all babies deserve a loving home where they will be well cared for. To protect the lives of infants whose parents cannot care for them, there are safe and legal options. Parents can put their child up for **adoption**, where they relinquish custody and allow for their local agency or jurisdiction to permanently place the child with another family.

Furthermore, all 50 states in the U.S. have **safe haven** laws. This means that in an emergency situation, parents can leave their newborn baby in a designated location, such as a fire station or a hospital, without facing questions and without having to give out their identity. To learn more about safe haven laws, visit www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org.

Below, write or draw a social media post to promote adoption or awareness of the Safe Haven Law in your state. Be sure to include the details and provisions of your state's Safe Haven Law.

