

# Discipleship Take Home Packet

For September 12-25, 2018

## Virtue of the Month: Faith

### ***Believing in God and His promises***

Faith is one of the theological virtues that God gives us at Baptism. Through faith, we are able to believe everything that God says in the Bible and through the Church. Through the virtue of faith, we learn to trust God. We can increase our faith by asking God to help us believe. We can also increase our faith by studying the bible and learning the teachings of the Catholic Church.

People who have strong faith often ask God for direction and then listen for God to answer. Sometimes God helps them find a bible passage or a church teaching that explains what they should do. Sometimes God speaks to them during prayer. People who have a strong faith trust that God wants what is best for them. Once they know what God wants them to do, they go out and do it. This is faith in action. When someone puts their faith into action, God surprises them with awesome results. Putting faith into action actually makes faith stronger. Just as muscles get stronger after exercise, faith gets stronger each time it is put into action.

### **Discussion:**

Where does faith come from? How can you strengthen your faith today?

### **Prayer**

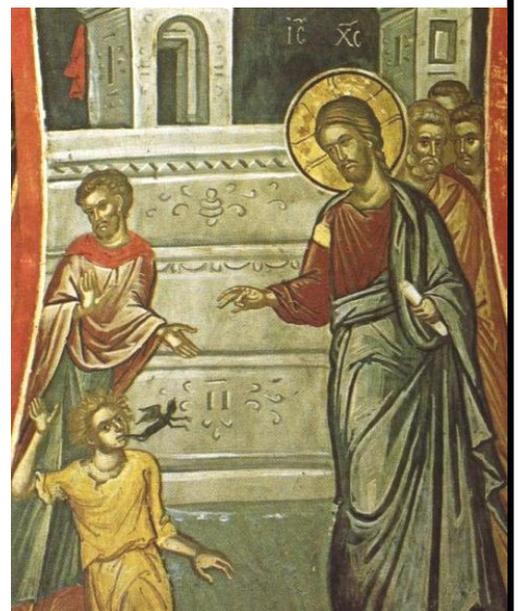
Come, Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts to receive God's word. We ask this in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Read aloud: **Matthew 17:14-20.**

Why couldn't the apostles heal the boy and drive out the demon?

What did they need in order help the boy?

How is having faith connected to the ability to see God's power in action?



**Faith: believing in God & His promises / Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Saintly Example

### *Saint Dominic Savio*

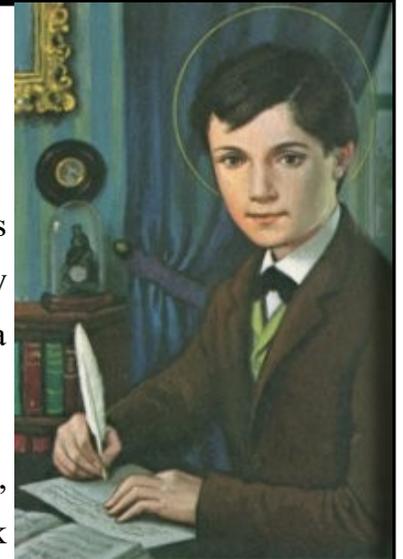
(1842-1857, Italy)

Dominic grew up in a loving family. Though his family was poor, his parents wanted him to go to a good school. They could tell he was very smart. When Dominic was 12 years old his father took him to visit a famous school for boys. It was run by a priest named Father Don Bosco.

Many of the boys at the school didn't have loving families like Dominic, so Father Bosco took care of them. When Dominic saw all the good work that Father Don Bosco was doing, he wanted to help. Dominic impressed Father Bosco with his intelligence and his faith. Father Bosco accepted Dominic into the school.

Dominic was younger than many of the boys at the school, but he wasn't afraid to speak up when his classmates did things that God wouldn't like. One day, Dominic saw that two boys were going to fight each other. They were even picking up big rocks to throw at each other. Dominic stood in between them and told them that if they were going to throw stones, they'd have to throw the first one at him. After that the two boys agreed not to fight. When the boys saw how kind and brave Dominic was, he made a lot of friends.

Dominic was known for saying, "I can't do big things. But I want all that I do, even the smallest thing, to be for the greater glory of God." Dominic even wanted to be a priest when he grew up, but he got sick. Though he was sent home to get better, Dominic got worse and died when he was only 14. Some people thought that he was too young to be a saint. Others believed that his faith was an inspiration to everyone. They asked the pope to help Dominic get declared a saint. The pope agreed and in 1954 Dominic Savio was officially declared a saint of the Catholic Church.



**“Ask Jesus to make you a saint.  
After all, only He can do that.”**

**- St. Dominic Savio**

Faith: believing in God & His promises / Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Saint Activity: Having Faith Like St. Dominic

You will need:

- A bottle of water, a bottle of sprite, and two clear glasses

Ask a member of your family to open the bottle of water and pour it into a clear glass. Then ask someone to open the bottle of sprite.

Ask, what sound does the sprite make when it's opened? The sprite makes a fizzy sound. It's more alive than the water. Pour the sprite into the second glass.

Ask the children to tell you what makes it different than the water. They might say that it's more alive, more bubbly, louder, and tastes better than the water.

Explain that before we say yes to Jesus and commit to following him, we are more like the water. We are kind of bland and boring. We can't do God's work in the world either. We don't have the spiritual ability to do his works. But when we commit to following Jesus and when God gives us the gift of faith, we become like the sprite. We are bubbly, sparkly and spiritually alive.

Ask, if we let the two glasses sit there for a while, they start to look the same, right? Explain that Christians can often look just like everyone else. They can blend in. But then when an opportunity comes to show that we belong to Jesus, we sparkle. Our souls are alive in Christ.

Many people thought that St. Dominic was just an ordinary kid and not that special. But the people who knew him knew that he was alive in Christ. He sparkled. Ask, what made St. Dominic sparkly and alive? What did he do to show that he loved Jesus?

Ask, what happens if we leave the cap off of a bottle of sprite all night? Explain that just like soda can get flat and go bad, we too can lose our Christian sparkle if we don't stay under God's protection. We need to stay connected to God to stay sparkly. God wants to help us. The best way to ask God for this protection is to pray.

**Pray:** Father, I ask you to protect our Christian sparkle. Help us to be like St. Dominic and resist temptation when other people are doing things that you wouldn't like. (Twist the cap on a little) Father, help us to remember to speak with you everyday so that you can keep our faith strong. (Twist the cap on a little) Help us to trust you more each day. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Twist the cap closed).

St. Dominic, pray for us!

*Object Lesson From: [www.christianitycove.com/object-lesson-for-kids](http://www.christianitycove.com/object-lesson-for-kids)*

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**Faith Activity**

Color picture below. Bring it to church in September and we will display it as a sign that you are asking Jesus to strengthen your faith.

**"For we WALK**

**by**



**and**

**not by sight."**

**-2 Corinthians 5:7**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_