

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY -- *Episode 2: Having Children*



Team Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Game Strategy** – We know children are a blessing, a beautiful gift from God, but they may take your marriage on a wild ride!

Be ready to take the field for this workout by completing the **Pregame Film Study**. Your contributions to the Huddle Discussion in our workout are vital to our team success. Remember we win and lose as a team!

### **Pregame Film Study**

1. View or listen to the episode referenced above.
2. Go deep with the Scripture References, Coaching Tips and Catechism Connection on page 2.
3. Reflect upon the **Huddle Up** questions below and jot down your thoughts.

**Huddle Up** – Use these questions for personal reflection to share with your team at the workout.

### **Warm-up Questions:**

1. What particular point(s) caught your attention the most in this episode?
2. What is something useful that you learned from viewing this episode that you can apply in your own life?

### **Workout Questions:**

1. Do you think that having children is the greatest gift in a marriage? Why?
2. What are some of the challenges to having children? What are some of the blessings?
3. How does(did) your lives change when you started having kids? Foster children? Adopted children?
4. What is your role, as a couple, in raising kids? What is the father's role in raising kids? What is the mother's role?
5. How important of a role do you think that faith plays in raising a family? Explain.
6. How do you practice your Catholic faith as a family? And how do you personally practice your faith?
7. What are some of the difficulties in raising children in a single parent home? How do you cope with them?

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**Team Workout Plan** - Watch the Kickoff, Game Plan and Red Zone video segments as a team. Break into huddles for discussion of the questions.

**Postgame Recap** - Watch the End Zone video segment as a team. Take note of the tips from the CTG team:

1. Bless your children each night.
2. Be open to life. God will give you the grace to be the parents you need to be.
3. Tell your children you love them every day.

Complete your **Personal Action Item**. 

### **Scripture References**

Hebrews 12:1-4

Luke 9:46-48

Romans 12:9-21

Genesis 1:26-28

Ephesians 5:21-33

Ephesians 6:1-4

### **Coaching Tips**

You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them. ~ *Saint Therese of Lisieux*

We are on mission together. ~ *Michaelann Martin*

### **Catechism Connection**

**1652** “By its very nature the institution of marriage and married love is ordered to the procreation and education of the offspring and it is in them that it finds its crowning glory.” Children are the supreme gift of marriage and contribute greatly to the good of the parents themselves. God himself said: “It is not good that man should be alone,” and “from the beginning [he] made them male and female”; wishing to associate them in a special way in his own creative work, God blessed man and woman with the words: “Be fruitful and multiply.” Hence, true married love and the whole structure of family life which results from it, without diminishment of the other ends of marriage, are directed to disposing the spouses to cooperate valiantly with the love of the Creator and Savior, who through them will increase and enrich his family from day to day.

**1653** The fruitfulness of conjugal love extends to the fruits of the moral, spiritual, and supernatural life that parents hand on to their children by education. Parents are the principal and first educators of their children. In this sense the fundamental task of marriage and family is to be at the service of life.

**1654** Spouses to whom God has not granted children can nevertheless have a conjugal life full of meaning, in both human and Christian terms. Their marriage can radiate a fruitfulness of charity, of hospitality, and of sacrifice.

**1656** In our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. For this reason the Second Vatican Council, using an ancient expression, calls the family the *Ecclesia domestica*. It is in the bosom of the family that parents are “by word and example... the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. They should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each child, fostering with special care any religious vocation.”

See Also: **1655, 1657, 1658**

### **Personal Action Item**

Develop a plan of action based upon our prayer and discussion related to the topic. How does the Lord want this topic applied in your life? Keep it simple – one or two action items.

*I commit to becoming spiritually fit by...*