



The Joy of Love

Study Guide

Chapter Three - "Looking to Jesus: The Vocation of the Family"

1. **"Jesus Restores and Fulfills God's Plan"** Reflect upon the incarnation of the Word in a human family and how that changed the history of the world. How does the mystery of Jesus' birth come to fulfill God's plan for humanity? How does the "yes" from Mary and Joseph play a significant role? Where in your own life do you see the opportunity to say "yes" to God's plan?
2. **"The Family in The Documents of the Church"** In this section, Pope Francis offers several Church documents highlighting the importance of marriage and family. Read through the descriptions he offers. Which one speaks to you the most? Visit <http://www.vatican.va/archive/index.htm> to find the full documents and consider reading through some of these at a later time.
3. **"The Sacrament of Matrimony"** Pope Francis says, "The sacrament is a gift given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses." Where do you see evidence of this in your life or the lives of those around you? How is the sacrament of marriage like the relationship of Christ and the Church?
4. **"Seeds of the Word and Imperfect Situations"** In what ways does the Church nourish the seeds waiting to grow? What challenges are faced by those in imperfect situations? How might the Church respond?
5. **"The Transmission of Life and The Rearing of Children"** What are some of the challenges faced by parents raising a family in today's society?
6. **"The Family and The Church"** How can the family act as a "domestic church?"
7. This week, spend some time praying for families. Pray that they may see their vocation as unique and irreplaceable, both for the Church and society.