

Family Life FAQ's for Parents

Q What is RCL Benziger Family Life?

A *Family Life* is a K-8 program of moral catechesis that include chastity education that provides children with a wholesome understanding of human sexuality based upon Catholic Church moral principles. Through the use of this program, children and their parents are encouraged to develop better communication skills and develop healthy family relationships.

Q What resources are provided for the parents?

A The Church teaches that parents are the primary educators of their children. *Family Life* provides support to parents to help them in that important role. This assistance is provided in the “Family Time” take-home pages, the “Parent Connection” magazine, and parent resources provided on rclbfamilylife.com. Resources on the webpage will be continually upgraded, so check back frequently.

Q Can *Family Life* be used in place of a basal curriculum?

A No. *Family Life* is not a basal curriculum. It is a program that is used to supplement a basal curriculum. However, it can be used effectively in many different ways. *Family Life* can be used as a stand-alone lesson that replaces a regular religion lesson or it can be added on to an appropriate

religious education lesson. How it will be used in your parish or school will be determined locally.

Q Why does *Family Life* include topics related to chastity education?

A The Church teaches, “Chastity is not a matter of repression of sexual feelings and temptations but is the successful integration of the gift of sexuality within the whole person.” (Chaste Living Guidelines, #23) One of the main focuses of the RCL Benziger *Family Life* program is to teach this integration of the gift of sexuality within the whole person. Typically, sex education programs focus primarily on body parts and sexual reproduction. *Family Life* teaches that human sexuality is a gift from God, helping us to build healthy and holy relationships. This program prepares children for wholesome and healthy Catholic family living.

Q Is human reproduction taught in *Family Life*?

A The topic of human sexuality, and respect for human life is addressed across all grade levels in age appropriate ways. Specific information on human procreation is found only in the Human Reproduction A and Reproduction B booklets that come packaged with the grade 5 and grade 6 student books, which are designed to be taught at home by the parents or, with

their approval, in the parish or school. Special lesson plans are included in those booklets to help parents or teacher/catechists to teach these sessions.

Q *May I teach this course to my child at home?*

A You may choose to teach this program to your child at home. Please discuss this matter with your school's principal or parish's catechetical leader/DRE.

Q *What options do parents have if they do not want their child to participate in the overall Family Life program?*

A Each local diocese or parish/school determines how this decision process is handled. Parents usually have the opportunity to "opt in" or to "opt out" of the program. This means that they can let the school or parish know that they do not want their child to participate in the program. Forms are provided for the program director to use in this regard.

Q *What will happen to my child if he or she doesn't participate in the Family Life program?*

A Each parish or school will decide how it will respond to children who do not participate in the *Family Life* program. There should be alternative activities available for these students.

Q Does the program include such topics as abortion, AIDS, contraception, homosexuality, in-vitro fertilization, masturbation, premarital sex, or sexually transmitted diseases?

A Such topics are addressed in age-appropriate ways at various places in the program. They are not covered in any detail and are presented in fidelity with Catholic teaching. Topics concerning human reproduction are found in the human reproduction booklets to be taught at home by parents. See the **Key Issues Chart** for all major topics taught in the program.

Q Does *Family Life* address issues concerning Internet safety and social communication sites?

A *Family Life* contains a child safety activity in each lesson. Children are taught to recognize inappropriate situations, understand how to respond to these situations, and to report to a trusted adult what took place. This education begins in kindergarten and continues throughout the program. Specific issues of Internet safety are addressed beginning in Grade 5. See the **Child Safety Summary Chart** for information on specific topics.

