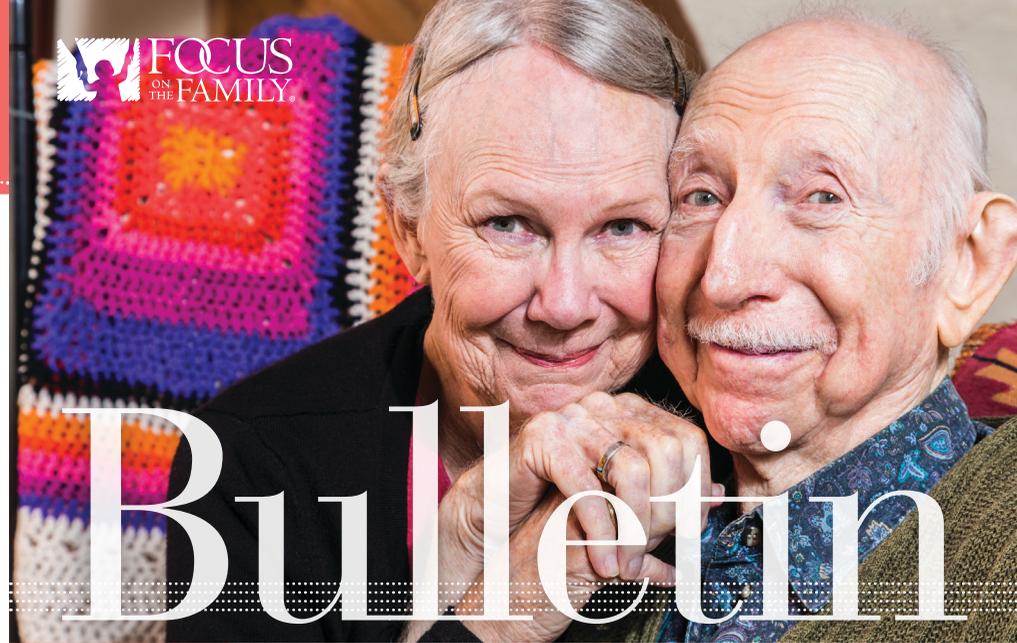


FAMILY MATTERS

Answers to your questions...



A PUBLICATION OF FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®

APRIL 2022

JESUS IS RISEN!

EPIC LOVE IN MARRIAGE

BY JIM DALY

THE 1997 MOVIE *TITANIC* WAS A BLOCKBUSTER. AUDIENCES were smitten with the main characters, Jack and Rose . . . and with their love story. It was a romance of such epic scope it could only exist in the movies, right? Well, not so fast!

Aboard the real *Titanic* on April 15, 1912, were Isidor and Ida Straus, who'd been married for over 40 years. As the tragedy of that night unfolded, they were determined to spend their final moments together. No matter the cost.

Protocol was “women and children first,” which meant that Ida would be allowed to board a lifeboat, but her husband would have to stay behind. When the moment came to decide, she refused, saying, “As we have lived, so we will die . . . together.”

Numerous accounts of that night say Isidor and Ida locked arms and held each other until the *Titanic* broke apart and disappeared into the frigid Atlantic Ocean.

What an amazing love story! Not because they died together, but because they had lived for each other.

The marriage you're dreaming about won't magically appear in a moment of crisis. It will emerge slowly as you live out your love for your spouse each day. “Till death do us part” isn't the final sentence of some fairy tale. It's the sacred commitment at the heart of every epic love story.

Want to know more? Visit www.focusonthefamily.com.

How can I help my kids understand why Jesus died?

ANSWER:

First, make sure your child understands the worldly reasons why Jesus was arrested, beaten and crucified. Jesus claimed he was God, and that scared people. As a result, some powerful Jewish leaders plotted to kill him. Eventually, Jesus was arrested and brought to the Roman leader, Pilate. Pilate had Jesus crucified, even though Jesus was innocent of any crime.

Now you can get to the spiritual reason of why Jesus died for us.

The Bible tells us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Every person has done things that

are wrong. We've hurt ourselves, others and God with our sin. Because we sin, we are separated from God, who is perfect. God didn't want us to be apart from Him, but our bad choices and sinful nature caused that to happen.

God had a master plan to bring us back to Him. Since the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), a sacrifice had to be made to make things right. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life so He could be the sacrifice that brings us back to God.

Isaiah 53:5 says that by Jesus' wounds we are healed. His sacrifice allows us to be saved because He paid the price that our sin deserved.

But Jesus' death isn't the end of the story. He rose from the dead

because he is God, and God is more powerful than death! This is the culmination of the Easter story—Christ's resurrection.

Although all have sinned, all can be redeemed and brought back to God because of Jesus' death and resurrection! In John 16:33, Jesus tells us to take heart because he has overcome the world and all the bad that comes with it, and He wants us to share in that victory with Him. All we have to do is say yes and give our life to Him!

Talk about John 3:16 with your child: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

—Bret Eckelberry



Tough Questions from Kids

If Jesus died on the cross, how can He be alive today?

TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM KIDS

ANSWER:

Jesus lived as a real human being. His death was real, too (he really died on the cross)—the people who killed Him made sure of that. Jesus' body was put into a grave, and all of His followers were very sad. Three days later, God brought Jesus back to life. Jesus showed His wounds to His disciples. Today He lives in His special “glorified” body in heaven.

For more information on any of the topics in this bulletin, go to FocusOnTheFamily.com or call 800-A-FAMILY (232-6459). To reach Customer Service regarding your subscription, please call 1-800-692-9912. To check out more ministry resources, please visit us at www.tyndaleperiodicals.com.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY BULLETIN (ISSN 0897-537X), vol. 35, no. 4, April 2022. Mark Taylor, publisher; Jim Ruskak, editor; Shirley Ree, designer. Published monthly by Tyndale House Publishers, 351 Executive Drive, Carol Stream, IL 60188 in cooperation with Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO. © 2022 Focus on the Family. Used by permission. All rights reserved. *Focus on the Family* and the accompanying logo and design are federally registered trademarks of Focus on the Family, 8605 Explorer Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Cover image of elderly couple © Scott Griessel | Dreamstime.com. Image of two hands of newlyweds © Michael Elliott | Dreamstime.com. Image of father and kids © Fizkes | Dreamstime.com. Image of couple washing dishes © Igor Mojzes | Dreamstime.com. Image of cross on a field © Jacob 09 BK | Dreamstime.com. Subscription \$16.00 per month per 100 copies. Canada: \$18.00 per month per 100 copies, payable in Canadian funds. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Focus on the Family, Subscription Services, P. O. Box 405, Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY



LOVE IS A SACRIFICE

As we revisit the Easter story, we're reminded of Christ's sacrificial death and His great love for us. He willingly gave His life so we could find forgiveness and hope. Jesus knew that love is a sacrifice. And if Jesus counted it a privilege to sacrifice for us, then we—as we follow His example—should count it a great privilege to serve our spouse.

I once asked my wife which household chore she hates the most. “Loading and unloading the dishwasher,” she replied without hesitation. That didn't surprise me. I loathe doing the dishes as well.

Loading and unloading the dishwasher may not seem like a big sacrifice, but think again about the definition of sacrifice: giving up something that we highly value for the sake of someone we consider having great value. I value my time at home in the evening, but I value my wife even more. Love is a sacrifice . . . for something—someone—I greatly value. It's yet another way to be like Christ—“In humility count others more significant than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3).

I want to serve my wife sacrificially—not because I'm afraid she'll wander into the arms of another man if I don't spoil her, but because I consider her to be of immeasurable value. King Solomon was right on the money when he said, “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD” (Proverbs 18:22).

So because I highly value my wife, I told her that doing the dishes is now my job. I'm far from being a perfect husband, and I still hate doing dishes . . . but I love sacrificing for my wife! And while my sacrifice for her pales in comparison to Christ's great sacrifice, it's one small way I can follow His example.

Since love is a sacrifice—a way to show our spouse how much we value him or her—a good marriage is made up of two servants looking for ways to out-serve each other, not out of fear, but out of a deep awareness of the other's incredible value. Romans 12:10 says it perfectly: “Outdo one another in showing honor.”

—Greg Smalley



HELP YOUNG CHILDREN UNDERSTAND EASTER

Retell and celebrate the Resurrection story with your younger children by creating a preschool version of “Resurrection eggs.” Gather six plastic eggs, each a different color. Place the following items inside, one item per egg: breadcrumb, paper cross, strip of cloth, rock and piece of candy. One egg will remain empty. As you tell the Resurrection story, let your child open the eggs. Explain each item in the following order:

1. Bread crumb: Jesus ate dinner with His friends. (Luke 22:14-15)
2. Cross: The next day, Jesus died on the cross. (John 19:17-18)
3. Strip of cloth: He was wrapped in cloth and placed in a tomb. (John 19:40)
4. Rock: A stone was placed in front of the tomb. (Matthew 27:59-60)
5. Empty egg: Jesus' friends came to the tomb and saw the stone had been moved. The tomb was empty! (Luke 24:1-3)
6. Candy: Jesus is alive. That's the sweet surprise of Easter. (Matthew 28:5-6)

Once you've finished sharing the Resurrection story with your children, encourage them to use the eggs to tell the story in their own words.

—Becky Baudouin



ETERNAL HOPE FOR TEENS

Could the power of the Resurrection and the hope of eternity make a difference for a teen who is torn between choosing God's will and doing his own thing?

As parents, we get to be the voice reminding teens that pleasing Christ is better than pleasing self. Living with an eternal perspective can help them see that the joy of living forever in God's presence far outweighs momentary satisfaction.

The same power that raised Christ from the dead can help our teens make wise choices today (Romans 8:11-14). Ask your teen about choices her friends have made that were not pleasing to God. What were the consequences? Ask your teen if his friends have made decisions they regret. Share honestly about your own teenage choices to either choose God's best or have things your way.

Now remind your teens that God has provided all they need to live lives pleasing to Him—both now and forever (2 Peter 1:3). Encourage your teens to trust God for the strength to do His will, and pray that the hope of eternity will empower them to choose wisely (Colossians 1:10-12).

—T. F. Edwards