



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

When things aren't going as they should, it's time to ask for help from God.
Then comes the hard part: listening. If we ask, listen, and wait, God will speak.
Then we must be ready to respond.



Photo: Adobe Stock

Read

Take time to read and reflect
on the Scriptures for
this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings
or download an app such as *Laudate*
or *iBreviary* to access the
Mass readings.

We can learn a lot about prayer from watching Mary at the wedding at Cana. When the wine runs out at the wedding, a social disaster for the family, Mary asks Jesus to help. When Jesus says, "My hour has not yet come," Mary doesn't panic or despair. She waits. She also listens, ready to respond as soon as Jesus speaks.

What a great lesson for prayer. God's time is not our time. When things are not as they should be — when we are feeling lost, hurt or upset — we take our cares to Jesus and ask for help. Then, we wait and listen. Hope tells us Jesus will speak. We must listen. Then, be ready to respond.

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake, I will not be silent.

Psalms 96

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations!

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

To each is given a manifestation of the Spirit.

John 2:1-11

"Do whatever he tells you."

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Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Teach your children to ask, listen, and respond:

- **Encourage your child to ask God for help:** If your child is experiencing something hard, take note. Look for an opportunity when praying with your child at night to suggest your child ask for help. Consider using the wedding at Cana as an example. Mary notes the difficulty for the family and asks for help.
- **Encourage your child to listen:** Remind your child that it takes time before we hear a response. We have to listen carefully and give God time to speak. God will speak to us in ways that can sometimes be subtle or different than we expect. God works in his own time. A time of waiting can be good for us because it provides us the opportunity to develop our skill at listening to the unique way God speaksthrough creation and revelation.
- **Encourage your child to respond:** Finally, encourage your child to follow Mary's example by being prepared to respond to how God answers the prayer. Maybe God calls them to act with greater kindness. Maybe God enables them to see a new opportunity they did not perceive before. Be ready to respond to the invitation to new life that God provides.



Year of the Family
Live the joy of God's love

Photo: Shutterstock

We persevere in prayer, knowing that God's time is not our time.
He will speak to us.

For more on the Year of the Family, visit
<https://archseattle.org/yof>

"Love does not despair of the future. Following upon what has just been said, this phrase speaks of the hope of one who knows that others can change, mature and radiate unexpected beauty and untold potential. This does not mean that everything will change in this life. It does involve realizing that, though things may not always turn out as we wish, God may well make crooked lines straight and draw some good from the evil we endure in this world."

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) #116

Parenting can be a trial. We want the best for our families, but things don't always go as they should. Sometimes health fails. Sometimes, a child cannot find their place among friends at school. Sometimes, a family member does the wrong thing.

It's important to take these troubles to the Lord in prayer — to ask for help. Then, like Mary, we need to listen and wait. This can be very hard, because in the waiting, we suffer. Nevertheless, we persevere in prayer, knowing that God's time is not our time. He will speak to us. We must listen and be ready to act.

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>