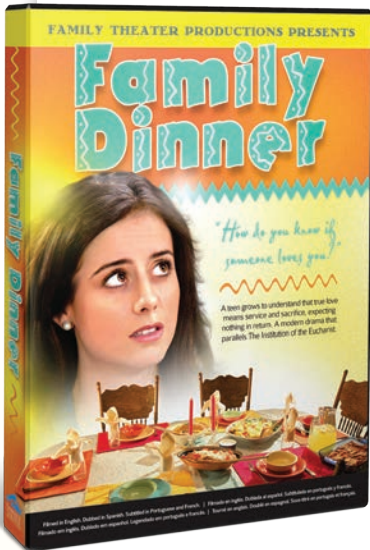


## Questions for Discussion



Think about each of Cristina's relationships—her mother, her father, her brother Carlos, Grandma and Lukas. What are they like in the beginning of the film? What about the end? How do they change? What does she learn from each relationship?

Why is eating dinner together as a family important to Cristina and her family? Why do you think it is important?

When Cristina and Lukas are on the phone, Cristina's poise and confidence is shaken. Why is this? Talk about the compromises we sometimes make to impress our friends. Why do we do this? How do we stay true to ourselves when we are challenged?

Cristina asks her Grandma, "How do you know if someone loves you?" What does the Grandma say in reply? What would you say in reply to Cristina? How would you explain this to your friend?



## Scripture Passages To Ponder

What is real love? As you read the passages below, imagine yourself being present during the story. What do you see, hear, smell, taste, feel, etc.?

What does Christ teach you about sacrifice and love?

John 13:1-20 – Washing of the Disciples' Feet

Luke 22:7-20 – The Passover

John 15:1-17 – The Vine and the Branches

## What Does the Bible Say?

"He took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Luke 22:19

## What Does Pope Francis Say?

"We need simplicity to pray as a family: simplicity is necessary! Praying the Our Father together, around the table, is not something extraordinary: it's easy. And praying the Rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and a source of great strength! And also praying for one another! The husband for his wife, the wife for her husband, both together for their children, the children for their grandparents... praying for each other. This is what it means to pray in the family and it is what makes the family strong: prayer."

## What Do the Saints Say?

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

– Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him."

– From the First Letter of Saint John (1 John 4:9)

## Want More Resources?

Go to [HCFMstore.org](http://HCFMstore.org) to order more materials about family prayer and media.

[FamilyTheater.org](http://FamilyTheater.org)

## Activities

1. Plan a family dinner. Talk to your family and see what night works best. Assign each person a role: someone to help with the menu, the cooking, the prayer beforehand, setting the table, etc. Share the responsibilities. Before you start eating, take time to stop and say a prayer of thanksgiving for the meal and for your family. Plan a game night or movie night afterward.
2. Families often have favorite recipes. Try to track down a favorite family recipe from your grandparents or an older family friend. If they live close, try to learn the recipe from them and share with your family.
3. Cristina makes sacrifices for her family so they can all have time to have a family dinner together. Think of three small sacrifices you can make for your friends and family this week to make their burdens lighter.
4. While Cristina is preparing for the family dinner, she spends more time with her family and hears stories from her parents' time in Mexico. Choose a parent, relative or family friend to interview and ask them for stories. Ask them about when they grew up, what school was like, what their favorite games were, or what movies they liked as a kid. Make up your own questions, too. Share these stories with your own family



## Did You Know?

In addition to being a sacrifice, the Mass is like a "Family Dinner". We share our family stories from the Old and New Testament, we sing songs, rejoice in good news (Alleluia) and pray for help in times of trouble (prayers of the faithful). We reconcile our relationships with God and others (I confess...), and grow closer to God and one another in the Bread of Life, Jesus in the Eucharist. We then are sent out to share this love and nourishment with each other and be lights to the world. Mass is available for our nourishment on a daily and weekly basis.

## Try Prayer

### For Family Prayer:

"I want the love." The Grandma in the film says this in response to Cristina's question about why she comes to Mass so often. As a family, take time on the drive to Mass to talk about the prayer intentions you are bringing to that Mass. Give everyone a chance to say at least one thing that they are bringing to Mass that week to ask Jesus to help them with. Spend 10 minutes on Sunday to pray one decade of the Rosary together for these intentions.



### For Personal Prayer:

Ponder: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."* (1 Corinthians 13)

First, read this passage as it is, slowly. Look up the words you may not know or ask someone to help you. Then, replace the word "love" with your name. Read this passage again, slowly, with your name where "love" is. (Example: John is patient, John is kind...) Write: What was it like to replace the word "love" with your name? What are some ways you can imitate the kind of love described in this passage? Love is another name for God (Recall "God is Love" in 1 John 4). How does God help us to be more loving, to be more like Him? How does He show us what love looks like?