

Teacher's Note:

Nobody enjoys giving something up for others. Even something as simple as letting a younger sibling watch "Barney" when an older child would like to watch something else can become a "family crisis." The root meaning of the word "sacrifice" means "to make holy" so when we sacrifice for love of others we make that action a holy one. As parents, our example is so important. How do we deal with every day inconveniences of having to wait in a line at the grocery store, being stuck in traffic, getting extra tasks to do for the boss at work? What example do we set for our children? Do we curse and shake our fists when someone cuts us off in traffic? Do we view a long wait at the doctor's office as an opportunity to play word games with our children? How we deal with the every-day frustrations of life sends a powerful message to our children. It is not easy to be good all of the time, yet that is what our children often feel that we expect from them. If we do not act in ways that our children can see as "good", then we are sending them double (do as I say and not as I do) messages, setting a double standard. Jesus never asks us to endure something that He did not endure. If we are to be His followers, then we must act as Jesus did as much and as often as we can.