



***FOCUS ON THE FAMILY MAGAZINE  
WRITER'S GUIDELINES***

We appreciate your desire to contribute your story to our readers. *Focus on the Family* magazine is interested in nonfiction personal experience, how-to, interview, profile, inspirational and humorous articles on matters concerning family, marriage, parenting and midlife.

**MAGAZINE VERSIONS**

Make sure you've read several issues of our magazine and know our audiences. In addition to the general version of *Focus on the Family* magazine, which targets our overall constituency, we have four specialized versions each month.

***For Couples*** (married first five years, no children)

Purpose: Provide the essentials of healthy marriage to newly married couples to grow in their relationship and faith, understand the nuances of joining two lives, plan for future families and serve for Christ as a couple. Note: Do not use parenting examples or anecdotes when writing for this version.

***For Parents*** (married with children at home)

Purpose: Inspire and guide parents to raise children who are disciplined, service-oriented and have strong faith, while also helping parents balance marriage, faith and career. We want them to enjoy the journey, while helping parents navigate the challenges of our culture.

***For Single Parents***

Purpose: Same as parenting version, plus encourage and empower single parents to stand strong in their faith by addressing the unique challenges they face.

***For Midlife and Beyond*** (married and single, no children at home, close to or in retirement)

Purpose: Encourage pre-retirement and post-retirement readers to grow in faith, lead families, and serve in the church and community by addressing the needs and stages of midlife.

In addition to topics specific for the above audiences, we also publish articles on worldview, spiritual growth, seasonal topics and social issues that affect families.

## MANUSCRIPTS

The following guidelines will assist you in understanding the tone and style of the magazine:

- Use stories and illustrations to bring abstract concepts to life, especially with dramatic or serious topics.
- Include a nut graph that appears early in the text and establishes the direction of the article.
- Reflect a Judeo-Christian foundation.
- Avoid frequent scriptural quotations—biblical concepts should be implicit.
- Avoid Christian jargon and clichés.
- Be topical and timely.
- Include sources for statistics, facts or research.
- Include contact information and verifications for anyone who is quoted within an article.
- Practical sidebars are welcome.
- Format should be Palatino, 14 pt., double space, no automatic formatting, please.
- Word counts should be within the following ranges 350-400, 650-800, 900-1100.
- Please **do not submit** personal testimonies, poetry, fiction or devotional articles.

If major revisions are needed, the author will be asked to make those first. Once articles are accepted, our staff edits for style, grammar, format, flow, word choice, pace, clarity, length, transitions, etc. We do not send the edited version back to the author for approval.

How-to articles have a better chance of being accepted when the author or source has recognized expertise in the subject. How-to articles must avoid the obvious. Anecdotes and illustrations are encouraged.

## SUBMISSIONS

- Due the large number of submissions we receive weekly, we do not accept unsolicited manuscripts or unsolicited queries by e-mail.
- Unsolicited submissions and queries must be sent by mail, include an SASE, e-mail address and phone number. Please indicate simultaneous submissions. Response time is 4-6 weeks.
- Send them to **Submissions: *Focus on the Family* magazine**, 8605 Explorer Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920.

- Once an article is accepted we request an e-copy either as a Microsoft Word or text attachment to e-mail.
- Pay ranges from \$100 to \$350 per article. *Focus on the Family* magazine purchases a non-exclusive license for articles.
- We plan each issue based on broad themes. You can request a copy of upcoming themes from our editorial assistant, Linda Arnold, [Linda.arnold@fotf.org](mailto:Linda.arnold@fotf.org). Keep in mind that we work 6-8 months in advance.