

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 1 WE MEET GOD

Objectives

- Connect beginning the school year with beginning religion class.
- Discover that God is everywhere.
- Describe how our five senses help us learn about God's world.
- Discover God's love for us.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 6

Write the word *God* on a sheet of paper. Invite your child to tell you everything he or she knows about God. List your child's responses on the paper. (God loves me, God is in heaven, God is with us, and so on.)

Tell your child that he or she will learn more about God this year. Then pray aloud the opening **Prayer**, inviting your child to repeat it after you.

Have your child point to the pictures on this page. Explain that both pictures show children attending either a Catholic school or a religious education class at their parish in order to learn more about God. Explain that you and your child will learn more about God together during these lessons (or this lesson).

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 7–9

Read aloud the heading, **God Is Everywhere**, and the text on page 7. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of your child's book to explain the word *created*. Ask: Which part of God's creation is your favorite?

Have your child point to each picture on this page while you read aloud the captions that correspond. Then ask: How are God's gifts of creation useful to us? (We need water to live and plants for food and clothing. The sun gives us light and warmth. Pets provide companionship. We need other people for love.)

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Remind your child that although we cannot see God, he shows us what he is like through everything he created. When we experience beauty in creation or receive love from other people, we are learning about God.

Hand your child an orange or a fresh flower, and invite him or her to look at it carefully, touch it, and smell it. Ask: How many senses did you use to experience the object I handed you? (Answers will vary according to object.)

Read aloud the text at the top of page 8 on **The Gift of Senses**. Point out that almost everything we learn, we learn through one of our senses.

Have your child point at each picture on pages 8 and 9 while you ask the caption questions. When discussing the sense of touch, explain that the boy in the picture is visually impaired. He is reading a book with raised dots that stand for letters. He is reading *Braille*. Summarize the photos by asking: Who gave us the gift of our senses? (God)

Read aloud **God Is Wonderful** on page 9. Suggest that God must love us very much to have given us such a wonderful world!

Read aloud the **Scripture Signpost**. Tell your child that these words come from the Bible, our holy book. Lead your child to understand that these words assure us that God's love will always be with him or her. Tell your child that you will read many stories of God's love from the Bible during the year.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 10

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share, Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

Read **We Live our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 1–2.

Step 4: We Celebrate: (Prayer and Conclusion), page 11

Read aloud the first paragraph on **God's Goodness** and refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of your child's textbook for the definition of the word *praise*. Point out that when we praise God, we are thanking him for his goodness and telling him that he is wonderful.

Direct your child's attention to the pictures on this page. Ask: What feelings do you have when you see these two pictures? (love, joy, happiness) Point out that we can all experience these feelings whenever we think about all that God has given us.

Make the closing **Prayer** experience joyful by inviting your child to clap hands and raise his or her arms when responding, "We praise you, God!"

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 1–4.