

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 11 NEW LIFE

Objectives

- Develop an awareness of signs of new life.
- Connect new life in nature to new life received from God.
- Relate Jesus' actions and his death on the cross to new life with God.
- Associate grace with new life offered through the Holy Spirit.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 66

Provide your child with two or more plant bulbs and seeds, as well as pictures of the plants that will grow from them. Let your child examine the bulbs and seeds. Explain that there is new life inside the bulbs and seeds.

Turn to page 66 and take note of the chapter title: **New Life**. Explain that God gives us new life, too. Pray aloud the opening **Prayer**; invite your child to respond: Amen!

Read aloud the text on this page. Ask: What is new life? (Possible answer: something living and growing that was not living and growing before.)

Direct your child's attention to the pictures on this page. Ask him or her to describe the new life shown in each picture. (The family is waiting for a new baby; puppies are new baby dogs; a new flower is growing out of the snow-covered ground; a butterfly is coming out of its cocoon.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 67–69

Read aloud the introductory paragraph on page 67 under **Jesus Gives Us Life**.

Read aloud the **Scripture Story: The Daughter of Jairus**. Point out that Jairus believed that Jesus could save his daughter. Jesus wanted the little girl to live. Ask: Why were the girl's parents full of joy? (Jesus brought their daughter back to life.)

Read aloud the **Catholics Believe** statement. Point out that the new life God gives us through Jesus is the everlasting life that we will have forever with God in heaven. Explain that Jesus came to show us the way to God, save us from the power of sin, and show us how to live good lives so we can be with God in heaven.

Draw your child's attention to the crucifix pictured on page 68. Ask: Who is the person we see on this special cross? (Jesus) Read aloud the **Landmark**. Reassure your child that although we are not happy that Jesus died on the cross, we display the crucifix as a reminder that Jesus gave his life so that we can have new life with God. If you have a crucifix in your home, ask your child to tell you where it is.

Read aloud the text: **God Gives Jesus New Life**. Point out that Jesus was laid in a tomb, which is a grave or a special place above ground where a dead person is buried. Ask: How do we know that God's love is stronger than sin and death? (We know because of what happened to Jesus. After Jesus' death God the Father gave him new life. Jesus returned to his friends and then joined God, his Father, in heaven.)

Read aloud the text on page 69: **The Holy Spirit Brings New Life**. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the book to clarify the meanings of the highlighted words. Ask: How can we grow in grace? (by living as children of God and staying away from sin) What will our growing in grace lead to? (a new life that lasts forever, happiness with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)

On a sheet of paper, print the words *Father*, *Son*, and *Holy Spirit*. Read aloud the words. Ask: What is another name for these three Persons in one God? (the Holy Trinity)

Read aloud **Our Moral Guide**. Emphasize that the Holy Spirit can work in us directly or through the Church, our parents, teachers, ministers, and other members of the faith community. Remind your child that it is a good thing to pray to the Holy Spirit frequently. Ask: When does the Holy Spirit work within us? (Possible answer: when we have to make a choice between right and wrong.)

Read aloud the caption. Ask: How are the children in the picture growing in grace? (They are showing gentleness and love, as God wants them to do.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 70

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall**, **Think and Share**, and **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.

At this point in the lesson you may wish to have your child work through the **Unit 3 Review** on pages 72–73.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 21–22.

Step 4: Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 71

Draw your child's attention to the pictures on page 71. Ask: How do all of these pictures show new life? (Possible answers: We celebrate Jesus' new life through the Sacrament of the Eucharist at Mass; children are signs of new life; they celebrate life by running, playing, laughing, and having fun together; after Jesus died, he was given new life and then returned to God the Father in heaven.)

Read aloud the text under the heading **Praise God!** Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the book to clarify the meaning of the word *alleluia*.

Ask: When have you heard the word *Alleluia* used? (during Mass, in prayers)

Begin the prayer experience with the Sign of the Cross. Explain that you will pray a sentence aloud, and your child should respond, "Alleluia!" Pray together the **Prayer**. Close with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 32–34.