

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 1 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 12

#### WE CELEBRATE ADVENT: THE WAITING TIME

##### Objectives

- Identify times when waiting is necessary.
- Explore the ways in which the Church waits and prepares for the celebration of Christmas.
- Affirm through prayer the relationship between Advent preparations and Jesus' second coming.

##### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), page 74

Remind your child that all good things are worth waiting for. Ask: What is the best thing you have ever waited for?

Explain that Christians wait each year for the celebration of Christmas. Ask you child to bow his or her head as you pray aloud the opening **Prayer** on page 74. Invite your child to respond: Amen.

Read aloud the chapter title (**The Waiting Time**) and the text on this page. Ask: Why is it important to get ready for a special event? (Possible answers: so we can learn from the event, so we can enjoy the event fully, so our attention is on the event when it comes.)

Read aloud the **Activity** directions. Then allow your child sufficient time to make up and share a story about one of the pictures.

##### **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), page 75

Read aloud the text on **Waiting for Jesus**, page 75. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the book to clarify the meaning of the word **Advent**. Ask: What are some things we do as a family during Advent to get ready for Christmas? (Discuss any practical suggestions.)

Read aloud the **Catholics Believe** statement. Point out that the coming of Jesus was so important that God prepared the world for it many years beforehand. Through God's inspiration holy people called prophets told about the coming of God's kingdom. Today during Advent we join in preparing for the celebration of Jesus' coming.

Ask your child to point to the pictures of the Advent wreath and the Advent calendar. Explain that Advent wreaths are sometimes made from evergreen branches and usually have one pink candle and three purple candles on them. Point out that one candle is lit during each week of Advent until all four candles are lit. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent.

Advent calendars can take different forms. Paper calendars with numbered doors are very common. On each day of Advent, one door is opened to reveal a symbol of the season.

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 76

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.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 23–24.

### **Step 4: Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 77

Read aloud the heading on page 77: **Come, Lord Jesus!** Ask: When did Jesus first come to us? (when he was born in a stable in Bethlehem)

Point out that Jesus will come to us again. Then read aloud the introductory paragraph on this page. Ask: When will Jesus come again? (at the end of time)

Draw attention to the picture of the children on this page. Ask: How are these children getting ready for Christmas? (They are setting up a nativity scene.) How can you prepare for the time when Jesus comes again? (Possible answers: by praying, going to Mass, following Jesus' teachings.)

Close the lesson by praying together the closing **Prayer**. Have your child begin it by praying aloud, "Come, Lord Jesus!" You should then read aloud all the numbered lines, inviting your child to respond "Come, Lord Jesus!" after each line. If possible, sing together a familiar Advent song.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 35–37.