

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 13 INVITED TO THE KINGDOM

Objectives

- Connect invitations to special celebrations with the invitation to God's kingdom.
- Explore how God's kingdom is like a great banquet.
- Discover our role in inviting others into God's kingdom.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 78–79

Invite your child to name special celebrations to which people are invited. (Possible answers: birthday parties, class presentations, open houses, holiday celebrations, weddings, special meals.)

Explain that in this lesson your child will learn about a very special invitation to a very special banquet given by God. Note the chapter title: **Invited to the Kingdom**.

Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 78.

Read aloud the story about the school play. Ask your child to imagine that he or she is Lee. Ask: If you were Lee, how would you feel when you peeked through the curtain? (Possible answers: excited, happy because everyone was there.)

Have your child complete the **Activity** on page 78.

Point out the picture on page 79. Read aloud the caption question, and invite your child to respond. (Possible answers: by being kind to others, by helping others, by sharing, by having fun with friends, by going to Mass and celebrating the sacraments with other members of the faith community.)

Read aloud **God Invites Everyone** on page 79. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the term *kingdom of God*. Ask: Why do you think God invites everyone to live in his kingdom? (Possible response: God wants everyone to be happy.)

Read **Catholics Believe**. Explain that God invited everyone to belong to his kingdom when he sent Jesus to share with us God's love and forgiveness.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 80–81

Tell your child that you will read a story about a rich man who gave a big party. Ask him or her to listen carefully to find out who attended the party.

Read aloud the part of the **Scripture Story: Come to the Party** on page 80. Ask: Why didn't the rich man's friends go to his party? (They were too busy.) When the rich man had no guests, whom did he decide to ask? (people who were poor or sick)

Read aloud the **Scripture Signpost** and point out to your child that a blessing is an expression of God's kindness and love and that a banquet is a large meal held for a special occasion, such as a wedding. Ask: Why do you think God's kingdom is like a banquet? (Possible answers: We are invited, we want to be there, and the gathering celebrates joy.)

Now read the second part of the **Scripture Story** on page 81. Ask: Why do you think the party turned out to be the best possible ever? (Possible answers: Everyone was invited; the people who came to the party wanted to be there and were thankful to share the love and goodness the man offered.)

Explain to your child that Jesus told the story about the rich man's party to teach us a lesson about the kingdom of God. God, too, invites everyone into his kingdom. We are thankful to share in his love and goodness.

Read aloud **We Are Sent by God** and **Our Moral Guide** on page 81. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of *Church*. Point out that by living as followers of Jesus, we can set an example for others. People who see our love and the good we do will want to belong to the kingdom of God.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 82

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 25–26.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 83

Invite your child to look at the children in the background picture on page 83. Make sure he or she understands that although people around the world are different, God loves all of us.

Draw your child's attention to the picture of the hands holding a glass globe. Ask: What do you think it means when we say that God has the whole world in his hands? (Possible answers: God created the world; he cares for and protects the whole world, which includes all living creatures.)

Point out that one way of praying is by singing songs. Remind the children that we sing often during Mass. Ask: What songs do you know that can be sung as prayers? (Possible answers: the Lord's Prayer, any of the liturgical music or hymns used at Mass.)

Close the lesson by singing together the **Prayer**-song "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." You may wish to read through the lyrics first with your child before singing the song.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 38–40.