

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 16

Objectives

- Affirm that Jesus was born at Christmas.
- Explore how Christmas lights remind us of Jesus.
- Affirm the gift of Jesus through prayer and song.

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS: THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 98

Ask your child to describe what a starry sky looks like. Ask: What do you like about looking at stars? (Possible answers: The stars are pretty; they twinkle; they light up the sky.)

Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 98 by having your child repeat each line after you.

Read aloud the text on page 98. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to help clarify the meaning of *Christmas*. Ask: Why did God the Father send Jesus? (to be one of us)

Read the caption aloud. Ask: In what ways have you seen God's love light up your world today? (Answers will vary. Encourage your child to talk about ways in which he or she has seen love, kindness, and faith expressed.)

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), page 99

Read aloud **Light of the World** on page 99. Ask: What do Christmas lights remind you of? (Jesus) Then read **Catholics Believe**.

Read the caption as your child looks at the picture of Christmas Mass in the upper left-hand corner of the page. Ask: Why do we call Jesus the Light of the World? (He shows us the way to God's kingdom.)

After you read the caption for the luminaries, explain to your child that the candles in bags light up a path and are a sign of welcome to the Holy Family. Talk with your child about any luminaries he or she might have seen.

Read the caption for the fireworks picture. Ask: When do you usually see fireworks in the United States? (on the Fourth of July)

After reading the caption for the picture of the Christmas lights on trees and buildings, talk with your child about how your family decorates your home with lights.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 100

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 31–32.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 101

Have your child point to the picture of the town of Bethlehem. Explain that this is what the town looks like today. Then draw his or her attention to the picture of the children. Ask: What are the children in the picture doing? (singing a Christmas song) Explain that the children are singing with joy and enthusiasm because Christmas is a happy time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Remind your child that we can pray to God by singing songs.

Read the introductory paragraphs of **The Everlasting Light** aloud. When you get to the word *carols*, explain that *carol* means, “to sing joyfully.” Ask: Who is the “everlasting Light?” (Jesus)

For the closing **Prayer**, read through the lyrics of the Christmas carol on page 101. If possible, play a recorded version of the song or sing the carol yourself to familiarize your child with the tune. Then, to close the lesson, sing the carol with your child.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 47–49.