

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 17 LOVE AND SERVE

Objectives

- Explore doing one's best and doing what is right.
- Connect love for God with serving others.
- Discover ways to live the Great Commandment.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 102–103

Invite your child to name people who do things for others at home, in school, and in church. (Possible answers: parents, other adult family members, teachers, librarians, priests.) Talk about some of the things these people have done for you and your child.

Explain that just as the people your child named do things for others, we should love and serve God and others. (Take note of the chapter title.) Lead your child in praying the opening **Prayer** on page 102.

Read aloud the first two paragraphs of the story. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the term *parish*.

Read aloud the rest of the story on page 102. Ask: What does “doing your very best” mean to you? (Possible answers: trying, not giving up, doing things the best way we know how.)

Read the caption aloud, and allow your child to respond.

Read the rest of the story on page 103. Have your child respond to the bulleted question. (Possible answers: happy, proud, glad she did her best.)

Read the **Scripture Signpost** quote on page 103. Help your child understand that doing what is right means doing what God wants, which is doing the very best we can to love God and help others.

Have your child look at the picture on page 103 as you read aloud the caption question. (The bulbs grew into flowers in the spring.) Ask: How did planting the bulbs help the parish? (Flowers from the bulbs made the parish grounds beautiful. Everyone in the parish enjoyed seeing the flowers.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 104–105

When you read aloud **Showing Love** on page 104, pause after the third paragraph and call attention to the quotation from **Scripture**. Remind your child that Jesus' answer is called the *Great Commandment*. Explain to your child that commandments are rules or laws that God gives us to show us how to live.

As you continue to read the text, use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to help clarify the term *serve*. Ask: How have you served others this week? (Possible answers: by helping with chores at home, by caring for a younger brother or sister, by helping the teacher or other classmates.)

Read **Catholics Believe** on page 104. Emphasize that one of the best ways to love and serve God is to help others. Ask: Why should we love and serve God above all others? (God loves us with a great love. God gives us everything we need and welcomes us into his kingdom.)

Have your child look at the pictures on page 104. Ask the caption question. (The people are serving others. The girl is showing love and care by feeding the baby. People are serving food to people who are hungry.)

Read aloud the introductory paragraph, **A Good Example**, on page 105. Discuss why it is important to teach with both words and actions. Help your child understand that people know we mean what we say when we live our lives according to our beliefs.

Before you read the **Scripture Story: Love One Another** on page 105, ask your child to think about what Jesus was trying to teach us through his actions. Then read the **Scripture Story**. Ask: Why did Jesus wash his friends' feet? (to show how much he cared for them) What was Jesus trying to teach us? (to love one another as much as he loves us)

Before reading aloud **Saints Walk with Us: Venerable Pierre Toussaint**, explain to your child that the term *Venerable* means “worthy of honor and respect.” The Church uses this title to tell us that Pierre was a holy person who loved God very much. Then read the article about Pierre. Ask: How did Pierre Toussaint follow Jesus' example? (He loved and cared for other people.) Help your child understand that when the holy men and women in heaven hear our prayers, they add their prayers to ours.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 106

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey** on page 106. 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 33–34.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 107

Remind your child of the opening story about Lin planting the bulbs. Ask them whether Lin had an easy time or a hard time planting the bulbs. (a hard time) Point out that God will help us when it is hard for us to serve others. We need only to ask him for help.

Call attention to the background photograph of the mountain scene on page 107. Ask: How do the flowers remind you of God? (They show the beauty that God gives us in this world.) Then point out the photograph of the children at the bottom of the page. Ask: How are these children serving God? (by praying during the celebration of the Eucharist) Why do we pray during the celebration of the Eucharist? (to give glory to God; to ask for God's help)

Read aloud **We Ask God's Help** on page 107. To emphasize the importance of prayer, ask: What will God do for us if we pray to him? (He will help us be our best and do what is right.)

Close the lesson by praying together the **Prayer** on this page. Explain that this prayer is taken from a special group of Mass prayers that were written especially for children. Pray each line of the prayer aloud, and have your child repeat it after you.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 50–52.