

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 18 WE CAN CHOOSE

Objectives

- Discover the daily choices that children make.
- Explore the concept of free will.
- Discover how the Ten Commandments help people make choices.
- Examine some steps in making good choices.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 108

Ask your child to choose his or her favorite color from a box of crayons. Explain that when we choose, we are deciding between things. We pick what we like or what we think is best.

Point out that just as we must choose between things every day, Jesus teaches us to choose what is right so we can love and serve God. Pray aloud the opening **Prayer** on page 108.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Then invite your child to share the choices he or she made in getting ready this morning.

Direct your child's attention to the photograph on this page. Ask the caption question, and invite your child to respond. Explain to your child that he or she may also choose foods that are not shown in the picture. Write your child's choices on the page. Point out the importance of a balanced diet by suggesting some healthy choices.

Lead your child in praying "Dear God, thank you for giving us choices. Help us make the best choices for ourselves and others."

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 109–111

Read aloud **Free to Choose** on page 109. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to help clarify the meaning of the term *free will*.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe** on page 109. Ask: Why does God give us the freedom to choose between right and wrong? (Possible answers: God wants us to love him; we can love only if we have free will; we show love when we choose what is right.)

Read aloud the caption questions on page 109 as your child looks at the pictures. Then invite your child to respond to the questions. (The child chose to be rude and disrespectful. The boys chose to be selfish and fight. Better choices would show love and respect, and sharing of the truck.)

Read aloud **Laws Help Us Choose** on page 110. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook for a definition of the term *Ten Commandments*. Ask: Why did God give us the Ten Commandments? (to help us make loving choices)

Read aloud **Our Moral Guide**. Explain that the Ten Commandments teach us how to love God and other people. By following the commandments, we make good choices. Ask: How do laws help us make good choices? (Help your child see the importance of objective guidance in making moral decisions. Remind him or her that some choices are always wrong because they go against God's laws.)

Refer to the **Activity**. Select some of the Ten Commandments from page 178, and paraphrase them in terms your child can understand. Point out that the commandment "Honor your father and your mother" includes being respectful to all those who watch over us, such as grandparents and teachers. Give your child time to complete the activity drawing.

Read each step of **Stepping Stones: Making Good Choices** on page 111. After reading each one, have your child discuss its corresponding photograph.

Read aloud **Where Will This Lead Me?** Summarize the steps by writing the words *Think, Compare, Talk, and Pray* on a large sheet of paper. Ask: By following these steps, what might the two boys shown on page 109 choose to do? (Possible response: Share the toy.)

Read the following situations, or present some of your own.

- You find a \$5 bill in your neighbor's driveway. You think your neighbor dropped it by accident. What would you do?
- Your friend forgot to bring a snack to school. You have an extra snack. What would you do?
- Your friend throws an ice cream wrapper on the ground. You have a wrapper to throw away, too. What would you do?

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 112

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 35–36.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 113

Point out the picture of the child and adult on the beach on page 113. Explain that an adult guides a child when they take a walk because the adult probably knows the way and can keep the child away from danger. In that way, an adult is a good guide.

Point out the photograph referring to the Ten Commandments. Ask: How do the Ten Commandments help guide us? (Possible answers: They give us rules to live by; they show us the loving way.)

Read aloud the introductory paragraph of **Perfect Freedom**. Explain that rules and freedom go hand-in-hand with serving God. Ask: What rules did God give us? (the Ten Commandments) How does God help us choose the loving thing? (Possible answers: by giving us his laws, by showing us what is right through the examples of Jesus, by giving us adults to guide us.) Finish reading **Perfect Freedom**.

Close the lesson by praying together the **Prayer** on this page. Pray each line of the prayer aloud, and have your child repeat it after you. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 53–55.