

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 1 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 2 GIFTS FROM GOD

#### Objectives

- Connect gifts received for special occasions with gifts from God.
- Discover that God's love is a gift.
- Express thanks for God's gifts through prayer.

#### Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 12–13

Invite your child to tell about the best gift he or she ever received. Discuss: What made the gift special? Then explain that in this lesson you and your child will be talking about gifts from God.

Pray together the opening **Prayer** by having your child repeat the words of the prayer after you.

Invite your child to listen carefully to the story of Emma's birthday as you read the page aloud. Ask: Who came to Emma's party? (her brother, friends, grandfather, mother) Why did they come to the party? (because they love Emma)

Direct your child's attention to the picture on page 12. Invite him or her to tell you what it shown there. (Emma's birthday presents)

Invite your child to draw on a sheet of drawing paper a picture of something God has given him or her. Or do this activity orally by brainstorming with your child a list of gifts from God.

Draw attention to the picture of the tree house on page 13. Read the caption question aloud, and invite your child to respond. (tree, grass) Explain that although God didn't make the tree house, he made the tree that gives us the wood to build the tree house.

Read aloud **Many Gifts**. Associate Emma's gifts with the gifts God has given us. Ask: Why has God given us gifts? (God loves us. We need the gifts to live; to make us happy.)

Read the **Scripture Signpost** aloud. Ask: Why do you think God made so many different plants and animals? (Lead your child to understand that the diversity of creation reflects God's unlimited creative activity.)

## **Step 2: We Explore:** (Doctrine), pages 14–15

Remind your child that when Emma’s family sang “Happy Birthday” to her, that was also a gift. Invite your child to suggest some other gifts from God and other people that we cannot touch but that make us happy. (Possible answers: a smile, a joke, a visit from a friend)

Read aloud **Gifts We Can’t See** on page 14. Ask: Who shares God’s love with you? With whom do you share God’s love?

Read aloud the **Catholics Believe** statement. Point out that God created everything because of his great love and goodness. God loves us and wants us to be happy.

Draw your child’s attention to the picture on page 14. Ask the caption question, and invite your child to respond. (food, time, knowledge, friendship, attention)

Read aloud the opening paragraph of **Giving Thanks** on page 15. Give your child time to answer the question it asks.

Read aloud the final paragraph. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of your child’s textbook to help him or her understand the meaning of the word *pray*. Ask: When do you offer a prayer of thanks to God? (at mealtime, at bedtime, in church, and so on)

Read aloud **Our Moral Guide**. Ask: How can you show thanks to others? (by saying thank you, giving hugs, making thank-you cards, and so on) Why do we sometimes forget to say thank you? (We get too busy, or we are not paying attention.)

Draw attention to the pictures on page 15. Ask: What are the people in both pictures doing that is the same? (praying) Remind your child that we can use the prayers we have memorized or we can use our own words in talking to God. Emphasize that we can pray wherever we are and at any time.

Give your child drawing paper on which to draw himself or herself praying.

## **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 16

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share, Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

Read aloud **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 3–4.

## **Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 17

Read aloud **Praying Thank You**. Ask: Where have you seen people praying together in song? (at Mass)

Then close the lesson by singing with your child the **Prayer** of thanks found on page 17; sing it to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 5–7.