

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 20

WE CELEBRATE LENT: FOLLOWING JESUS

Objectives

- Explore Jesus' reasons for spending 40 days in the desert.
- Identify ways to grow closer to God during Lent.
- Affirm the importance of prayer during Lent.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 122

Talk with your child about quiet times when you like to pray, read, rest, and so on. Ask your child to identify times when he or she likes to be alone and quiet. Point out that we can use our quiet times to grow closer to God.

Write the word *Lent* on a large sheet of paper. Tell your child that he or she will learn about Lent in this lesson. Note the chapter title: **Following Jesus**. Hold hands as you pray the opening **Prayer** aloud.

Read aloud the **Scripture Story: Forty Days**. Ask: How can we follow Jesus? (Possible answers: by praying to God, by putting God first in our hearts and minds.) Why do you think Jesus went to the desert before he began teaching people about God? (He wanted to grow close to God before he told others about his Father in heaven.)

Read aloud the caption on page 122. Invite your child to name some places where he or she likes to pray alone or with others.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 123

Remind your child that Jesus prepared to do his father's work by stopping his usual activities and going into the desert to pray and think. Point out that the Church sets aside the time of Lent for us to think about our work as God's children. Also point out the picture at the top of page 123 that shows the priest celebrating the Eucharist during Lent. Ask: What color are his vestments, or clothing? (purple) Explain that purple is the color the Church uses during the Season of Lent because purple is a sign of sadness, or sorrow for our sins.

As you read and discuss **We Follow Jesus**, explore the idea that Lent is a special time set aside to follow Jesus by growing closer to God. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to further clarify the meaning of the word *Lent*. Ask: How can we show our love for God and others during Lent? (Possible answers: pray, help others, try to be kind and loving.)

Read aloud **Catholics Believe** on page 123. Explain that during Lent we prepare for the solemn season in which we remember Jesus' death on the cross and the joyful celebration of his new life.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 124

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 39–40.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 125

Help your child identify some of the ways we can pray, such as by saying words, singing, dancing, and so on. Then read aloud the introductory paragraph on page 125: **We Will Follow**. Ask: What is your favorite way to pray?

Have your child point to the picture of the children and teacher on this page. Explain that they are participating in a special Lenten prayer service. Ask: What color is the cloth? (purple) What is purple a sign of? (sadness, sorrow for our sins) What does prayer help us do? (become closer to God)

Have your child identify the setting in the bottom picture. Ask: What does the picture show? (a desert) Who went into the desert? (Jesus) Why did he go there? (to pray and think about doing God's work)

Pray the closing **Prayer** on this page with your child. Begin and end the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 59–61.