

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 21 SACRAMENTS

Objectives

- Identify signs of love.
- Explore how sacraments celebrate God's love.
- Identify the role of the Holy Spirit in the sacraments.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 126–127

Ask your child to recall times when he or she observed people showing love for each other. Ask: How do you know the people loved each other? (Possible answers: They showed their love through loving gestures, loving actions, or loving gifts.)

Remind your child that God is always showing us signs of his love. Note the title on page 126: **Sacraments**. Pray aloud the opening **Prayer**.

Explain to your child that the story you are going to read takes place in a school lunchroom. Point out that two girls are sitting together, about to eat their lunches. Read aloud the story on pages 126–127. Ask: How do you think Tara felt when she found the note? (happy, loved, very special) What other words can we use as signs of love? (Possible answers: You're special; let me help you; I like you a lot; would you like to share this with me?)

Point out the heart on the napkin's message. Explain that the heart stands for the word *love*. Ask: What are some times of the year when we use hearts as signs of our love for others? (Possible answers: Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and birthdays.) Help your child name other signs of love that we see every day, such as flowers, kind words, hugs, and smiles.

Invite your child to point to each picture on page 127 as you read aloud the captions. Help your child recognize that *anointing* has been used for a long time to heal people and to signify leadership.

Along with your child, do the **Activity** on page 126.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 128–129

Read aloud **God's Love** on page 128. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to help clarify the meaning of the word *sacraments*.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Explain that God is present in the sacraments. The sacraments are signs of God's love, but they are also loving experiences of God.

Invite your child to point to each picture on these two pages as you read aloud the captions. Ask: In which sacrament do we become members of the Church? (Baptism) In which sacrament does Jesus share himself with us in Holy Communion? (the Eucharist) In which sacrament does the Holy Spirit help us become stronger in our faith? (Confirmation) Which sacrament is given to people who are sick and in need of God's care? (Anointing of the Sick) Which sacrament celebrates leadership in the Church? (Holy Orders) Which sacrament joins a man and a woman in marriage? (Matrimony)

Read aloud the **Scripture Signpost** on page 129. Explain that the life we receive from the Holy Spirit through Jesus is the life we need to follow Jesus and to live in God's love. Ask: What does the Holy Spirit share with us in the sacraments? (new life, healing, forgiveness)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 130

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey** on page 130. 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 41–42.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 131

Draw your child's attention to the picture on page 131 of the girl dressed in white and holding a lighted candle. Explain that the lighted candle and the white clothing are used in Baptism.

Point out the close-up picture of the chalice and paten. Ask: Which sacrament do you think of when you see this picture? (the Eucharist)

Read aloud the heading **Giving Thanks**. Then ask your child to point to the picture of the boy and his family. Ask: What might this boy be thankful for? (Possible answers: the love of his family, his pet, God's love, the beautiful world around him.)

Read aloud the text of **Giving Thanks**. Remind your child that God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit are the three Persons who make up the Holy Trinity.

Explain to your child that the prayer he or she is about to pray is called a *litany*. A litany is a prayer that is similar to a list. We list all the things for which we are grateful or for which we need God's help. After each statement or request, we respond with a short prayer. Now close the lesson with **Prayer**. Have your child practice saying the response *We thank you, God!* When your child is familiar with the response, begin the litany by praying aloud all the numbered lines. After each numbered line, encourage your child to pray the practiced response.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 62–64.