

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 25 GOD'S LOVE IS FOREVER

Objectives

- Identify ways to show love.
- Discover what it means to be faithful.
- Explore and affirm God's love.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 150

Invite your child to name one of his or her favorite bedtime stories. Then ask your child what he or she feels when someone tells him or her a bedtime story. (Possible answers: happy, sleepy, loved, safe.)

Take note of the chapter title on page 150: **God's Love Is Forever**. Hold hands with your child. Then pray aloud the opening **Prayer** and encourage your child to respond *Amen*.

Read aloud the story of Matthew and his dad. Ask: How is this story similar to your bedtime routine? Remind your child that just like Matthew and his dad in the story, all people need to feel loved.

Have your child identify Matthew and his dad in the picture. Then ask the caption question. (Matthew's father tells him stories, hugs him, tells him he loves him. Matthew trusts his father to take care of him; he tells his father he loves him.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 151–153

Remind your child that Matthew and his father used both words and actions to show their love for one another. Ask your child to name ways in which his or her family members show love for them.

Ask your son or daughter to look carefully at the picture on page 151 of the father and son walking together. Then read aloud the caption. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to help clarify the meaning of the word *faithful*. Invite your child to answer the caption question. (Answers may include obeying parents, sticking up for family members and friends, and being responsible for chores and possessions.)

Read aloud **God's Love**. Help your child make the comparison between the love of a parent and a child, and God's love for us. Lead him or her to understand that God's love for us is the greatest love possible. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to develop a deeper understanding of the term *covenant*. Then read aloud **Catholics Believe**.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph under **Stories of Love** on page 152. Explain to your child that the stories of love you will read are found in the Bible.

Read aloud the **Scripture Signpost** verse. Tell your child that just like the sun that shines on us, God's love shines on all people throughout the world. In *Romans 8:39* we are reminded that although we will someday be separated from friends, loved ones, and earthly goods, nothing will separate us from God's love, which comes to us through Jesus.

Point out the picture of Joseph in his special coat as you read aloud the caption. In *Genesis 37:1–47:12* Joseph's father gave him the beautiful coat because he loved him as his favorite son. Joseph's brothers were very jealous of him and arranged to have Joseph sold as a slave and taken to Egypt. While Joseph was in Egypt, God watched over and guided him. He became a powerful advisor to the ruler of Egypt. Eventually Joseph forgave his brothers and took on the responsibility of caring for his entire family. Ask: How did God show his love for Joseph? (God protected Joseph and showed him how to forgive.)

Explain to your child that the boat shown here is called an ark. *Genesis 6:11–8:22* tells the story of Noah. During his time God sent a Great Flood to destroy the evil people. Because Noah was a good person who loved and obeyed God, God warned him of the flood ahead of time. God helped Noah save his family and a pair of each of the creatures on earth. Noah's actions pleased God so much that God promised never to destroy the earth again because of sinful people. Have your child point to the picture of the ark and the rainbow. Then read aloud the caption. Ask: How did God show his love for Noah and other living creatures? (God saved them from the Great Flood.)

In *Genesis 28:10–16* Jacob was traveling to find a wife when he dreamed of a ladder on which angels climbed to and from heaven. In the dream God came to Jacob and promised always to be with him and his family. Call attention to the picture of the men going up and down on a ladder. Explain that the picture shows Jacob's dream of heaven. Then read the caption. Ask: How did God show his love for Jacob? (God promised to take care of Jacob and his family forever.)

Moses was chosen by God to lead the people of Israel. In *Exodus 14:10–31* Moses guided them out of Egypt, and God parted the waters of the Red Sea so they could pass through safely. The Egyptian army that followed did not have God’s guidance, and all the soldiers drowned when the Red Sea closed up again. Talk with your child about the first picture on page 153. Be sure he or she understands that the waters of the sea have parted and dry land appeared. The people in the story are now able to walk through the sea on the dry land. Then read the caption. Explain that Moses was an important leader of the people of Israel. Ask: How did God show his love for the people of Israel? (He gave them Moses to lead them. He saved them from slavery in Egypt.)

The First and Second Books of Kings tell the history of the people of Israel. In *1 Kings 17:8–16* God sent his messenger Elijah to a town where a poor widow lived. God had told the widow to give Elijah food. When the widow shared the little food she had with Elijah, God returned the gift of love by giving her enough food to feed her family for a very long time. Have your child point to the picture of the woman and Elijah. Then read the caption. Ask: How did this woman show her love for God? (She shared what she had with Elijah, God’s messenger.) How did God show his love for her? (God saved the woman and her son from hunger.)

Luke 2:1–20 recalls the wondrous events of the first Christmas. It begins with the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and continues with the story of the angel who announced Jesus’ birth to a group of humble shepherds. As the shepherds go to visit baby Jesus, we are reminded of God’s love for all people. Call attention to the picture that shows Jesus’ birth. After reading the caption, help your child understand that Jesus is God the Father’s greatest sign of love because Jesus gave his life for us so that our sins would be forgiven.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 154

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 pages 49–50 in the **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 155

Read aloud the title, **Praise the Lord**, on page 155. Ask your child to point to the picture of the globe. Ask your child to name ways in which they praise God both in his or her own personal lives and with the faith community. (Possible answers: by praying, singing, attending Mass, following Jesus, and acting in a way that is faithful to God.)

As you point out the picture of the globe, ask your child to name things in this world for which he or she praises God. (Answers may include people, animals, and objects in nature such as trees, flowers, mountains, lakes, and oceans.)

Draw your child's attention to the picture of the children singing. Remind your child that singing is one way to praise God.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph. Point out that the psalms are special prayers that may be sung or read like poetry.

Close the lesson with **Prayer**. Tell your child that the prayer you are going to pray is the shortest psalm of all. Then pray each line of the psalm, and invite your child to repeat it after you. End with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 74–76.