

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 26 HOME WITH GOD

Objectives

- Examine the concept of death.
- Explore new life with God after death.
- Identify the Beatitudes.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 156–157

Have your child think about times when he or she felt sad. Ask: Who were you with? What helped you get over your sadness? Explain that you will read a story about how a winter walk brings a girl and her grandfather closer during a sad time in their lives.

Before praying aloud the opening **Prayer** on page 156, explain that because we are adopted children of God, we sometimes call Jesus our Brother. Also point out that “our Father’s house” is called *heaven*. Note the chapter title: **Home with God**, and pray the **Prayer**.

Read aloud the story of Megan and her grandfather. Ask: Why does Megan’s grandfather tell her that she can remember him when she sees the new flowers in the park in the spring? (Help your child connect the concept of new life in the spring to the new, everlasting life that Megan’s grandfather will have with God after he dies.)

Read the picture caption. Invite your child to respond. (Megan is sad because her grandfather is going to die and she will miss him very much.)

Read aloud **Scripture Story: Our Father’s House** on page 157. Remind your child that Jesus’ last meal with his friends is called the *Last Supper*. Help your child understand that it is through Jesus’ death on the cross and his resurrection that we gain eternal life with God.

Help your child point out Saint Joseph in the picture of **Saints Walk with Us** on page 157. Read aloud the text about Saint Joseph. Explain to your child that a foster parent is a parent who cares for and loves a child even though he or she is not the child's birth parent. Point out that patron saints are saints who are special protectors for certain people, countries, churches, or occupations.

Have your child study the picture of the Last Supper on page 157. Invite your child to suggest how Jesus' friends are feeling. (sad) Explain that Jesus' words to his friends at the Last Supper brought them comfort in their sadness. Stress that we can also find comfort from God the Father and from Jesus when we are sad about a loved one who has died.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 158–159

Remind your child that Jesus told his followers that when it was time, he would take them home with him to his Father's house. Ask him or her to imagine what God's house, or heaven, might be like. Encourage him or her to describe it.

Read aloud **Death Is Not the End** on page 158. Ask: How does it help us to know that death is not the end? (Help the children understand that when we die, we have new life with God.)

Read **Catholics Believe**. Remind your child that those who love God and follow the teachings of Jesus know that death ends their life on earth but begins their new life in heaven with God.

Read the **Scripture Signpost** verse. Remind your child that we will share a place in heaven with Jesus. Tell your child that the author of the Letter to the Ephesians explained what is expected of people who want everlasting life with God after death. Ephesians 2:6 stresses that everlasting life is God's gift to us, which is given to us through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus.

Draw your child's attention to the picture of a Catholic funeral. Point out the signs of Baptism that are used in the funeral liturgy (Easter candle, white cloth). Explain that during the funeral Mass, the casket is sprinkled with holy water.

Then read aloud **Landmark**. Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of *funeral*.

Draw attention to the photograph of the two girls on page 159. Ask: How is the older child bringing happiness to the younger child? (by playing with her, by giving her attention)

Read the caption and discuss the question. Point out to your child that he or she will learn more about true happiness as you study this part of the lesson.

Read aloud **Heavenly Happiness**. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the term *Beatitudes*.

Read aloud the list of actions that bring true happiness. Ask: When have you felt truly happy because you practiced one of these actions? (Answers will vary. Lead your child to the understanding that only by following these actions will we be truly happy.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 160

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 **Faith Journal** pages 51–52.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 161

Ask your child to recall how the Church is like a family. (Our families are made up of members who love and care for each other and work for the good of the family. The Church is also made up of members who love and care for each other.)

Call attention to the background picture of the cemetery on page 161, and have the children point out the signs of life, such as the trees, the flowers, and the grass. Note the picture of the angels in the circle. Point out that the picture shows one artist's idea of what heaven is like.

Read aloud **Bring Them Home**. Remind your child that our Church family is made up of members who love and care for each other. When members of our faith community die, we remember them with our prayers.

Close the session with prayer. Read the closing **Prayer**. Finally, end the prayer experience by singing the following verse to the tune of "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain."

We will gather in God's kingdom one fine day,
We will gather in God's kingdom one fine day,
We will gather in God's kingdom,
We will gather in God's kingdom,
We will gather in God's kingdom one fine day,

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 77–79.