

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 1 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 27 THE NEW CREATION

#### Objectives

- Describe a whole new world.
- Explore God's new creation.
- Identify actions that show belief in God's new creation.

#### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), page 162

Ask your child if he or she has ever seen photographs of planet Earth taken from outer space. If possible, show your child some pictures from magazines, newspapers, science books, or the Internet. Ask: What kind of place does the earth look like from outer space? (Possible answers: peaceful, kind, friendly, and beautiful.)

Explain to your child that God has a plan for his kingdom. His kingdom is filled with happiness, goodness, and peace. Invite your child to join you in praying the opening **Prayer** on page 162.

Note the chapter title (**The New Creation**), and read the text, pausing to have your child answer each question. As your child to name problems to be solved, encourage him or her to suggest possible solutions.

Point out the child's drawing of planet Earth. Ask: How is our planet Earth a sign of God's love for us? (Answers will vary but could include: We have people who love us, fruits and vegetables to eat, animals to enjoy and love, and the beautiful wonders of creations, such as the oceans, mountains, and plants.)

#### **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 163–165

Remind your child that signs of God's kingdom are present here on earth. Ask: When have you seen signs of God's kingdom in your world? (Possible answers: when I feel loved, when people are at peace with one another, when those in need are cared for.)

Invite your child to read the sign that the girl in the picture on page 163 is holding. Explain to your child that the girl is attending a peace rally at which people have gathered to support world peace.

Read the caption. Ask: What are some peaceful places you can go to in your life? (Possible answers: my home, my school, my neighborhood, my parish community.)

Read aloud **God's New World**. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to clarify the meanings of the highlighted terms.

Read **Catholics Believe**. Remind your child that although we are part of God's kingdom now, the kingdom of God will be even greater when Jesus comes again at the end of time. Then we will love forever in the fullness of the new creation.

As you read **Scripture Story: The Workers** on page 164, explain to your child that a *vineyard* is a place where grapes are grown. Ask: Why did one of the workers complain that the pay was unfair? (Everyone received the same amount of pay for the day, no matter how many hours the person had worked.)

Discuss the bulleted question with your child. (This parable is not easy to understand, even for adults, because it goes beyond our limited notions of fairness and equality. Help your child see that the message is about God's grace, his free and loving gift of himself. Like the landowner, God gives us not what we earn but what God chooses to give out of his unending generosity. God's kingdom is about the generosity that includes but also goes beyond justice.)

Invite your child to describe what he or she sees in the Scripture art on this page. Ask: How can you tell by the faces of the workers how they feel about what they are being paid? (Some workers look surprised and happy; another looks angry, unhappy, and confused.)

Review with the children the meaning of the word *justice*. (Justice is more than just being fair. It is also being generous to others and treating them with respect.)

Read aloud the opening sentence to **Stepping Stones: Working for God's Kingdom** on page 165. Point out to your child that there are three things we can do for God's kingdom: we can work for justice, for love, and for peace. As you read aloud, encourage the children to give examples of each action.

Draw attention to the pictures on the page. Ask: How are the girls in the picture on the right working for God's kingdom? (Possible answers: being generous by sharing, getting to know and understand each other.)

Read aloud the section *For justice*. Help your child list ways he or she can be generous, make sure others' needs are filled, and treat others as God treats them. Explain that justice means more than just being fair. It also includes being generous to others and treating them with respect.

Read the next two sections, and discuss practical ways in which your child can live out each suggestion.

Ask your child what he or she thinks will happen when he or she works for justice, love, and peace. Then read aloud **Where Will This Lead Me?** to confirm the responses.

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 166

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.

At this point in the lesson you may wish to have your child work through the **Unit 7 Review** on pages 168–169.

Complete **Faith Journal** pages 53–54.

### **Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 167

Ask your child to name some of the ways in which God shows his love for us. (Possible answers: God gave us Jesus to save us from our sins; he gave us laws to live by; he wants us to be part of his kingdom forever.)

Read aloud **Glorious Kingdom, page 167**. Review the definition of a litany; **it is a prayer that includes a response prayed by everyone. Point out that All designates the response everyone prays together.**

As you draw attention to the background image, explain to the children that the stained-glass picture shows an artist's view of what the glorious kingdom may be like.

Point out the picture of the children on this page. Ask: How are they enjoying God's kingdom now? (Possible answers: They are having fun; they are acting in loving and peaceful ways.)

Pray aloud the closing **Prayer** as your child follows along in his or her text. Explain that this litany is a litany of praise for God's kingdom that will never end. End the prayer experience by singing together a joyful song about God's kingdom.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 80–82.