

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 28

WE CELEBRATE EASTER: SIGNS OF JOY

Objectives

- Connect the celebration of Easter to Jesus' resurrection.
- Explore how Easter customs are connected to Jesus' resurrection.
- Affirm a sign of Easter joy.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 170

Talk with your child about some of the Easter customs your family enjoys each year. Pray the opening **Prayer** on page 170. Remind your child that Christians celebrate Easter because on that day we remember that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead so that we could have new life. Ask your child to read the chapter title: **Signs of Joy**.

Read aloud the text on this page. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the word *resurrection*. Ask: What is the real meaning of Easter? (Possible answers: Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection; it is a day to give thanks to God and to show joy.)

As you draw your child's attention to the background picture of the decorated Easter eggs, explain that in this lesson he or she will learn how eggs are signs of new life.

Have your child point to the picture of Easter Sunday Mass as you read aloud the caption. Ask: With whom will you celebrate Easter Sunday Mass this year?

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 171

Read aloud **Easter Customs** on page 171 and explain to your child that a *custom* is an action that has been done for a long time. Point out that many families have customs they follow during special holidays. Some examples of seasonal customs are decorating Christmas trees, sending Valentines, and carving pumpkins.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Explain that we take part in these many Easter customs as a sign to others that we believe Jesus is risen from the dead and that we have new life with God forever.

Draw your child's attention to the picture of the blessing of the food baskets. Explain that the blessing of a basket of Easter foods is a Polish custom that many people observe.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 172

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 55–56 in your **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 173

Read aloud the heading **Amen! Alleluia!** on page 173. Remind your child that the word *amen* is a Hebrew word that means “so be it,” and that the Hebrew word *alleluia* means “praise God.”

Read the introductory paragraph. Then practice the response several times with your child.

Ask your child to read aloud the word in the foreground picture. Have him or her explain what the word *alleluia* means. (praise God) Ask: Why do we praise God the Father at Easter? (because he raised Jesus from the dead to new life)

When your child is ready for prayer, begin the closing **Prayer**. Help your child respond with *Amen! Alleluia! Amen!* after each section of the prayer. End the prayer experience by singing or listening to a recording of a favorite Easter hymn.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 83–85.