

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 3

WE CARE

Objectives

- Associate everyday responsibilities with caring for God's creation.
- Relate caring for plants and animals to caring for all of creation.
- Develop the concept of responsibility.
- Associate caring for creation with love for God.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 18

Talk with your child about the chores for which he or she and the other children in your family are responsible. Have him or her explain why it is important to the entire family that everyone does the assigned chores.

Invite your child to pray the opening **Prayer** with you by repeating each sentence after you.

Before reading the story on this page, tell your child that this is a story about a boy who takes care of his new fish. Ask: How do you think the boy will care for his fish? (Accept all reasonable answers.)

Read the story aloud. Have your child compare his or her predictions to the ways Tim cares for his fish. (feeds them, changes the water) Ask the bulleted question, and invite your child to respond.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 19–21

Read aloud **Caring for God's Gifts**, page 19. Explain that everything in the world is a gift to us from God, even the earth itself. Ask: How do you usually show your thankfulness for a gift that you receive? (Possible answers: by taking good care of it; by using it carefully; by sharing it with others.)

Ask: Why do you think God asks us to care for the world and its plants and animals? (God wants his world to stay beautiful and his plants and animals to stay healthy.)

Point out the picture on page 19 and read the caption. Ask: How is the girl showing love for God? (She is caring for a part of God's world, a plant.)

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Ask your child to recall Tim’s promise to his father. (to take care of the new fish) Introduce the word *responsibility* to your child. Explain that when we accept responsibility, we are freely choosing to accept the care of someone or something. We show that we are thankful for God’s gifts by being responsible for the world.

Show your child a Bible, if one is available. Explain that the story you are about to read is the very first story in the Bible, God’s holy book.

Read aloud the **Scripture Story** on page 20, **Take Care of My World**. Ask: Why do you think God made people? (so they could help take care of the world) What did God tell the people to do? (love each other, have children, and take care of the world) Explain that humans are the only creatures made in God’s image and given the responsibility to care for the earth.

Have your child look at the illustration on this page. Ask: What could happen if we don’t take care of God’s gifts properly? (The world would be less beautiful. Plants and animals could die. We could get sick or die.)

Call your child’s attention to the illustration of Saint Albert the Great. Read the **Saints Walk with Us** feature and the caption. Ask: Why do you think “the bishop of the boots” is a good name for Saint Albert? (He walked for miles to study nature.)

Read aloud **Good Caretakers** on page 21. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to help you explain the meaning of the word *creation*.

Point out the **Stepping Stones** feature and the pictures that accompany it. Read through the steps of being a good caretaker, pausing to discuss each picture and ask these questions. How does asking questions help the world? (The answers to our questions help us know how to care for our world.) How are the two children in the second picture being careful with their world? (by making sure that their trash is put into a trash can and not thrown on the floor to create litter) How are the mother and daughter conserving? (They are recycling bottles and cans to be reused.) Point out that we also conserve by protecting the gifts God gave us and sharing things.

Read aloud the sentence under **Where Will This Lead Me?** Ask your child to tell you how this statement is true. (When we care for the gifts God gives us, we show love for God.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 22

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share, Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

Read aloud **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 5–6.

You may wish to review the material taught in Unit One by having your child work through the **Unit 1 Review** on pages 24–25.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Celebration), page 23

Read aloud **Imagine That!** on page 23. Point out to your child that imagination helps us explore new ideas.

Have your son or daughter point to the pictures on this page. Ask: How are the earth, the river, and the panda alike? (They are all part of God's gift of creation.)

Before beginning the prayer experience, darken the room, if possible. Ask your child to sit in a comfortable position, and close his or her eyes. Invite your child to pray the following imagination prayer with you as you pray it aloud.

Imagine you are floating in space, with stars all around you. In front of you is the biggest present you have ever seen. You fly all around the present, taking off the ribbons and wrapping paper. You are amazed because what you see inside the present is the earth, and it has been given to you. You see the green land and the blue water . . . you fly over the frozen North Pole . . . you fly down to South America to warm up, where the tall green trees of the rain forest hold colorful birds and playful monkeys. You feel God's love for you everywhere you go. You find your home, and the people who love you. You thank God for this wonderful world.

Now have your child echo this **Prayer** response after you, "We promise to take care of your world, dear God!"

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 8–10.