

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 5 A LOVING FATHER

Objectives

- Examine the ways adult family members show their love and care for children.
- Compare God's love to the love of a parent.
- Discover that God loves and cares for people always.
- Affirm God as a loving Father by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 30–31

Open the lesson by inviting your child to think about times when a family member showed that he or she cared about him or her.

Remind your child that God shows how much he cares for us every day and in many ways; note the chapter title: **A Loving Father**. Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 30 by inviting your child to repeat each sentence after you.

Read aloud the story on page 30. Then invite your child to name some ways your own family may have prepared for his or her coming into the family. (Possible answers: bought clothes, diapers, food, toys, and a crib; fixed up a room.)

Reread the words of Jenny's mother about how she cares for Jenny. Ask: Who cared for you when you were a baby; who cares for you now; who will always care for you? (Possible answers: parents, parents and other family members, God.)

Read the question under **Parents Help Children Grow** at the top of page 31 and invite your child to respond. (Accept all reasonable answers.)

Point out the pictures on these pages. Tell your child that each picture shows a way that parents or other adult family members care for children. Have your child point to each picture and explain how the child is being helped. (by helping the child learn to walk, by ice skating with the child, by walking the child to or from school, by bandaging the child's knee)

Use these questions to help your child talk about how these concepts apply to his or her life: What have your parents (or caregivers) taught you to do? Who else has helped you learn? What games and activities do you enjoy doing with your parents? How have your parents kept you safe and cared for you? (Accept all reasonable answers.)

Read **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Monica**. Ask: What did Saint Monica do to show that she cared about her son, Augustine? (prayed for him, taught him about Jesus) What have your parents or caregivers taught you about Jesus? (Answers will vary.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 32–33

Direct attention to the picture on page 32 and read the caption.

Read aloud the heading **God Cares for Us**. Emphasize that God uses each person to bring his love to others. Ask: Who are some people who have taught you about God’s love? (Possible answers: parents, grandparents, other family members, teachers, priests, other members of the faith community)

Read aloud the text. Emphasize that God’s love is like the love we receive from our parents or caregivers.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Stress that even though our parents and caregivers love us very much, God’s love is even greater. Tell your child to imagine a hug as big as the sky. That is how much God loves us.

As you read aloud the **Scripture Story: God Our Father** on page 33, point out that God provides for all creatures, such as birds and wildflowers. Ask: If God takes good care of birds and wildflowers, how do you think he will care for you? (We are special to God, so he will take very good care of us.)

Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to develop your child’s understanding of the word *heaven*. Ask: Do you think heaven will be more beautiful or less beautiful than this world? (more beautiful) Do you think you will be happier than you are on earth? Why? (Yes. We will be with God, and we will have everything we need. We will be perfectly happy.)

Ask your child to find the figure of Jesus in the Scripture art and point to him. Ask: How do you think the people felt when Jesus explained how much God loves them? (Answers should reflect the idea that knowing God loves us makes us feel happy, peaceful, and special.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 34

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 the **Faith Journal**, pages 9–10.

Step 4: Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 35

Remind your child that God is our Father in heaven. Talk with him or her about the care that fathers and other caregivers on earth show us. (They teach us, play with us, keep us safe, help us stay healthy, and love us.)

Read aloud the introductory paragraph of **The Lord's Prayer** on page 35. Refer to the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to help you explain the *Lord's Prayer*. Tell your child that the Lord's Prayer is the prayer that all followers of Jesus have in common because it is the prayer that Jesus himself gave us. Ask: Where have you heard people praying this prayer together? (Possible answers: at Mass, at other Church services, at home.)

Read aloud the **Prayer** while your child follows along by pointing to each word. Pause after the following words to explain their meanings: *hallowed* (holy), *kingdom* (God's world), *will* (what God wants), *trespasses* (actions that hurt others), *temptation* (wanting to do the wrong thing), and *evil* (bad things).

Close the lesson by praying aloud each line of the **Prayer** while your child repeats each line after you. End with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 14–16.