

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 1/ Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 7 THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### Objectives

- Affirm that the Holy Spirit is always with us.
- Discover that the Holy Trinity is three Persons in one God.
- Observe and practice making the Sign of the Cross.
- Express praise to the Holy Trinity through prayer.

#### Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 42–43

Invite your child to use his or her imagination to describe what wind feels like. (Possible answers: cool, warm, hot, cold, soft, tingling.) Point out that although we cannot see the wind, we can feel it. It is the same way with God's Spirit. We cannot see the Spirit of God's love, but we can experience it in our lives.

Read the chapter title on page 42 (**The Holy Spirit**), and pray aloud the opening **Prayer**. Invite your child to respond: Amen.

Read aloud the text on page 42. Ask: What does the wind do in this story? (carries the kite, tugs on the kite string, blows the trees, blows off Ricky's cap) What other things have you seen the wind do? (Answers will vary.)

Have your child identify the background picture as kites flying. Discuss the caption question. (Accept all reasonable answers, such as friendship, love, joy, and peace.)

Ask your child to point to the picture of the bird on page 43. Explain that it is a *dove*. Read aloud the caption under the picture of the dove. Then point out that signs are used to represent the Holy Spirit because no one can actually see the Holy Spirit. Signs such as a dove remind us of God's Spirit.

Read aloud the heading: **The Spirit Is with Us**. Explain that a spirit is something that cannot be seen or held but can be felt. It is something that is not physical like our bodies or tables or chairs. As you read the text aloud, remind your child that *holy* is a word that describes God, people who are like God, and things that are used in praising God. Have your child name some holy things. (Possible answers: holy water, an altar, a Bible, the Eucharist.)

Refer to the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to help clarify the meaning of the term *Holy Spirit*. Emphasize that the Holy Spirit is the way we experience God's love with us always, even though we cannot see or touch the Spirit. Ask: How do we know that the Holy Spirit is with us? (Guide your child to recognize that love, peace, and courage are all signs that the Holy Spirit is with us.)

Read aloud **Scripture Signpost**. Emphasize that God's Spirit and the Holy Spirit are two different names for the same thing: God's love in our lives.

## **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 44–45

Read aloud the text on page 44: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to help you clarify the meaning of the highlighted words.

Ask: What gift from God helps us believe in the Holy Trinity? (faith) How do you use God's gift of faith every day? (Possible answers: by praying, by believing what Jesus taught us, by following God's laws and Jesus' example.)

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Point out that humans can never fully understand the Holy Trinity, because it is a *mystery*, something that cannot be fully understood.

Have your child point to the picture on this page. Ask him or her describe what joins together the three people in this family. (happiness, love for each other, care for each other) Point out that the three Persons of the Trinity are joined in love, too. The Holy Spirit shares that love with each of us.

If time permits, have your child complete the **Activity** at the bottom of this page.

Draw attention to the girl in the pictures on page 45. Ask: When have you seen people pray this prayer and make this gesture? (Possible answers: at home, in church, in religious education classes.)

Read aloud the introductory paragraph of the **Stepping Stones: The Sign of the Cross**. Then help your child "walk through" each step of the Sign of the Cross. If you haven't already done so, take some time to practice this important Catholic prayer and gesture with your child. Tell him or her that this prayer reminds us of the Holy Trinity: three Persons in one God.

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 46

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 13–14.

At this point in the lesson you may wish to have your child work through the **Unit 2 Review** on pages 48–49.

### **Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 47

Point out the large stone cross in the background picture on page 47. Remind your child that all crosses are signs of Jesus.

Ask your child to point to the shamrock, or three-leaf clover, in the stained-glass window. Explain that the shamrock is a symbol of the Holy Trinity. Just as the shamrock has three leaves but is only one plant, the Trinity has three Persons in one God.

Read aloud the text, **Praise to the Trinity**. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the book to clarify the meaning of the word *glory*.

Explain that the Sign of the Cross is a short prayer in which we say that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Pray aloud the closing **Prayer**. Have your child pray each line after you. Close the prayer experience with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 20–22.