

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 8

WE CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS: FRIENDS OF GOD

Objectives

- Discover the role of patron saints.
- Explain the ways in which saints are part of the faith community.
- Affirm devotion to the saints through prayer.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 50

Invite your child to recall where he or she has seen pictures or statues of saints. (Possible answers: in church, at home, in books, on stained-glass windows.)

Remind your child that the saints are special friends of God; note the chapter title on page 50 (**Friends of God**). Then pray aloud the opening **Prayer**. Invite your child to respond: Amen.

Read aloud the story. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the book to clarify the meaning of the word *patron*. Ask: Which saint would you dress up as if you were in this parade of saints? (Answers will vary.)

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), page 51

Read aloud **The Saints Help Us**, page 51. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the book to clarify the meanings of the highlighted words.

Have your child look at the picture of the children dressed as saints. Point out that the children are dressed in costumes that look like the clothes saints long ago wore. The children are holding their parade of saints on the Feast of All Saints, which the Church celebrates on November 1. Tell your child that the evening before the Feast of All Saints, or All Saints' Day, is sometimes known as *All Hallows' Eve*. Explain that the word *hallow* means "saints." Ask: Do you know another name for All Hallows' Eve? (Halloween)

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Stress that the saints are close to us because they were also God's children who lived on earth. Ask: Why is it important to remember the saints? (Possible answers: They show us how to lead good lives; if we follow their example, we can be happy with God, as they are.)

Read the caption question for the picture of the children, and tell your child who his or her patron saint is if he or she doesn't know. Draw your child's attention to the picture of the apostles, and read that caption aloud. Remind your child that the dove at the top of the picture is a sign of the Holy Spirit.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 52

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 15–16.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 53

Draw your child's attention to the background picture of the lighted votive candles on page 53. Explain that people sometimes light this kind of candle when they pray to a particular saint. The lighted candle reminds people that God is with them in a special way when they pray.

Have your child look carefully at the picture of the saints. Ask your child to tell you who is seated in the center, holding the baby. (Mary) Point out the risen Jesus and the Holy Spirit as a dove are pictured above Mary. They are surrounded by angels and saints.

Read aloud the introductory paragraphs of **Saints of God, Hear Our Prayer**. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the book to clarify the meaning of the word *litany*. Remind your child that the saints take our prayers to God. Emphasize that only God can answer our prayers.

Close the lesson by praying with your child a litany to the saints. If possible, place pictures or statues of saints on a table near you. Before beginning, ask: Who are some saints we can include in our litany? (Possible answers: your family's patron saints, your parish's patron saint, and our country's patron saint, Mary.)

Begin the litany by saying aloud: Saint _____, pray for us! With each saint's name, repeat this formula, inviting your child to respond with you: pray for us! End the **Prayer** experience by singing with your child "When the Saints Go Marchin' In."

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 23–25.