

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 9 JESUS AND HIS FAMILY

Objectives

- Observe the growth and changes of childhood.
- Explore the humanity of Jesus.
- Acknowledge that everyone is part of Jesus' family.
- Associate prayers used today with Jesus' prayers.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 54

Invite your child to talk about how he or she has changed since babyhood.

Then pray aloud the opening **Prayer**. Ask: Who was once a human child just like you? (Jesus) Refer to the chapter title: **Jesus and His Family**.

Before you read the story on this page, explain that the word *Nana* is another name for a grandmother. Then read the story.

Point out that Grant and his grandmother are sharing a happy time together remembering all the good things that have happened in their family. Explain that they are looking at a family album filled with photographs. Ask: Why is it fun to look at pictures of our families and ourselves? (They show how they and we have changed; they remind us of fun times in our past.) Invite your child to tell a story of something he or she remembers from earlier years.

Take some time to talk through the **Activity**.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 55–57

Read aloud the caption on page 55. Be sure your child understands that a *stable* is a shelter for animals, such as cows, horses, sheep, and donkeys.

Ask your child to point to Mary holding Baby Jesus. Explain that the three visitors are the kings who came to see Baby Jesus and bring him gifts.

Read aloud **The Son of Mary**. Point out that Jesus' birth in a stable shows us that he did not come to earth to be a king but to teach us how to follow God in our everyday lives. Ask: Why was Jesus born in a stable? (because his parents were traveling and there was no other place for them to stay) Why was Jesus born? (to show us the way to God and how to live a good life)

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Point out that this is a hard thing to understand. God gives us the gift of faith to help us believe that Jesus could be both God and human at the same time. Jesus is more than just a messenger for God. Jesus is God.

Jesus is also human like us. Invite your child to think of things that Jesus might have enjoyed doing when he was your child's age. (Possible answers: play with friends, learn new things, be with family members, pray to God.)

Turn to page 56, and read aloud **Jesus Grew Up**. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the book to help explain the highlighted words. Ask: Why is it important to remember that Jesus, the Son of God, grew up as a human child? (Because Jesus was human as we are, he knows what it is like to be our age, to be a child, to have feelings, and so on.)

Read aloud the **Scripture Signpost**. Invite your child to name times when God and other people are pleased with him or her. (Possible answers: when we do well in school, when we take good care of ourselves, when we are kind to others, when we follow God's word.)

Ask: Who are some people in your family whom you like to remember? (Possible answers: parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins.)

Read aloud the heading (**The Family of Jesus**) and the introductory sentence on page 57. Explain that Jesus' family had many more members, but that the people on this page are some of the best known in his family.

Have your child point to each picture as you read aloud the corresponding caption. Remind your child that he or she is a part of Jesus' family, too.

Then encourage your child to draw his or her picture in the **Activity** box provided.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 58

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 17–18.

Step 4: Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 59

Read aloud the introductory paragraphs on page 59 under the heading **Praying with Jesus**. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the book to help clarify the meaning of the word *psalms*.

Point out the picture of the Holy Family and ask: What are Jesus and Joseph doing? (using a saw to make something) Explain that Joseph was a carpenter. He made things such as doors, tables, benches, and ladders. Joseph probably taught Jesus how to use carpenters' tools to make furniture from wood.

Draw attention to the boy playing the drums. Ask: How can a person pray with a drum? (Drums can make music, and music is one way of praising God. When we praise God, we are praying.)

Tell your child that the closing **Prayer** today will be two prayers that Jesus prayed when he was a child. Invite your child to use a rhythm instrument while you pray aloud the prayers. End the prayer celebration by praying together the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 26–28.