

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 11 JESUS FORGIVES US

Objectives

- Connect the concept of forgiveness to kindness and love.
- Realize that a person must take action in order to gain forgiveness.
- Compare God's mercy to the mercy of a loving parent.
- Pray a prayer of forgiveness.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 66

Ask your child to describe how it feels when someone forgives us for doing something wrong (without describing the situation).

Read the chapter title on page 66 (*Jesus Forgives Us*), and have your child think about Jesus' love for us when he forgives our sins. Then pray together the opening **Prayer**.

Read aloud or summarize the text on this page. Call attention to the photograph. Invite your child to respond to the questions in the caption. (Steven stole Emily's birthday money. He will pay her back and do her chores for a week.) Then ask: Why do you think Steven's father and sister forgave him? (They were kind people who loved Steven.)

Reread the words Steven used to ask forgiveness. What other words can we use to ask forgiveness? (Possible answers: Please forgive me; I'm sorry I hurt you; What can I do to make things better?)

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 67–69

Tell your child that the happy scene in the picture on the top of page 67 takes place after Steven has been forgiven. Be sure your child understands that in order to be forgiven we must take some kind of action. What actions did Steven take so that he would be forgiven? (He said he was sorry. He told what he would do to make up for what he did.)

As you read aloud or summarize the text on **Forgiveness**, refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the book to clarify the term *mercy*. Further explain to your child that mercy is a form of Christian charity. True mercy requires that one not only feel sympathy for a person who is suffering but also a desire to ease that person's suffering. Acts of mercy include providing food, clothing, and shelter to those in need; comforting the sick or sorrowful; and forgiving those who have injured us.

Read **Catholics Believe** and help your child understand that God is always loving and willing to forgive. This is one way we can be like God.

Then ask: Why do you think God wants us to show that we are sorry and make up for what we have done? (God knows that we hurt ourselves when we hurt others and that we will not feel better until we ask forgiveness and take the right action.) If you have time, follow up with the **Activity** on page 67.

Read aloud or summarize **Signs of Mercy**, page 68. Tell your child that the word *parable* comes from the Greek word *parabole*, which means “a casting alongside of,” as in a comparison. Parables are stories drawn from everyday life or nature that are used to make a religious point. Jesus often used parables to help his followers understand the kingdom of God.

What did Jesus do to help people understand that God is merciful and forgiving? (He helped those who were sick and those whose minds were troubled. He forgave sins and told stories about God's mercy and forgiveness.)

As you read the **Scripture Story: The Forgiving Father**, pages 68–69, call your child's attention to the pictures and use these to help your child follow along with the story. After reading the first paragraph, encourage your child to speculate on what might happen to the younger son. Then continue reading. After you finish ask: In what ways is the father in this story merciful? (He shows forgiveness and love to his son.)

Have your child answer the bulleted question at the bottom of page 69. (People learned that God is like a loving father who forgives his children, shows them mercy and always provides love and comfort, no matter what his children do.)

Read the **Scripture Signpost** on page 69, and have your child respond to the question by doing the **Activity** on page 68.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 70

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.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete the **Unit 3 Review** on pages 72–73.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 21–22.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 71

Call attention to the picture of the stained glass window on page 71. How is Jesus' mercy shown in this work of art? (Jesus is shown healing a sick person.) How are the people in the background picture asking for mercy? (The people are praying for forgiveness during a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.) What might the picture of the two girls be showing? (One girl may be forgiving the other.)

Read aloud or summarize **A Prayer for God's Mercy**. Be sure your child understands that Jesus showed mercy to people who were sick and to those who had sinned.

Use the **Prayer** to bring the chapter to a close. Point out that appropriate times to pray this prayer include when we hurt another person, when we get angry, when we are selfish, and when we are slow to forgive others. Suggest that your child change the word *we* to the word *I* and use the prayer whenever he or she feels the need to ask God for mercy and forgiveness.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 32–34.