

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 16

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS: JESUS IS BORN

Objectives

- Develop an understanding of why Christmas is a special time.
- Explore the account of Jesus' birth from the Gospel of Luke.
- Connect the scriptural account of Jesus' birth to the celebration of Christmas today.
- Associate the gift of Jesus with peace on earth.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 98

Ask your child to tell you about his or her most exciting celebration experience. Tell your child that the Church enjoys a very special celebration on Christmas—the celebration of Jesus' birth. Read the chapter title on page 98: **We Celebrate Christmas: Jesus Is Born.**

Pray the opening **Prayer** aloud together.

Read the opening text questions and discuss the answers with your child. Read the remainder of the text on page 98. Use the **Language of Faith** to explain more fully the meaning of the word *nativity*.

Invite your child to describe the nativity scene in the photograph. Ask: Why do you think Christians use a nativity scene at Christmas? (Possible answer: We want to picture what the first Christmas was like.)

Read the **Activity** instructions and discuss a family plan with your child.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 99

Read or summarize the **Scripture Story: Peace on Earth** on page 99. This infancy narrative from Luke focuses on Jesus' coming into this world as the Savior of all people. By proclaiming the birth of Jesus first to lowly shepherds, Luke is telling us that Jesus has come into the world to turn the world's values upside down. Those who are lowly, humble, poor, or living on the fringes of society are the people who are chosen first to hear the good news.

Read **Catholics Believe**. Discuss: Why do you think the Son of God was born in a simple stable instead of in a grand and comfortable place? (Possible answers: God wanted us to know that his love is more important than money or power; those who are poor and unknown are welcome in the kingdom of God.)

Help your child complete the **Activity**. If possible enlist the aid of other family members and act out an interview with your child acting as one of the shepherds.

Discuss the bulleted questions on page 99.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 100

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 **Faith Journal**, pages 31–32.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 101

Draw your child's attention to the title **Peace on Earth** on page 101. Tell him or her that Jesus came to earth to bring the gift of peace to people throughout the world. Emphasize that Jesus brings us peace so that we can, in turn, share it with others. Ask: How can you share peace with others? (Possible answers: help someone in need, comfort someone who is sad, be a friend to someone who needs me.)

Look at the pictures. How does each picture show us what Christmas is about? (Possible answers: The crèche reminds us of Jesus' birth in a stable in Bethlehem; the family picture shows us the gifts of togetherness, love, peace, thankfulness, and generosity that families share with each other.)

Close the lesson with prayer. Sit opposite your child and hold hands. Begin by singing a familiar Christmas carol, such as "Silent Night." Then pray the **Prayer** at the bottom of page 101 and close with another Christmas carol.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 47–49.