

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 17

JESUS INVITES US TO LOVE

Objectives

- Evaluate actions in relation to the Golden Rule.
- Explore the importance of rules and laws.
- Affirm the ways that God's rules and laws work in the lives of Christians.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 102

Invite your child to describe a television show or movie in which a person treated someone else in an unkind way. Ask: Did that person make up for his or her actions? How?

Read the chapter title on page 102: **Jesus Invites Us to Love**. With your child pray aloud the opening **Prayer** on that page.

Before reading the letter aloud, ask your child to listen closely for the good advice someone gives to Rebecca. Read the letter, and then ask: What was the good advice? (to treat Anna as Rebecca would want to be treated) Do you think Rebecca's dad is right?

Invite your child to pretend to be Beth writing a return letter to Rebecca. Ask: What would you say in your letter? (Possible answers: Rebecca's dad is right; Rebecca should treat Anna in a kind and loving way and forgive her for her actions.)

Have your child look at the photo on page 102; ask: How can you tell that the two girls in the photograph are friends? (They are walking close together. One girl has her arm around the other girl's shoulder.)

Read aloud the **Activity** on page 102. Give your child ample time to plan his or her picture. Provide crayons and drawing paper. When the picture is complete, ask your child to explain his or her drawing.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 103–105

Read aloud the first two paragraphs and **Catholics Believe** on page 103. Access your child’s prior knowledge by asking what he or she thinks the Golden Rule is. (Accept all reasonable responses.)

Read the first paragraph of **We Live by Laws** and have your child answer the question. (Possible answers: “Do not litter”; “Don’t trespass on people’s property.”)

Read the last paragraph on page 103. Refer to the **Language of Faith** at the back of the textbook to explain further the highlighted term. The Ten Commandments tell us how we must act toward God and our neighbors as humans created in the image and likeness of God. The first three commandments address the love of God. The remaining seven commandments tell us how we should act toward ourselves and others. (Check page 178 for the complete text of the commandments.)

Explain to your child that God gives us these special laws not because he wants to make our lives harder but because he wants us to be happy and live in peace with one another.

Read or summarize **The Great Commandment** on pages 104 and 105. Refer to the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook for further explanation of the highlighted terms. Be sure your child understands that the *Great Commandment* sums up the Ten Commandments. If we follow the Great Commandment, we will also follow the Ten Commandments. Help your child make a personal connection to God’s rules and laws by asking: How can we use the Great Commandment in our own lives every day? (Possible answers: pray to God and honor him; use the Golden Rule; show people love and help them.)

Explain to your child that Jesus asks his followers to do more than just keep the rules and laws. If we are to be his followers and know real happiness, then we must live the *Beatitudes* as well. The Beatitudes help us love as Jesus loves. Ask: How can the Beatitudes help us be happy? (Possible answers: God is love; when we depend on him, we are happy. When we show mercy, make peace, and do what is right, we feel good and create loving kindness in the world.)

Direct your child’s attention to the picture and caption at the bottom of page 104 and the picture of the dove carrying the olive branch. Explain that the dove and the olive branch are symbols for peace. Read the caption aloud. Ask: Which Beatitude does the picture of the dove and the picture of forgiveness show? (Blessed are the peacemakers.)

Read **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Maximilian Kolbe** on page 104 and discuss what he did to show his love for others. (He gave up his life to save another prisoner.)

Read aloud the **Scripture Story: Love One Another** on page 105. Ask: What do you think John means when he says that when we love one another we can see God living in us? (John means that because God is love, God lives in us when we love others.) Why is it important to show our love? (By showing our love for others, we show God's love for us and for others.)

Invite your child to look carefully at the pictures on this page. Have your child answer the caption question. (The children on the left are sharing their toys and playing peacefully; the children in the picture on the right are collecting and organizing food for those who are hungry.)

Read aloud the statement in **Our Moral Guide** and point out to your child that this statement is a reflection of God's Great Commandment. Ask your child to respond to the question.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 106

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 33–34.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 107

Read aloud **Praising God's Law** on page 107. Then invite your child to look closely at the photographs. Be sure he or she recognizes the large tablets as a symbol for the Ten Commandments. How are the children showing their love for God? (They are praising and thanking God by praying together.)

Invite your child to prepare for prayer by sitting with their hands extended. Point to the picture of the children praying. Tell your child that when people open their hands in prayer, they are telling God that they are ready to listen to his message for them. When your child is ready, pray the **Prayer** aloud, one phrase at a time. Invite your child to repeat each line after you. Encourage your child to add his or her own prayers of praise and thanks.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 50–52.