

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 2 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 21 THE CHURCH WELCOMES US

#### Objectives

- List ways to make someone feel welcome in a new situation.
- Identify the Sacraments of Initiation.
- Explore the Sacrament of Baptism and its signs.

#### Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 126

Invite your child to recall stories he or she has read in which a child attends a new school or moves into a new neighborhood. (If your family has moved recently reflect on that experience with your child.) Discuss how others welcomed the child and made him or her feel at home.

Explain to your child that the Church welcomes new members through the Sacrament of Baptism. Note the chapter title on page 126: **The Church Welcomes Us**. Then pray together the opening **Prayer**.

Have your child read the story about Pam's first day at the new school. Have him or her imagine what it would be like to be in Pam's place. Have your child locate Pam in the picture. Invite him or her to read aloud the poster the class made to welcome her.

Read aloud the **Activity** and brainstorm with your child about the ways he or she could make a new child feel welcome in school.

#### Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 127–129

Read or summarize **The Sacraments of Welcome** on page 127. Turn to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted words.

Read **Catholics Believe** on page 127. Explain to your child that through the Sacraments of Initiation, we share in God's very life, called *grace*.

Draw your child's attention to the picture. Point out that the children in the picture are about to celebrate their First Communion. They are ready to grow closer to Jesus by sharing in the Eucharist.

Explain that initiation usually includes a ceremony a person must go through to become a member of a group. Ask the caption questions: Which Sacrament of Initiation have you celebrated? (Baptism) Which Sacrament of Initiation do we celebrate throughout our lives? (Eucharist)

Read aloud **Members of All Ages** on page 128. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted words.

Read aloud **Our Moral Guide** and explain to your child that a young child's faith is not fully developed when he or she is baptized. Because the child's faith is not fully developed, the community of the Church must help that child grow in a life of grace. Discuss the question with your child. (Possible answers include reading you a Bible story, explaining what is happening during Mass on Sunday, and speaking about their life of faith.)

Draw your child's attention to the picture of the babies being baptized. Help your child notice that the baby in the foreground is surrounded by adults. Explain that two of the adults are probably the child's parents and the others are probably the godparents.

If possible locate the pictures of your child's Baptism and discuss that special day with him or her. Talk about your child's godparents and the ways in which they nurture the gift of faith in your child. Then read the **Activity** on page 128 and help your child complete this task.

Invite your child to think about the signs of spring in many parts of the country. (birds returning, flowers blooming, warmer weather, and so on) Then tell your child that the sacraments, too, have signs that tell us Jesus is with us in a special way.

Read the introductory paragraphs of **Water and Spirit** on page 129. Begin listing on a piece of paper the signs of Baptism, starting with *words*.

Invite your child to read the sections of the chart on **The Sights of Baptism**. As your child reads aloud, continue listing the signs of Baptism. If possible, display each of the objects used in Baptism on a table for your child to handle. Ask: *Why do you think Jesus is called the Anointed One?* (He was God's chosen one, the Messiah.) *Why is Jesus also called the Light of the World?* (He lights our way and guides us to God's love.)

As your child reads the chart, use the pictures to support the ideas in the text and to help the children visualize the Sacrament of Baptism. Invite him or her to describe each picture. Ask: *Why do you think the Church uses natural things to celebrate the sacraments?* (Answers might include the idea that the Church wants to connect our everyday lives with the things of God; everything in creation tells something of God.)

**Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 130

Review the material taught in this lesson by completing the sections: **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**.

Read and discuss **We Live Our Faith: At Home** and **In the Parish**. Try to follow through on these suggestions.

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

Complete pages 41–42 in your **Faith Journal**.

**Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 131

Remind your child that babies who are baptized cannot make promises to grow in faith, so others must promise to help them live and grow in faith. Ask: Who makes promises for babies when they are baptized? (parents, godparents)

As you read the opening paragraphs of **We Promise, Lord!** on page 131, use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help define the word *vows*.

Have your child study the picture carefully. Ask: What sign of Baptism do you see in the picture? (water)

Use the **Prayer** in the text to help your child renew his or her baptismal promises. If possible place a bowl of holy water on your table. After you have prayed, invite your child to dip his or her right hand into the bowl and make the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 62–64.