

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 22 JESUS IS WITH US

Objectives

- Examine the bond that is formed when people share meals together.
- Explore how Eucharist brings us closer to Jesus and to others.
- Learn the steps to follow when receiving Holy Communion.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 132

Invite your child to imagine that he or she is fixing lunch for their closest friends. Discuss how he or she would make this meal.

Tell your child that by sharing a special meal together, we can grow closer to people. Read the chapter title, **Jesus Is with Us**. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 132.

Continue the story about Pam, begun in the last chapter, by reading the text on page 132. Talk with your child about times when sharing a meal with friends or family members was a special event for them. Ask: How did Pam's new classmates make her first lunchtime at a new school special? (Maria invited Pam to eat with her and other classmates; they told stories; they laughed together.)

Draw your child's attention to the picture. Read the caption questions and help your child complete the **Activity**.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 133–135

Remind your child that Jesus shared a meal with his friends and followers on the night before he died. Ask your child what that special meal is called. (the Last Supper) Draw your child's attention to the picture of the Last Supper on page 133 and have him or her find Jesus in the picture.

Invite your child to compare this meal with the picture of the meal on the previous page. Ask: What are the similarities? (table, people gathered, food)

Prepare your child for the **Scripture Story** by reading aloud **We Share the Holy Meal**. Have your child close his or her eyes and imagine that they are at the table with Jesus as you read aloud **The Last Supper**. Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help define the highlighted word.

Read the bulleted question. Ask your child to respond. (Meals help us celebrate, remember, and grow closer to one another.)

Read **Catholics Believe**. Point out the connection between this statement and Jesus' words at the Last Supper. Explain that when the priest consecrates the bread and wine at Mass, they become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Read together **Body and Blood** on page 134. Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help define the highlighted words.

Explain to your child that we do not completely understand how the bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood, but through the gift of faith we believe that it is true. Our faith helps us believe what we do not completely understand.

Read **Our Moral Guide**. Use the questions to focus on the idea of sharing. (Answers might include: We imitate Jesus when we share with others and do what Jesus asked.)

Provide drawing materials for your child to do the **Activity**. Post the drawing in a prominent place.

Ask your child to think about times when he or she has watched members of the faith community receive Holy Communion. Ask your child to describe what he or she saw.

Read the first sentence on page 135 under **Stepping Stones: Receiving Holy Communion**. Explain that this sentence means that we understand how privileged we are to receive Jesus in the Eucharist and that we want to show him respect by how we receive Communion.

Read and practice the steps for receiving Communion with your child. If possible involve other family members in a role-play in which you are the Eucharistic minister and they are the members of the assembly coming to Communion.

If your child asks why the Eucharistic Bread looks and tastes different from the bread they are used to, explain that the bread used for Communion is unleavened, or made without the yeast that makes the bread rise. We use unleavened bread because it is the kind of bread used at a Passover meal. Jesus and his friends were Jews, and the Last Supper was their Passover celebration. Remind your child of other kinds of unleavened bread they may be familiar with, such as tortillas, pita bread, and matzo.

Read aloud **Where Will This Lead Me?** to your child.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 136

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 43–44 in your **Faith Journal.**

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 137

Ask your child to recall the last step he or she takes when they receive Holy Communion. (We return to our seats and pray a thank-you prayer to Jesus.) Point out the photograph of the priest and children joining hands and praying the Lord's Prayer during Mass on page 137. If inviting children to approach the altar is not a custom in your parish or at class Masses, you may need to explain what is happening. Point out the chalice and paten on the altar.

Draw attention to the bottom photograph. Ask: What signs of Holy Communion do you see? (wheat, grapes, perhaps bread)

Read **Thank You, Jesus!** Remind your child that the celebration of the Eucharist includes not just the words and rituals of the Mass itself, but also the full and active participation of the members of the faith community who are present.

Prepare for the closing **Prayer** by joining hands with your child and inviting him or her to think about reasons they have for being thankful. Then take turns completing the statement: Thank you, Jesus, for being with us when we. . . Repeat this as often as you like. When you have each expressed your prayers of gratitude, pray together the Lord's Prayer. End with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 65–67.