

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 24

WE CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK: GOOD FRIDAY

Objectives

- Examine the significance of Holy Week and Good Friday.
- Realize the great sacrifice Jesus made when he gave his life for us on the cross.
- Associate the cross and the sacrifice of Jesus with joy and glory.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 146

Show your child a cross or a crucifix. Ask your child where he or she has seen the cross displayed. Then ask him or her to remember that Jesus died on the cross for us as you pray together the opening **Prayer**.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph on page 146 on **Good Friday**. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for further clarification of the highlighted terms.

Before you read aloud the **Scripture Story: The Road to Calvary**, share the following background information with your child. The Gospel of Mark is the shortest and simplest of all the Gospels. It is probably also the oldest written Gospel. The author devotes close to one half of the entire Gospel to the final days of Jesus, describing the events in great detail.

Explain that the hill called *Calvary*, where Jesus died, was located outside the city of Jerusalem. The name *Calvary* was a Roman translation of the name *Golgotha*, which meant “place of the skull.” It was a place where many people died.

Draw your child’s attention to the picture of Jesus carrying the cross to Calvary. Point out Jesus’ mother, Mary, and his follower John.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 147

Ask your child to summarize what has happened so far in the Scripture Story. (Jesus shared the Last Supper with his friends. Then he was arrested. Soldiers did cruel things to him and made him carry a heavy cross to Calvary. A man named Simon helped him.)

Continue reading the **Scripture Story: The Road to Calvary**. Be sure your child understands that *crucified* means “put to death on a cross.” Crucifixion was a common way for criminals to be put to death in Jesus’ time.

Read **Catholics Believe** on page 147. Remind your child that God showed his love for us by sending us his Son. Jesus died freely to save us and bring us back to God. Jesus’ death wins for us life forever with God.

Read aloud the **Landmark** picture caption. Explain that Christians retrace Jesus’ steps to Calvary every year on Good Friday as a way to remember and give thanks for the sacrifice he made for us. Share the following additional information with your child. The Way of the Cross is a special devotion that helps us recall Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection. There are fourteen traditional stations, or opportunities for meditative prayer, beginning with Jesus’ being condemned to death and ending with his being laid in the tomb. Some parishes also include a fifteenth station that shows Jesus’ resurrection. Although a person can follow the Way of the Cross privately at any time, public devotions are often held during the Lenten Season.

Ask: Where are the Stations of the Cross located in your parish church?

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 148

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 47–48 in your **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 149

Explain to your child that worship is an attitude of deep respect and reverence appropriate only for God. By worshiping Jesus we are recognizing that he is the Son of God.

Read aloud the title **Jesus, We Worship You!** on page 149. Explain that worship is an attitude of deep respect and reverence appropriate only for God. By worshiping Jesus we are recognizing he is the Son of God.

Read aloud the first paragraph and ask: How did Jesus bring joy to the world through his death on the cross? (Even though Jesus suffered greatly, he brought us joy because his sacrifice on the cross brought us closer to God.)

Point out that the top photograph shows one of the stations of the Way of the Cross. Ask: Can you tell which station the children are meditating on? (Jesus dies on the cross.) Why do you think the girl in the bottom photograph is kissing the feet of the image of Jesus on the crucifix? (She is showing that she worships Jesus and honors the cross.)

Display your family's cross or crucifix at the prayer table. In keeping with the solemn remembrance of Jesus' dying on the cross on Good Friday, begin the prayer experience with the Sign of the Cross. Pray a spontaneous prayer of thanks for Jesus' sacrifice, and invite your child to do the same. Then read aloud your child's special words to Jesus from **Continue the Journey**. Sing together the closing **Prayer**. End the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 71–73.