

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 25 GOD INVITES US

Objectives

- Compare the celebration of the Eucharist to a great banquet.
- Conclude that God wants us to joyfully accept his invitation to the Eucharist.
- Compare the celebration of the Eucharist to a preview of heaven.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 150

Help your child recall stories about wonderful feasts. Ask him or her to describe what the feasts in the stories were like. Point out that God's kingdom is more wonderful than any fairy-tale kingdom or land on earth. Read the chapter title on page 150: **God Invites Us**. Then ask your child to pray the opening **Prayer** with you.

Read the text on page 150, making sure your child understands that a *banquet* is a special-occasion meal for many people. Ask: What special meal did Jesus share with his friends the night before he died? (the Last Supper)

Direct your child's attention to the picture. Help him or her identify the card as a party invitation, and have your child read the invitation. Ask: Who sent this invitation? (God) What will we receive at God's banquet? (the Eucharist)

Explain that the letters R.S.V.P. at the end of an invitation stand for the French words *repondez s'il vous plait*, which means "please reply." Ask: How could you answer God's invitation to the banquet of the Eucharist at Mass? (Possible answer: by participating in the sacrament.)

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 151–153

Invite your child to imagine that he or she is having a great banquet at home for all his or her friends. Have him or her think about whom to invite.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph on page 151, explaining that Jesus often told wonderful stories that taught lessons to the people who listened well. Ask your child to listen well as you read the **Scripture Story: The Great Banquet** to him or her. (Read with expression, pausing at the end to allow your child to think about the meaning of the story.)

Ask your child the bulleted question. (Possible responses: The man put a lot of work into preparing the banquet. He made it very special so that his friends could enjoy it, but they did not think it was important.) Point out that we, too, sometimes get so busy in our lives that we fail to accept God's hospitality.

Read the **Scripture Signpost** and discuss the question with your child. (God invites us to his great feast of the Eucharist.)

Draw attention to the picture of the man welcoming the guests to the banquet. Ask: How do you think the guests felt about the man's invitation to the meal? (happy, thankful, surprised, honored) How do we feel about being invited by God to share in the Eucharist? (happy, joyful, thankful, honored)

Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph of **Say Yes to God!** on page 152. Then ask: Why should God's invitation to share in the Eucharist bring us joy? (When we receive the Eucharist, we gain God's blessing and become one with Jesus. This is a very joyous event.)

Take turns with your child reading the ways in which we say yes to God.

Read **Catholics Believe** and point out that receiving the Eucharist gives us strength to live our lives according to God's law of love. Receiving the Eucharist also unites us with the Church and all the saints, and it gives us hope for an eternal life in heaven with God.

Draw attention to the pictures on this page. Ask: How are the people in the pictures saying yes to God? (by helping those in need, by praying, by sharing in the Eucharist at Mass)

Read the **Activity** and help your child complete this list. Then ask your child if he or she can list some of the ways the people in your faith community answer God's call each day. Examples could include visiting the sick, doing grocery shopping for the elderly, bringing food to the hungry, and helping families who have lost someone they love.

Turn to page 153 and read or summarize **The Eucharist as a Sign**. Point out that the word *preview* means to show or view something ahead of time, just as we can preview a movie before it comes to the theaters.

Read **Our Moral Guide**. Explain that just as food gives us physical strength to live and grow, the Eucharist gives us the spiritual strength to act with love. Discuss the questions with your child.

Look at the picture and read the **Landmark**. Ask your child to close his or her eyes and imagine that he or she has just received the Eucharist.

Encourage him or her to sit quietly for a few moments and think about the love that fills his or her heart.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 154

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 49–50 in your **Faith Journal.**

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 155

Read **Praise the Lord!** on page 155. Point out that there are many ways we can praise God. David praised God by writing and singing special prayer songs called psalms. Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to enhance your child's understanding of the word *psalms*.

Point out that the faith community recites or sings part of a psalm at every Mass during the Liturgy of the Word, between the first and second readings. We call this psalm the *Responsorial Psalm*. The next time you attend Mass help your child listen carefully for this psalm.

Have your child examine the pictures. Ask: How are the singers and musicians praising the Lord? (They are playing music and singing a song to God.) How is the man with the sheep like the great king David? (King David was once a shepherd like this man.)

Close the lesson by joining hands with your child and praying together the verse from **Psalm 23.**

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 74–76.