

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 27 WE CARE FOR THE WORLD

Objectives

- Develop an understanding of social justice.
- Explore the basic rights of all people.
- Connect social justice to working for peace and the rights of others.
- Identify and practice steps to resolve conflicts and disagreements.
- Examine how a peacemaker can change the world.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 162

Ask your child to explain the meaning of the word *respect*. Guide him or her to understand that when we respect a person we treat that person with honor and politeness. Explain that a just world is one where everyone is treated with respect and given what is due them. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 162.

Read the chapter title (**We Care for the World**) and the first paragraph of the text. Explain that people who live in poverty have little or no money. Develop the meaning of *shelter* by having your child identify different kinds of shelters, such as houses, apartments, and mobile homes.

As you continue to read the text, explain that *social justice* is the obligation of the individual and society to meet the basic needs of people and protect their rights. It requires peacemaking, respecting others, caring for those who are sick and in need, supporting peaceful actions, and taking care of the earth so that all people benefit from its riches.

Ask: Why is it important for Church members to work for social justice? (Possible answers: Jesus told us that we must love others as we love ourselves; we know that Jesus loves those who are poor and in need and wants us to help them; we will be judged by how much charity we showed others.)

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 163–165

Ask your child to think about how he or she would feel if told that they could no longer go to school to get an education like everyone else. Invite them to share their feelings.

Read **We Work for Justice and Peace**. Be sure your child understands that all people have rights, or things we deserve to have as humans.

Direct your child's attention to the photograph marked **Landmark**. Read the statement. Explain that the man in the picture is Joseph Cardinal Bernadin, who died in 1996. During his life he worked hard to promote social justice, and when he was a bishop he contributed to many pastoral letters published by the bishops of the United States.

Read **Catholics Believe**, and ask your child to name ways that people can be in need, other than needing food, clothing, and shelter. (Possible answers: needing spiritual guidance, love, and friendship.)

Allow your child time to study the picture before responding to the caption question. (Possible answers: same age, same needs, same feelings, different living conditions, different backgrounds, different opportunities.)

Invite your child to tell how people of peace act. Make sure he or she recognizes that people of peace love others, help those in need, and avoid arguments and disagreements.

Turn to page 164 and read **Stepping Stones: Being Peacemakers**. Be sure that your child understands that a person's point of view is the way a person sees the world, including what he or she thinks and feels. Help your child to understand that *harsh* words are words that are cruel or that hurt others. Ask: Why is it important to ask for forgiveness at the end of a disagreement? (Jesus teaches that we must forgive. When we give and receive forgiveness, we heal the hurt that has been done to ourselves and others.)

After you read **Where Will This Lead Me?** ask your child to name possible places where he or she can use their peacemaking skills. (Possible answers: at school, at home, on the playground, in clubs and other organizations)

Draw your child's attention to the picture of the two girls. Ask: Which peacemaking steps do you think the girls might be practicing? (the last five)

Read **Dorothy Day** on page 165 and explain that she was a twentieth-century woman who worked for justice and made important changes in the world. Help your child understand that *hospitality* is the act of welcoming guests with friendship and generosity. Explain that the hospitality houses that Dorothy Day set up around the country gave food and shelter to about five thousand people each day. Many cities today have Catholic Worker houses.

Read **Our Moral Guide**. Stress that each person had *dignity*, and deserves honor and respect because he or she is a child of God. Then ask your child the question. (Possible answers: Listen to others' points of view; be kind to everyone; stay away from disagreements; use the peacemaking steps if a fight or argument occurs.)

Draw your child's attention to the pictures and tell him or her about Dorothy Day. Dorothy didn't come to know and believe in God until she was an adult. She heard God's call to use her talents to help those who were poor and others who were forgotten by society. After she became a Catholic, she met Peter Maurin, who shared her ideas about helping others. Since Dorothy knew about the newspaper business from her father and brother, she and Peter decided to start a newspaper of their own. *The Catholic Worker* supported those who were struggling to make a living by including articles about unjust working conditions and poor wages. Together Dorothy and Peter opened houses of hospitality to care for those who had no one else to care for them. Dorothy is a wonderful example of a peacemaker, for she always stayed close to God's love and guidance.

Read the **Activity**. Help your child create the list and then answer the question.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 166

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 **Unit 7 Review** on pages 168–169 in your text.

Complete pages 53–54 in your **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 167

Ask your child to identify how the people in the pictures are working for peace and justice. (by giving help and care to an elderly person, by speaking out against war)

Read the first paragraph on page 167 under **Pray for Peace!** Explain to your child that Francis was born about 1181. As a young man he enjoyed life as the son of a wealthy businessman. After joining the army in a war with a neighboring city, Francis was captured by the enemy. Francis saw great suffering during that time. His way of thinking changed, and he began to live a simple life dedicated to helping those who were poor or sick. He started a religious order called the *Franciscans*, whose ministry was preaching for the reform of the Church. Saint Francis is known for his love of peace, nature, and all living creatures. His feast day is October 4.

Close the lesson by praying the **Prayer of Saint Francis**. You may want to pray aloud each line and then have your child repeat the line after you.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 80–83.