

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 28

WE CELEBRATE EASTER: NEW LIFE IN JESUS

Objectives

- Tell what happened to Jesus after he was buried in the tomb.
- Develop an understanding of why Easter is the most important feast in the Church.
- Affirm through prayer the new life created by Jesus' resurrection.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 170

Point out that spring is a season of new life. Ask your child to describe what he or she enjoys about spring. (Possible answers: flowers, green leaves, warm days, baby animals, Easter.) Remind your child that the Church community celebrates an important feast about new life called Easter.

Explain that the word *Alleluia* is a Hebrew word that means "Praise God." Read the title on page 170 (*New Life in Jesus*), and pray together the opening *Prayer* on page 170.

Explain that a *tomb* is a place where a dead person is buried. Read aloud the introductory paragraph and ask your child what might have happened next.

Read **Scripture Story: The Empty Tomb**. The women mentioned in Mark 16:1–7 are Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary, the mother of James. The women were followers of Jesus who had helped him while he was alive and who had watched him die on the cross. The three women went to the tomb to place sweet-smelling spices on Jesus' body. It was a custom of that time to anoint the body of a dead person. Tradition says that the man in the white robe is an angel.

Ask your child to explain how the large photograph relates to the title *New Life in Jesus*. (It shows nature coming alive in springtime.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 171

Ask your child to summarize what has happened so far in the **Scripture Story**, and then read the remainder of the **Scripture Story** on page 171.

Ask: Why do you think the women were so alarmed? (They were expecting to find Jesus' body, but the tomb was empty.)

Read **Jesus Is Alive**. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification of the highlighted term. Ask: Why did Jesus appear to his apostles? (He wanted to show them that he was alive; he wanted to tell them to carry on his work.) Why is Easter the Church's most important feast? (It celebrates Jesus' death and resurrection, which gives us new life.)

Read **Catholics Believe** and emphasize that the new life Jesus gives us is a life in which we follow his teachings, grow closer to God, and are rewarded in the kingdom of heaven.

Draw your child's attention to the picture at the top of the page. Explain that the apostles were afraid when they first saw Jesus because they knew he had died on the cross. To show that he was real, Jesus invited his friends to touch him, and then he ate some food with them.

Tell your child that the Church community believes that Jesus continues to appear to his followers today. We may not see Jesus in the same way his apostles did after the resurrection, but we believe that he is present in us and in one another. He is also present through his word, the Church, and the sacraments. We are challenged to look for and find Jesus in those who are hard to love, those who are different from us, and those who our world says are not worthy of love. Agree with your child that together you will look for Jesus in all the people you meet this week.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 172

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 55–56 in your **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 173

Ask your child why the prayers we pray at Easter should be filled with joy. (We are happy that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter to bring us new life.) Invite your child to identify the signs of new life shown in the pictures on page 173. (a butterfly, eggs, flowers, green grass, new leaves on the trees)

Read the introductory paragraph of **An Easter Prayer**. Ask your child why flowers, eggs, and lambs are reminders of new life. (Flowers bloom in the spring; eggs hatch into baby birds; lambs are newborn sheep)

Explain that this Easter prayer comes from a prayer included in the Easter liturgy.

Encourage your child to notice all the bright colors and happy faces around them when they celebrate Easter Mass. Suggest that they pray to Jesus and ask for the happiness and well-being of all the members of your faith community.

Close the lesson by using the **Prayer** provided on page 173.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 84–86.