

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 7 THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WITH US

Objectives

- Explore loving relationships with people and the Holy Spirit.
- Identify the three Persons in the Holy Trinity.
- Create prayers of petition.
- Identify Pentecost as the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 42–43

Ask your child to think about any friends who have moved away and how they have kept in touch with those friends. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** under **The Holy Spirit Is with Us**, page 42.

Read the text and then reread the last two sentences, encouraging your child to respond to the question. Give your child time to write and share the **Activity** postcard.

Tell your child that he or she will learn what Jesus did as you read together the next page.

Before reading the page 43 **Scripture Story: Jesus' Promise**, explain that in this story Jesus and his friends are at the last meal he shared with them. After reading the story, ask: What Helper did Jesus promise to ask his Father to send? (the Holy Spirit) Imagine that you were one of Jesus' friends at this meal. How would that promise make you feel? (happy, grateful, relieved)

Read the **Scripture Signpost** and discuss the question. As your child responds, lead him or her to understand that all people who follow Jesus need help in their journeys of faith as they try to live as Jesus taught.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 44–45

As you read or summarize page 44, **Father, Son and Holy Spirit**, refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the concept of Holy Trinity. (The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is a belief of three Persons in one God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are distinct in the relationship of each to the others. The Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith.)

To help your child understand this mystery of faith, explain how you might be a mother, daughter, and sister (or father, son, brother). Even though you are only one person, you have more than one relationship.

Read **Catholics Believe** and explain that our belief in the Holy Trinity is an important part of our faith. Then look at the art. Read the caption and identify the symbol or image for each Person in the Trinity. (The hand at the top is a sign of the Father’s loving care; the dove is a sign of the Holy Spirit; the human figure is a sign of Jesus.) Discuss other symbols of the Trinity: the triangle, the shamrock.

Direct your child’s attention to **Stepping Stones: Asking for God’s Help**, page 45. Help your child understand the meaning of the word *petition* (asking for something for ourselves). Lead your child to understand that prayers of petition are prayers for ourselves and for what we need or want. From the chart, review the steps for a prayer of petition. Assist your child in creating his or her own prayers of petition, for example: “God our Father, please help me be kind and loving.” Read the conclusion on the page: **Where Will This Lead Me?**

Remind your child that during Mass, the community offers prayers to God for other people. These prayers are called the *general intercessions*. We ask God to hear our prayers for the world, the Church, families, those who are struggling, those who are sick, and those who have died. Help your child listen for and participate in these prayers the next time you attend Mass.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 46

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

Read **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete the **Unit 2 Review** on pages 48 and 49.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 13 and 14.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 47

Move on to page 47. Point out the picture of the dove surrounded by flames of fire. Explain that both the dove and the flames are signs of the Holy Spirit. Note the words on the banner.

Call attention to the shamrocks on the page. Discuss: Why do you think some people use the shamrock as a symbol of the Holy Trinity? (The shamrock has three leaves—one for the Father, one for the Son, and one for the Holy Spirit. It is one shamrock, and there is one God; there are three leaves in one shamrock, and there are three Persons in one God.) What sign of the Trinity is the girl in the photograph making? (the Sign of the Cross)

When did Jesus keep his promise to send the Holy Spirit to help his friends? (on Pentecost, fifty days after Easter) When do we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity? (on Trinity Sunday, the Sunday after Pentecost)

Close the lesson with the **Prayer**.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 19–21.