

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 3 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 16

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS: THE FIRST NATIVITY

Objectives

- Recognize Francis of Assisi as the originator of the nativity crèche.
- Discover that a nativity scene depicts Christ's birth.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 98

Begin the lesson on **Christmas: The First Nativity Scene** by praying together the opening **Prayer** on page 98.

Read the first part of the story found on page 98. Emphasize the fact that Francis used real people and animals rather than statues. Explain that Francis is honored today as Saint Francis of Assisi.

Read aloud the **Landmark**. Ask: How is the nativity scene on this page similar to the one Francis of Assisi created? (It also uses live people and animals.)

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), page 99

Move on to page 99 and finish reading the story. Refer to the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the word *nativity*. Ask: Why do you think Francis created the nativity scene? (Possible answer: He thought it would help people understand and feel the joy of Jesus' birth.)

Draw attention to the Nativity scenes shown on page 99. Explain that each scene reflects the time and place in which it was created. Refer to the **Activity**, and discuss how your family nativity scene reflects something about your family. If you do not have a nativity scene, consider drawing one, framing it, and hanging it near your Christmas tree.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Explain that no one knows what Jesus' birthplace looked like. It may have been a wooden shed, a stone building, or even a cave.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 100

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

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 the highlighted word.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 31–32.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 101

Read **Figures Tell the Story** on page 101. Emphasize the joy we feel when we celebrate Jesus' birth.

Close the lesson with prayer. Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Pray together the **Prayer** on page 101. Then sing a favorite Christmas carol or listen to a recording. End with the Sign of the Cross.