

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 3 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 17 JESUS' LAW OF LOVE

Objectives

- Recognize that we have the ability to make good decisions.
- Recognize that the Church can help us make the right choices.
- Acknowledge Jesus' law of love as a guide for making good choices.
- Realize that loving one's neighbor means caring for all people.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 102

Begin the lesson on **Jesus' Law of Love** by praying together the opening **Prayer** on page 102.

Read the story about Nathan. Ask: What do we call our inner moral guide? (our conscience) Have your child respond to the bulleted question at the bottom of the page. (Possible answers: Nathan needs to apologize to William, he should stick up for William the next time.)

Ask your child to describe the activities shown in the pictures on this page and the next. Discuss your child's responses. (Accept all reasonable suggestions for positive alternatives.) Read the **Activity** on page 102. Have your child verbally list his or her three loving choices.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 103–105

Invite your child to describe some easy choices and some difficult choices he or she has made recently and to explain what made the difficult choices so hard. Then read together **Tough Choices** on page 103. Review the Ten Commandments with your child (see page 178) and remind him or her that these commandments teach us how to love and respect other people. Emphasize that each one of us has the free will to choose to follow the commandments. We also have the help of the Church. Ask: What sacrament celebrates God's forgiveness when we fail to follow the Ten Commandments and are sorry? (the Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Read **Catholics Believe** on page 103 and use this statement to point out that love helps us make the right choices.

Read **The Church Teaches Love** on page 104. Help your child understand the meanings of the highlighted words by referring to the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook.

Have your child read aloud the **Scripture Signpost**. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to clarify the term *Great Commandment*. Be sure your child understands that Jesus never stops loving us. When we do not love others as Jesus loves us, we are not following his commandments. Ask him or her to respond to the question. (Possible answers: by collecting food for a local food pantry, starting a thrift shop, providing child care for parishioners during Mass.)

Have your child look at the pictures on page 104 and describe the before-and-after sequence. Ask: How did the older child follow Jesus' law of love? (She helped the frustrated child as Jesus would have done.) Read aloud and discuss the caption question.

With your child read the **Scripture Story: The Good Samaritan** on page 105. Lead your child to the understanding that Jesus was teaching an important lesson with this story: he was telling us how to be a good neighbor. We must be willing to go out of our way to help others. To Christians all people are neighbors.

Point out to your child that even today we refer to people who go out of their way to help others as Good Samaritans. Invite your child to talk about Good Samaritans they have known or heard about.

Draw attention to the illustration on page 105. Ask: how do you think the injured man felt when the Samaritan stopped and helped him? (surprised and thankful)

Read the caption question and invite your child to respond. (The Samaritan helped someone who was not only a stranger to him but who was also considered to be his enemy.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 106

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 the highlighted terms.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 33–34.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 107

Read aloud **Following Jesus**.

Explain that saints such as Richard of Chichester help us live like Jesus through their prayers and the example they set.

Call your child's attention to the background picture on page 107. Explain that in this scene Jesus is giving new life to Lazarus as a sign of God's mercy. Now focus on the photographs on page 107. Ask: How does each photograph show Jesus' law of love being lived? (The girl is spending time with an older person; children are reading the Scriptures to learn about Jesus.)

Close the session with **Prayer**. Pray with your child the prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester found on page 107. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.