

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 3 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 19 FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

Objectives

- Recognize actions that demonstrate love and courage.
- Recognize that virtues help us share God's love.
- Discover that faith, hope, and love must be practiced in our lives.
- Identify the precepts of the Church.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 114

Think about times when you and your child have made loving choices. Then pray together the opening Prayer on page 114.

Read the chapter title: **Faith, Hope, and Love**. Then read the letter to Mr. and Mrs. Davis on the page and discuss the bulleted question. (Possible answers: Nathan's yelling would only have made the other children tease them more; the other children would have become angry at Nathan and been unwilling to get to know William.) Ask: Why do you think Nathan feels happy with the choice he made? (He knows he did the right thing; he stopped caring what other people thought.)

Point out that making right and loving choices that make us feel good about ourselves. As a result, we are healthier mentally and emotionally. Discuss examples of situations in which third graders must make difficult decisions. Talk about the right and healthy choice in each situation.

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 115–117

Write the words *faith*, *hope*, and *love* on a piece of paper and ask your child to define each term in his or her own words. Then read **Using Faith, Hope, and Love** on page 115. Make sure your child understands the word *virtues*. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to clarify its meaning.

Emphasize that faith is a gift from God. Ask: What are some things you believe in but don't fully understand or haven't seen? (Possible answers: the existence of other planets, the way a seed sprouts and grows.)

As you work with the text, point out that the gift of hope was given to us so that we will not lose heart when life seems as if it will never get better. Emphasize that God freely gives the gifts of faith, hope, and love. Each of us has the choice to neglect these gifts or use them to help others.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Emphasize that the virtues of faith, hope, and love do not originate with us but are gifts from God. God gives us these gifts to help us follow his Son, Jesus, more closely. Read the caption on the apostle Thomas.

Read aloud the **Scripture Signpost** on page 116 and explain to your child that Paul wrote this letter to the people who lived in Corinth, one of the early Christian communities. They were fighting with each other about which of God's gifts was most important. Paul reminded them that all of God's gifts are necessary for the good of the Church, but that the gift of love is most important. With love all other gifts given to the Church community gain life and purpose. When God's kingdom comes in its fullness and we share in the heavenly life of God, faith in and hope for union with God will no longer be necessary. Only love remains. Invite your child to respond to the question. (Possible answers: We can practice faith by believing more in the goodness of others; we can have hope that things can be better for everyone at home, at school, and in the world; we can practice love by respecting ourselves and others.)

Invite your child to describe the picture of the children visiting two women. Point out that the children are practicing the virtue of love by spending time with people who may be lonely.

Read the **Guides for Life** on page 117 and go over the chart on the **Precepts of the Church** with your child. Refer to the **Language of Faith** at the back of the textbook for further definition of the highlighted words. Point out that all of the precepts are things that even children your child's age can follow. Talk with your child about ways in which he or she can follow each precept. Ask: Why does the Church give us these precepts? (The precepts give us concrete ways to practice the virtues we are given by God.)

Make sure your child understands that the precepts of the Church are different from the Ten Commandments. We do not find the precepts in the Bible. Over the centuries the Church has tried to establish some guidelines all Catholics need to follow in order to be more active in showing their faith, hope, and love as members of the Church. These precepts can change as the needs of the Church change. The Commandments do not change because they are given to us by God.

Invite your child to match the two pictures with the precepts that describe them. (eating a spare or light Lenten meal, precept 5; donating money, precept 6)

Invite your child to tell what precepts of the Church he or she might follow next by praying, "Dear God, I promise to follow the precept . . . to help me . . ."

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 118

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.

Have your child complete the **Unit Five Review** on pages 120–121.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 37–38.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 119

Read aloud **Praying for Virtues**. Ask: What is the symbol for faith? (a cross) What is the symbol for hope? (an anchor) What is one symbol for charity, or love? (a flower)

Point out the photograph of Nathan, William, and the other children praying together in religion class. Ask: What does this photograph have in common with the symbols of the three virtues? (The symbols point to the virtues of faith, hope, and charity [or love], and the photograph of the children shows Christians practicing those virtues.)

Pray together the closing **Prayer** on this page. You may wish to sing or listen to a recording of a favorite hymn. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.