

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 3 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 2 THE FAMILY OF CREATION

#### Objectives

- Discover signs of God's love.
- Develop a sense of responsibility to care for creation.
- Discover that communities need all kinds of people.
- Recognize sacramentals as sacred signs of God's presence.

#### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), pages 12–13

Share with your child one of your most memorable experiences with nature, such as a visit to a beach or a hike in the mountains. Invite your child to recall one of his or her own nature experiences. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 12.

Direct attention to the pictures on pages 12 and 13. Ask: What do all these pictures have in common? (They all show examples of God's creation, including people, animals, and plants.)

Read the text aloud on page 12. Invite your child to describe the view outside your window. Then read the **Activity** and give your child time to complete it. Comment on the drawing.

Read together **Sisters and Brothers** on page 13. Ask: Who has a responsibility to care for creation? (We do.) How are the people in the pictures on these pages showing responsibility for creation? (feeding a calf, tending a garden, picking up trash from the beach, cheering on participants in a race)

Read aloud the question at the bottom of page 13 and encourage your child to respond.

Read **Catholics Believe**. Help your child understand that we and all created things in the universe exist because of God.

#### **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 14–15

Read together the text on page 14, **The Church and Creation**. Emphasize that the differences among people are good. Explain that the Church welcomes people of every race and culture. Ask: How does our parish welcome people? (Possible answers: having ministers of hospitality welcome people at Mass; having a welcome party for new families who move into the parish.)

Turn to the **Language of Faith** section in back of the textbook and read the definition of the word *custom*. Explain to your child that every family has its own customs, or ways of living and celebrating. Talk with him or her about some of your family's customs. Then explain that the Church has its own unique customs and ways of celebrating that differ among the different Rites within the Church. One example is the way we make the Sign of the Cross. We belong to the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church. We make the Sign of the Cross by touching our left shoulder first, and then our right shoulder. Catholics who belong to the Eastern Rites, such as the Byzantine Rite, make the Sign of the Cross from right to left. The same gesture and prayer are expressed in different ways.

Read together **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Francis of Assisi**. Share with your child what you know about Saint Francis. (There are many children's books about this beloved saint; perhaps you could borrow one from the library.)

Read the **Landmark** on Noah's ark. As you discuss the story, lead your child away from a literal interpretation; stress that the story teaches us about God's promise of salvation.

Read aloud the text on page 15. Take time to help your child understand what is meant by the words *sacramentals* and *blessings*; see the **Language of Faith** section in back of the textbook.

Read through **Sacred Signs** for examples of a few of the sacramentals used by the Church. Ask: What other sacramentals are you familiar with? (rosaries, medals, crucifixes, statues) What are some everyday uses of blessings? (grace at meals, bedtime prayers)

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 16

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

Read aloud and discuss **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 in the chapter.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 3–4.

### **Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 17

Read the paragraph under **For All Your Creatures**. Ask the students to name the gifts of creation shown in the photographs on the page.

Close the lesson with prayer. You may choose to light a candle and take a moment of silence to enter into prayer. Then pray together the **Prayer** on page 17. End the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.