

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 3 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 22

THE CHURCH CELEBRATES HEALING

Objectives

- Describe ways to comfort people who are sick and lonely.
- Identify the two Sacraments of Healing.
- Analyze a scriptural example of Jesus' forgiving sins and healing the sick.
- Compare the signs of the two Sacraments of Healing.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 132–133

Discuss a time when your child or a member of your family was sick or injured, and relatives and friends came to visit with him or her. Remind the students that celebrating the sacraments with our Church community can help us feel better, too. Keeping this in mind, pray the opening **Prayer**.

Read the story of Toni and Keesha on pages 132–133, and invite your child to answer the bulleted question. (worried, sad, frightened, and so on) Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help clarify the highlighted term.

Read the chapter title (**The Church Celebrates Healing**), and draw your child's attention to the pictures. Ask: How did other people make Toni feel loved and remembered when she was in the hospital? (The parish priest came to visit; her classmates sent her get-well cards.) What is the priest in the picture doing? (anointing Toni with oil) What else is included in this *Sacrament of Healing*? (Special prayers are prayed.)

Ask your child to describe the different kind of healing that Toni and Keesha need. (Toni: physical healing from her operation; Keesha: healing from the hurt she caused Carlos and Mary)

Read **Our Moral Guide** and answer the question posed there. (Possible answers: frees us from sin, helps us love God and others, helps us learn from our mistakes, and if needed, can reunite us with God and the Church community.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 134–135

Ask your child to describe what members of the Church community did the last time they participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick in a parish celebration. Explain to your child that the Sacraments of Healing are a continuation of Jesus' own healing words and actions.

The **Scripture Story: Jesus Forgives and Heals** on page 134 gives us an example. Read aloud the story and invite your child to answer the bulleted question. (Jesus knew that the power to heal and forgive sins came from God; Jesus wants the people to see that he had God's power of forgiveness on earth.) Encourage your child to imagine being present in the house and to describe how he or she would have felt. Explain that the Gospel according to Luke relates many stories of healing. Luke 5:17–26 combines healing and forgiveness. Jesus both astonished and angered some of the people gathered around him. They knew that some holy people had the power to heal, but that the power to forgive sins belonged only to God. The men who lowered the paralyzed man into the house believed that God's power was with Jesus. Jesus rewarded their faith in him by forgiving the sins of the paralyzed man and healing him.

Ask your child to respond to the bulleted question. (Jesus knew the power to heal and to forgive sins came from God; Jesus wanted the people to see that he had God's power of forgiveness on earth.)

Read **Catholics Believe**, and emphasize that in addition to continuing Jesus' work through the Sacraments of Healing, the Church is involved in other ministries of reconciliation and healing.

Direct your child's attention to the illustration at the bottom of page 134. Ask: What is Jesus doing in the picture? (putting his hands on the man's head, healing the man) How is this like the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick that we celebrate today? (The priest also puts his hands on the person's head.)

Read together **Sacraments of Healing** on page 135. Emphasize that sin always involves making a choice. Stress that sin hurts the entire community and weakens our relationship with one another and with God. Remind your child that we can sin both by what we do or say and by what we do not do or say.

Point out that no matter how we have sinned, we can always ask God's forgiveness and receive his mercy. God wants to heal us from both sinfulness and sickness of every kind.

Read together the chart on the **Signs of Healing**. Ask: Why do you think both of these sacraments use gestures and touch to express forgiveness and healing? (Accept all reasonable responses, such as that the priest imitates Jesus' touching those he healed and forgave.)

Point out the priest's stole in the first picture on page 135. Explain that the stole is a sign that the priest is acting in the name of Jesus and the Church.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 136

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**. Complete the activity.

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

Complete the **Faith Journal** pages 43–44.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 137

Ask your child to try to imagine what the world would be like if there were no sin or suffering.

Help your child recognize what they see in the pictures on page 137: Jesus healing a man, a priest's stole worn in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a small container of oil used in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Ask: In the picture, who is Jesus healing? (a blind man) How can you tell? (Jesus is touching the man's eyes.)

Read aloud **Healing Through Prayer**. Ask: What other physical and spiritual needs besides healing does Jesus fill? (Answers might include the need for love, for acceptance by others, for strength to do what is right.)

Place a small dish of olive oil or baby oil on a table near you. Lead your child in praying the closing **Prayer**. Then anoint your child's hands lightly with oil as you pray the following prayer: "May your hands be used to heal and help others." Explain that this anointing is not a sacrament because it is not done by a priest and the oil is not the blessed oil of the sick. What you did is a gesture to show the Holy Spirit's healing presence in our lives.