

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 3 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 25 CONNECTED TO THE PAST

#### Objectives

- Summarize and explain the Church's past.
- Explore the meaning of Church as a community of people.
- Observe examples of the Church's history worldwide.

#### Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 150–151

Read aloud the chapter title on page 150: **Connected to the Past**, and talk with your child about your family's history. Refer to your grandparents or great-grandparents as your "ancestors."

Tell your child that our Church also has a family history. Begin the lesson by praying together the opening **Prayer** on page 150. Then read together the text.

Help your child recall the story of Abraham and Sarah (see page 43). Explain that this story is found in the Old Testament.

Ask: What covenant, or promise, did God make with Abraham and Sarah? (to give them many descendants and a wonderful land in which to live)

Why do we call the Jewish people our ancestors in faith? (Jesus and his family were descendents of Abraham and Sarah.)

Be sure your child understands that a *synagogue* is a place where Jewish people meet to worship and learn about their faith. Read aloud the picture caption at the bottom of the page.

Move on to page 151 and continue reading the text. Talk about how the followers of Jesus became known as *Christians*. Ask: Where does the word *Christian* come from? (the word *Christ*)

Explain that some people did not want to hear the good news about Jesus, so they made laws against the practice of the Christian faith. As you discuss those hard times, be sure your child understands the words *persecution* and *imprisonment*; refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook. Ask: What promise did Jesus make to his followers? (to be with them always) How did that promise help the early Christians through hard times? (It gave them comfort and hope.)

Direct your child's attention to the photograph that shows an underground room in the catacombs. Read the **Landmark**, and remind your child that a *martyr* is a faithful witness to Jesus who dies for his or her faith. Share the following information with your child: The catacombs were a network of underground tunnels built by the Romans for waterworks. After the waterworks were abandoned, the tunnels began to be used for burials. Bodies were placed on ledges along both sides of the narrow walkways. The catacombs were used as cemeteries until the early fifth century.

Read the **Scripture Signpost** and invite responses to the question. (The followers of Jesus in all times and places believed the same things we believe. They are our Christian ancestors in faith.)

## **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 152–153

Read aloud **The Church Through Time**, and invite your child to respond to the bulleted question. (Responses may include questions about the first churches in America.)

Remind your child that we are the Church, but that church buildings can teach us much about our Church family. For instance, the name of the church reminds us of Jesus, Mary, or one of the saints. If the church has stained-glass windows, the windows might depict stories of Jesus, Mary, or the saints.

Read **Catholics Believe**. Remind your child that God is always with the Church, from one generation to another.

Allow your child to study the pictures on these pages. Ask: How are the churches alike? (bell towers, crosses, arches, and so on) Emphasize that the differences between the buildings reflect the times in which they were built and the cultures of the people who built them.

Draw attention to the top left photograph on page 153, which shows the interior of a church in Ireland. Have your child describe the interior and compare it to his or her own parish church.

Call attention to the other church pictured on this page, which is located in Ethiopia. Read aloud and discuss the caption.

Read aloud **Saints Walk with Us**. Have your child describe Saint Bede. Ask: Why do you think the Church has honored Saint Bede as the patron saint of Church historians? (He wrote the history of the Church in England.)

**Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 154

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.

Complete pages 49–50 in your **Faith Journal**.

**Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 155

Ask your child to recall the saints and holy people from this chapter. (Patrick, Brigid, Kevin, Columba, Junipero Serra, Padre Kino, Bede)

Draw your child's attention to the ancient map in the background of page 155. Explain that the Christian message has spread to almost all parts of our world.

Have your child look carefully at the picture of the children. Ask: What do you think the children are doing? (singing, praying) How do they remind you of the Church? (The people of the Church pray together.)

Tell your child that the bottom picture is a painting found in a catacomb in Rome.

Read aloud **We Are Your People**. Explain that the Eucharistic Prayer is the official prayer of the Church that occurs between the Preparation of Gifts and the Lord's Prayer at Mass. Encourage your child to pay special attention to the Eucharistic Prayer the next time he or she celebrates Mass.

If possible, display a globe and a cross. Remind your child that our faith connects us to people throughout the world. When we pray, we join our prayers with the prayers of every person of faith, living and dead. Pray together the closing **Prayer** and conclude by listening to, or singing, a familiar hymn.