

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 3 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 27 HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Objectives

- Explain why Christians always have hope for the future.
- Explore the Church's teaching about Jesus' second coming and the last judgment.
- Realize that Jesus is always present.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 162

Briefly discuss a popular television show, cartoon, or movie about the future. Point out that we hope for the future because we believe that God has been with us in the past, is with us now in the present, and will continue to be with us in the future. Begin the lesson by praying together the opening **Prayer** on page 162.

Read the chapter title: **Hope for the Future**. Talk with your child about his or her future plans. Establish that we all have a vision, or a dream, of what our lives will be like in the future. The Church, too, has a vision of the future.

Invite your child to answer the opening question. Encourage him or her to focus on *positive* possibilities. Read together the text on page 162. Ask: What is the good news that the Church brings? (Possible answers: God loves us and will always be with us; we are called to be happy with God forever.)

Ask your child to describe the illustration, which shows a space shuttle docked at a space station high above the earth. Invite responses to the caption question. Lead your child to realize that although the Church's practices may change in the future, its basic beliefs and its relationship with God will remain the same.

Invite your child to tell what he or she sees in the picture on page 163. (a city surrounded by a wall)

Explain that the drawing shows one person's dream of God's kingdom. Point out that the wall has twelve gates, which represent the twelve apostles. We enter God's kingdom by following the teaching of Jesus, passed on to us through the apostles.

Read the **Scripture Story: New Heaven, New Earth**, on page 163, and refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification of the highlighted word. Ask: Why did John have hope while he was in prison? (He saw a better world and heard God's voice.) How did John describe the city in his vision? (It was a holy city with no more tears, sadness, suffering, or death.)

Explain that the holy city, which is referred to as the "new Jerusalem," will not be a real place but is a symbol of God's kingdom. Also be sure your child understands that when we hear the voice of God, it isn't like hearing a human voice. Rather, hearing God's voice is a kind of inner vision that helps us understand and be clearer about what God has placed in our hearts.

Read together the **Scripture Signpost**. Explain that the author of *Ephesians* 1:18 prays that the grace of Baptism may blossom in the lives of the readers. The author points to the great blessing we have received in our calling to be God's children. This call carries with it a hope beyond hopes—eternal life and happiness.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 164–165

Ask your child to describe how he or she feels when thinking about the future. Emphasize that as Church members, we should feel hopeful because we believe in God's love.

Read together **The Church's Future** on page 164. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted word. Ask your child to imagine how he or she will feel when Jesus returns.

Ask your child what he or she thinks is happening in the photograph. (People have assembled for a funeral service; the bishop is blessing the casket.) Read the caption. Explain that the white cloth, called a *pall*, on the casket is a reminder of the white garment worn at Baptism. The pall represents our being raised to new life with Christ.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Point out that the Bible does not tell us when this event will take place. Reassure your child that if he or she lives as God's child, the coming of Jesus in glory will be wonderful, like seeing a long-lost friend.

Read aloud **The Beginning and the End** on page 165. Explain that Jesus in effect said, "I am the A and the Z." Ask: What does this mean to you?

Ask your child to describe the stained-glass window of Jesus. Be sure they point out the Alpha and Omega symbols. Ask: Why do you think the artist included these two Greek letters? (to show that Jesus was present at the beginning of time and will be with us until the end of time)

Spend some time reading and discussing **Our Moral Guide**. This is an important part of our Christian morality. Establish that our spiritual lives are the most important part of our lives. Have your child answer the question. (Possible answer: As Christians we choose to be good because we love God and want to live forever with him in the fullness of his kingdom.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 166

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 the **Unit Seven Review** on pages 168–169.

Complete pages 53–54 in your **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 167

Remind your child that people who follow Jesus are truly happy and that they try to help others be happy, too.

Draw your child's attention to the painting of Jesus on page 167. Point out that Jesus is blessing the children. Ask: Why do you think Jesus said that the greatest members of God's kingdom are like little children? (Like children, they have faith, joy, and hope.)

Have your child describe the background image of people at a joyful Church gathering. Ask: Why do you think the people are holding hands? (Possible responses: they are a community, they care for one another, they are praying, and so forth.)

Read aloud **Hope and Joy**. Have your child recall events from the past year for which he or she is grateful and mention things he or she hopes for in the future. Respond, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" after each **Prayer** of thanks.