

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 3 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 28

WE CELEBRATE EASTER: SIGNS OF NEW LIFE

Objectives

- Give examples of Easter symbols that recall Jesus' resurrection.
- Explore the Easter customs of various cultures.
- Express Easter joy through prayer.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 170

Invite your child to brainstorm some of the ways the world comes alive again in spring, such as flowers budding and blooming, plants sprouting, baby birds hatching, and animals being born.

Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 170.

Read aloud the title (**Signs of New Life**) and text on this page. Ask: Why are spring flowers a good symbol of Easter? (They are signs of new life after winter.) Why are lambs a good sign of Easter? (They are signs of new life and rebirth.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 171

Discuss Easter customs in this country, such as the Easter parade down Fifth Avenue in New York City and the White House Easter egg hunt.

Call attention to the boy coloring Easter eggs in the picture at the top of page 171. Invite your child to talk about his or her own experiences of decorating Easter eggs.

Read aloud the **Activity** and talk with your child about your family's special Easter customs.

Read the first two paragraphs and **Everyone Celebrates!** on this page. Point out that all Christians throughout the world celebrate Easter with great joy and special customs. Ask: How are all Easter celebrations alike? (They celebrate the new life we have because Jesus was raised from the dead.)

Emphasize that throughout the world, Easter is a time of joy. Ask: How are all Easter celebrations alike? (They celebrate the new life we have because Jesus was raised from the dead.)

Read **Catholics Believe** with your child. Point out that Easter, not Christmas, is the most important feast day in the Church year. Talk about some of the reasons why Christmas may seem like the more important feast.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 172

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 55–56 in your **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 173

Explain that the top picture on page 173 shows traditional Ukrainian and Polish foods for Easter. The foods are placed in baskets, covered with linen cloths, and taken to church on Holy Saturday to be blessed. In some cases a priest may visit homes to bless the Easter baskets. Ask: What foods are shown in the baskets? (eggs, bread, butter, meats)

Ask your child to identify the event shown in the sculpture. (Jesus emerging from his tomb) Point out the angels and the guards near the open tomb.

Read aloud **Easter Joy**. Emphasize that when we celebrate Easter each year, we return to the most important belief of our faith: Jesus' resurrection.

End the lesson by praying together the closing **Prayer**. Then sing or listen to a favorite Easter hymn.