

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 3 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 5 WE BELIEVE IN GOD

Objectives

- Recognize that through the Sacrament of Baptism we become members of the Church.
- Describe the development of belief in one God.
- Recognize that God reveals himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the mystery of the Holy Trinity.
- Demonstrate belief in the Holy Trinity through gesture and prayer.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 30

Note the title of the chapter on page 30: **We Believe in God**. Then pray together the opening **Prayer**.

Help your child recall a Baptism that he or she attended.

Read aloud the story on page 30. Point out that each person was baptized “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Ask: What family have the newly baptized members joined? (the Church family)

Read aloud the caption question aloud. Be sure your child understands that he or she became a member of the Church at Baptism.

Step 2 We Explore (Doctrine), pages 31–33

Read together **One God** on page 31. Use the **Language of Faith** at the back of the textbook to define further the word *reveal*.

Help your child appreciate that we receive our belief in the one true God from the Jewish people, the people of Israel, who are our ancestors in faith. Remind your child that Jesus and his family were Jewish, and believed in the same God we now believe in.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Point out that every time we make the Sign of the Cross, we are declaring our belief in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Read the caption at the bottom of the page. Explain that the picture is of a Jewish prayer case called a *mezuzah* (ma•zoo•zah). Many Jewish people display a mezuzah on an entrance doorway. As they enter or leave, they touch the mezuzah and pray the *Shema* (sheh•mah), professing a belief in one God.

Read together the text on page 32, **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**. Help your child understand the relationships within the Trinity, “three in one,” by naming relationships your child may have with different people, such as son, brother, cousin or daughter, sister, aunt.

Point out the symbols on this page. Show your child how each one reflects the three Persons in one God. If time allows, have your child do the **Activity**.

Emphasize that our belief in the Holy Trinity is a mystery, something that we cannot fully understand. Conclude the page by reading the **Scripture Signpost**.

Read together the story of Saint Patrick on page 33: **Three in One**. Ask the highlighted question at the bottom of the page. (Possible answers: happy to understand God better; grateful for an explanation.)

Read together **Our Moral Guide**. Have your child answer the question. (Possible answers: helping younger siblings, being kind to someone who has no friends)

Have your child complete the **Activity** at the bottom of the page.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration into Everyday Life), page 34

Review the material taught in this lesson by working through **Recall** and **Think and Share** at the top of page 34. Have your child complete the prayer found in **Continue the Journey**.

Read **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.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 9–10.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 35

Close the lesson with prayer. When you and your child are ready, read aloud **The Sign of the Trinity** on page 35. Pray together the Doxology (**Prayer**) and the prayer your child wrote on page 34. End the prayer experience with the Sign of the Cross.