

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 3 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 7 WE BELONG TO GOD

Objectives

- Identify humans' universal need to belong.
- Explain that God gave the Ten Commandments as a sign of love.
- Identify Jesus' death on the cross as a new covenant between God and all people.
- Identify the origin and purpose of the Magnificat.

Step 1 We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 42–43

Begin the lesson by noting the chapter title, **We Belong to God**, and praying together the opening **Prayer** at the top of page 42.

Invite your child to name some of the groups he or she belongs to, such as Scouts, a sports team, a club, and so on. Help him or her name some groups that your family belongs to, such as your parish, your neighborhood, and your community. Ask the caption question. (Possible responses: secure, safe, happy, peaceful.)

Read the story of Chan on page 42. Ask: How do you think Chan must have felt before he was adopted? (Possible responses: scared, alone, unhappy.) Why do you think his family wanted to celebrate Chan's adoption? (Possible responses: Bringing a new person into the family was a happy event; they knew how important it was to Chan to finally belong to a family.)

Read aloud the **Scripture Story: I Will Be Your God** on page 43. Use the **Language of Faith** at the back of the textbook to further define the word *covenant*. Ask: What do you think life might have been like for Abraham and Sarah? (Life was difficult due to the hard work and the moves from place to place.) Emphasize that because Abraham trusted God, God rewarded him by promising him a place to belong and a large number of descendants.

Read aloud **Our Moral Guide**. Point out that God always keeps his promises to us, even when we forget to keep our promises to him. Invite your child to answer the question. (Answer should include that we can follow the teachings of the Church.)

Step 2 We Explore (Doctrine), pages 44–45

Read **People of Promise** and **Catholics Believe** on page 44. Use the **Language of Faith** to further define the term *Ten Commandments*. Point out to your child that the Ten Commandments are more than laws or rules to be obeyed. They are ways God has given us to help us live happy lives and to stay faithful to the covenant we have with God.

Read aloud the caption question, and invite your child to respond. (because we are all God’s children; because we can work together to keep our promises to God)

Read the first paragraph on page 45, and then read through the **Ten Commandments** chart. Take some time to explain each commandment in language your child can understand; the bulleted suggestions should help.

Ask your child to look carefully at the photos on this page. Ask: How are the people in both photos obeying the Ten Commandments? (Possible answers: The girl is honoring the fourth commandment by spending time with her grandfather; the children are honoring the ninth commandment by being faithful to each other as friends.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 46

Review the material taught in this lesson by working through **Recall** and **Think and Share** at the top of page 46. Have your child complete the activity. Help your child complete the renewing of promises found in **Continue the Journey**.

Read aloud and discuss **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 **Unit 2 Review** on pages 48 and 49.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 13–14.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 47

Read **Keeping the Promises** on page 47. Explain that the word *magnificat* means to magnify or to glorify. Discuss: Who did Mary’s prayer glorify? (God)

Close the lesson with the **Prayer**. When you and your child have quieted your hearts for prayer, pray together the Magnificat found on this page. Add to this great prayer of thanks and praise some of those people and things for which you and your child would like to thank God. End your prayer experience with the Sign of the Cross.