

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 4 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 11 FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Objectives

- Explain why forgiveness is an important part of following Jesus.
- Explain what Jesus taught about forgiveness.
- Connect human forgiveness to God's forgiving love.
- Examine ways to make peace.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 82–83

Read the chapter title on page 82: **Forgiveness and Peace**. Then pray together the opening **Prayer**.

Read aloud the story on pages 82–83. Be sure your child understands the meaning of the word *betrayed*. Point out that even our best friend can betray us, and the hurt we feel from our friend's betrayal sometimes makes it very difficult to forgive. Discuss the story with your child.

Ask the page 82 caption questions. (Lead your child to the understanding that Jesus calls us to forgive as God forgives us—always and without exception. Also, there can be no real peace without forgiveness.)

Read together the **Scripture Signpost** on page 83. Invite your child to respond to the question. (Accept all reasonable responses. Emphasize that when we forgive one another, we show the world that we are created in the image of God, who forgives us.)

Provide your child with a Bible and art materials to complete the **Activity**.

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 84–87

Read together **Signs of Forgiveness** and **Catholics Believe** on page 84. Ask: Who shows us God's forgiveness? (Jesus)

Read the **Scripture Story** on pages 84–85: **A Changed Life**. Explain to your child that the people of Jesus’ country strongly disliked tax collectors, especially those who were also Jews, because the tax collectors worked for the Roman empire and they were paid by collecting more than was required. The Roman empire had sent an army into the Jewish homeland of Judea, so Jewish tax collectors were considered traitors.

Discuss the Scripture story with your child. Ask: What did Zacchaeus do that made the people dislike him even more than they already disliked all Jewish tax collectors? (He took extra tax money from them for himself.) What is the point of Zacchaeus’s story? (Possible answers: God forgives all wrongs; love is more powerful than sin; forgiveness makes it possible for us to share deeply in God’s love.) Work together on the **Activity** on page 84.

Read together **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Mary Magdalene**, page 85. Be sure your child understands that a penitent is a person who is sorry for his or her sins and seeks forgiveness.

Read aloud **Peace Be with You** on page 86. Spend some time discussing with your child the meanings of the terms *peace* and *reconciliation*. Use the **Language of Faith** at the back of the textbook for complete definitions. Ask: What are some reasons why people or nations “collide” with each other? (Answers may include differences of opinion, prejudice, fear, and selfishness.) Why can’t a lasting peace exist without forgiveness? (When we forgive people, we once again open our hearts to them. We also open our hearts to God, who heals wounds and helps us love.)

Read together **Our Moral Guide**. Ask your child to read the question and respond to it. (We ask God to forgive us as we forgive others.)

Read the **Landmark**. Point out that the olive branch has become a sign of reconciliation, peace, and forgiveness.

Read through the **Stepping Stones: Making Peace** on page 87. Talk with your child about ways in which he or she can practice these peacemaking steps everyday.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 88

Review the material taught in this lesson by completing the sections **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**.

Read **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through with 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 21–22.

Complete the **Unit 3 Review** on pages 90–91.

Step 4: Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 87

Read **Prayer of Forgiveness** on page 89. Then read and discuss the quote on the photo on the upper right. Share what you know of the civil rights work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., especially his insistence on nonviolence.

Pray together the closing **Prayer**.