

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 4 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 13 MOTHER AND TEACHER

#### Objectives

- Give examples of teaching, caring for others, and working for peace and justice.
- Describe the Church's responsibility to guide and care for its members.
- Identify with the Church, and recognize the duty to care for others.
- Explain the precepts of the Church and how they help Church members.

#### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), pages 96–97

Discuss with your child how family members teach and care for each other as well as how they work for peace and justice within the family setting. Explain to your child that the Church is like the parent of a family and has a responsibility to care for and teach us.

Note the chapter title, **Mother and Teacher**, and together pray the opening **Prayer** found on page 96.

Read the story of Saint Catherine of Siena, pages 96–97. Ask: How did Catherine use her gifts to make a difference? (she spoke in public, taught priests, cared for the sick, prayed for prisoners) Why do you think Catherine's students called her mother and teacher?

Discuss the caption questions on page 96. (Possible answers to the first question: hunger, poverty, crime, homelessness, terrorism. Answers to the second question will depend on your child's awareness of the situations and on your prompts.) Then discuss how your child can use the talents God gave him or her to make a difference in the world.

Read **Our Moral Guide** and answer the question. (Possible answers: All people are made in God's image and deserve justice; the gospel message tells us that God's kingdom is one of peace and justice.)

## **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 98–101

Read **Guiding and Caring** and **Catholics Believe**, page 98. Locate a complete definition of the word *Church* in the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook. Discuss: Why is the Church called mother and teacher? (The Church gives us new life through Baptism and guides us in sharing the gospel message of Jesus.)

Explain to your child that the Church is universal, open to people of all ages, races, and nationalities. The purpose of the Church is threefold: to teach the gospel, to build community, and to serve those in need. With your child, discuss the ways the your Catholic community carries out this three-part mission. You might combine this with the **Activity** on page 98.

Read **We Are the Church**, page 99, and look up the vocabulary word *magisterium* in the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook. Refer to the **Landmark** picture of Pope John XXIII. Point out that this pope wrote an encyclical (a letter from the pope to all Catholics teaching the Church's position on a particular topic) which said that the Church had a responsibility to make society better. Discuss with your child specific ways the Church helps to make society better.

Read the **Scripture Signpost** and discuss the questions. Help your child identify situations in which it might be easier to be silent than to share the gospel message; emphasize the importance of standing up for our faith in such a way that we convince others by our witness.

Read the paragraph under **Church Life** and look at the pictures on pages 100–101; read the captions that list the precepts of the Church. (According to the Catechism, two of these statements are part of one precept: Participate in the Mass . . . , page 100, and Keep holy Sundays . . . , page 101.) Help your child understand that the precepts are not more commandments but are behaviors that help identify us as Church members.

Discuss how each precept helps us live our faith more fully. You may need to clarify for your child the terms *fasting* and *abstinence*. Fasting (required on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) means we do not eat between meals and we limit the amount of food we eat at each meal. Abstinence (required on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays in Lent) means we do not eat meat.

## **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 102

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 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 25–26.

**Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 103

Read the paragraph on page 103 under **Help One Another**. Then discuss how each of the photos relates to the statements in the paragraph.

Begin your closing **Prayer** by reading the words of Saint Catherine of Siena. Then pray aloud the prayer composed in **Continue the Journey**.