

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 4 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 15 COMMUNITIES OF LOVE

Objectives

- Examine how followers of Jesus are called to make choices.
- Discover choices made by men and women religious.
- Examine religious life and the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.
- Explore how religious life changes to meet the needs of each age.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 112–113

Ask your child to imagine that he or she is digging in a field and uncovers a treasure chest. Discuss: What would you hope to find in that chest? (Possible responses: gold, money, jewels, and so on.) Explain that this chapter will talk about the real treasure we find when we serve others in love. Then together pray the opening **Prayer** on page 112.

Read the text on this page of **Communities of Love**, and answer each question posed there. Then read the caption next to the treasure chest and answer the questions.

Read the **Scripture Story: The Young Man's Choice** on page 113. Ask: Why do you think the rich young man came to Jesus? (Possible answer: Something was missing in his life; he was searching for meaning or direction.)

Looking at the picture on the bottom of the page, discuss how the young man might be feeling.

Read the **Scripture Signpost** and answer the question. (Help your child understand that a commitment to following Jesus requires self-discipline and sometimes self-denial. Explain that these are not punishments but are ways we become more free of materialism and other distractions that lead us away from Jesus.) Christian discipleship means following Jesus' example of love and service every day of our lives in all we say and do, even when it is difficult or inconvenient.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 114–117

Turn to page 114 and read **A Special Choice**. Using the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook, help your child understand the terms *religious life* (living in a community with others as a brother or sister in response to God’s call) and *charism* (a special gift of the Holy Spirit given for the good of the community; it helps the person or group witness to Jesus’ teachings).

Read **Catholics Believe**. Explain that religious life is only one way to live out our baptismal call. Most people are called to married or single life. Discuss with your child any questions he or she might have regarding religious communities. Answer his or her questions as best you can. If possible talk to your pastor, a parish priest, or a religious sister or brother you may know.

Read the photo caption and discuss as needed.

Read page 115, **Treasures of the Kingdom**. Refer to the **Language of Faith** to further define the words *vows* and *chastity*. Discuss: How do the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience help men and women religious live the gospel? (Poverty: helps keep them focused on God and helping others rather than on acquiring material possessions. Chastity: frees them from the responsibilities of caring for a family, allowing more time to serve others. Obedience: helps them follow God’s will with the guidance and charism of the community.)

Read the caption next to the picture and discuss possible answers.

Read over the **Timeline of Religious Life** on page 116. Explain to your child that over the centuries men and women have responded to God’s call to serve through religious life. Sometimes even those in religious life have made mistakes, and so reform was needed—as noted for the 11th–12th centuries. It is important to remember that even today men and women religious strive to respond to God’s call. Discuss with your child any changes you have noticed in religious communities from your own experiences of growing up in the Church.

Move on to page 117, and read **Religious Life Today** and the photo caption. Briefly discuss Mother Teresa of Calcutta: What charism does Mother Teresa’s order share with the world? (caring for the terminally ill, the dying, those who are homeless, and those who are very poor)

Read **Our Moral Guide**, and discuss the question. (We might spend all our time trying to acquire more and more material things. We might become selfish.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 118

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 **Unit Four Review** on pages 120–121 in your text.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 29–30.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 119

Read **Through Our Hands**, page 119. Emphasize that God uses everyone's hands to be his hands. Discuss with your child how your hands and his or her hands have served God this day.

Before praying together the **Prayer** on this page, have your child hold out his or her hands, palms up. Pray this blessing: Lord, we ask you to bless our hands so that they might be used only to help and heal ourselves and others, and in helping and healing others, to do the same for you. Then lower your hands and together pray Mother Teresa's prayer.