

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 4 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 16

### WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS: THE PRINCE OF PEACE

#### Objectives

- Explore the connection between peace and Christmas.
- Discover that the peace of Jesus reconciles people with God and others.
- Thank God for Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

#### Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 122

For a moment think about the word *peace*. Ask your child what pictures, words, or people come to mind when he or she hears this word. Remind your child that our world is very much in need of peace. God sent Jesus to bring us the gift of peace. Together pray the opening **Prayer** on page 122.

Begin the chapter on **The Prince of Peace** by reading the story of the cease-fire. Explain to your child that in Catholic social teaching peace is linked with justice. Pope Pius XII said, "Peace is the work of justice," and Pope Paul VI said, "If you want peace, work for justice." Pope John Paul II said that peace is the result of having right relationships with others.

#### Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), page 123

Read **Active Peace** and **Catholics Believe**. Go over the definition for the **Language of Faith** word *messiah* (see the **Language of Faith** at the back of the textbook for a complete definition).

Point out that Jesus brought true peace to the world but that it is up to his followers to share that peace with others. Working for peace is the job of all Christians.

Look at the three figures on the top of the page. Help your child to recognize that they are Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. Discuss: What does this African representation of the Holy Family tell us about who Jesus is? (Possible answers: Jesus came to bring peace to people of all races, countries and cultures; Christians are called to see Jesus in all persons.)

Refer to the **Activity**. Using your family Bible read Isaiah 9:1–6. Discuss the question. (It describes the coming of the messiah, whom Christians believe to be Jesus.)

**Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 124

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 the highlighted term.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 31–32.

**Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 125

Look at the background picture on page 125. How are Christmas trees a sign of peace? (They are evergreen; a sign of God’s eternal kingdom of peace.)

Gather around a crèche (if possible, or refer to the one on the page); ask your child to close his or her eyes and imagine the peace that Jesus offers. Read the text following the heading **Hark!** Then either sing or pray together the closing **Prayer**, the carol “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” End by offering one another the sign of peace.