

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 4 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 19 LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

Objectives

- Identify sincere love for God with loving actions toward others.
- Examine commandments four through ten.
- Explore ways to be faithful to these commandments.
- Discover ways to show respect for life.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 142–143

Read aloud the chapter title, **Loving Our Neighbor**, and consider with your child the people whom you consider to be neighbors. Remind your child that when Jesus said *neighbor*, he meant everyone, not just people we know personally. Invite your child to explore for a few minutes how modern technology, such as computers and communications satellites, has changed our understanding of who our neighbors are. Then pray together the opening **Prayer**.

Read aloud the two text questions on page 142, and ask your child how he or she thinks the two are related. Point out that Jesus taught us that religion is not only *believing* in God but also *doing* God's will. Read the text on page 142, and then have your child look at the picture and answer the caption question. (Possible answers: Only hearing the word of God means that we don't apply it to our lives; doing God's word means trying to love others as Jesus did.)

Read each Scripture quotation on pages 142 and 143 and discuss its meaning with your child. Then answer the caption question. (Jesus identified with people who were poor and directed his followers to treat them with compassion. Discrimination of any kind is particularly sinful for those who believe all people are made in God's image and are one in Christ.)

Read aloud the **Scripture Signpost** and remind your child that we witness the gospel message—God's word—through our actions.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 144–147

Remind your child that we obey the Ten Commandments as part of our sacred promise to be God’s people. The first three commandments show us how to love God. Ask: What do the other seven show us? (how to love our neighbor)

Read **Learning to Love** on page 144 and brainstorm specific ways you and your child can live each commandment. (Examples: [4] Don’t talk back; help with chores. [5] Don’t fight or intentionally hurt others. [6] Don’t make fun of physical differences between boys and girls. [7] Don’t shoplift or vandalize. [8] Don’t gossip. [9] Wear appropriate clothes. [10] Share with others.)

Draw your child’s attention to the pictures on page 144. Read the caption and invite him or her to suggest how the people in each picture are living the commandments.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe** and invite your child to consider this question privately: How have you acted today that told others that you are trying to love others as yourself?

Read **Strength to Love** on page 145 and help your child understand the word *virtues* by referring to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook. Brainstorm with your child virtues that people can have. (Examples: friendliness, honesty, self-discipline, compassion, faith, courage, perseverance, loyalty.) Ask: Why are the cardinal virtues so important? (All the other virtues depend on them.)

Explain to your child that in each painting the artist *personifies* a virtue, or shows it as if it were a person. Read aloud and discuss each painting and its caption; discuss the answer to the **Landmark** question. If possible encourage your child to create his or her own symbols of the cardinal virtues.

Read aloud **Selfish Choices** on page 146; pause after each story and discuss with your child why each action is wrong and which commandment it violates. (David and Tony are showing disrespect for the property of others and taking something that doesn’t belong to them; seventh. Pam and Debbie joined a group that showed disrespect for people; fifth. Mark: X-rated videos show disrespect for people and their sexuality; sixth. Joanna is envious of Kay’s success; tenth. Lori is lying to get someone else in trouble; eighth. Ken is not honoring his mother; fourth. Lisa is not modest; ninth.)

Ask your child to link each photograph with its appropriate story about selfish choices. (The picture of the boys shows Ken being rude to his mother; the girl who is unhappy is Joanna.)

Work with your child to do the **Activity** on page 146.

Ask your child to state the fifth commandment. (You shall not kill.) Explain that keeping the fifth commandment means much more than the taking of human life. It means we should respect life in all forms.

Read **Stepping Stones: Showing Respect for Life** on page 147, and help your child understand that keeping the fifth commandment forbids much more than the taking of a human life. It means we must show respect for life in all forms and at every stage. Discuss each *Stepping Stones* suggestion and how it shows respect for life. As you discuss the eighth item, explain to your child that euthanasia (intentionally ending someone's life to alleviate suffering) is wrong.

Ask your child to explain how the picture shows respect for life. (The girls are enjoying one another's company and friendship even though they are different and have different abilities. They respect one another for who they are, not for what they own or what they can do.)

Challenge your child to suggest two ways in which people his or her age could practice each *Stepping Stones* idea. For example, the ways in which the suggestion *Avoid violence* might be practiced are by never hitting another person, never using harmful words, and choosing to talk out problems instead of fighting.

Have your child read the **Where Will This Lead Me?** statement and comment on ways to honor God and defend the dignity of others in everyday life.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 148

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share** and **Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

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 terms.

Complete **Unit Five Review** on pages 150–151 in the text.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 37–38.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 149

Ask your child to recall ways he or she can live the last seven commandments. (take care of my health, tell the truth, help those who are poor, respect nature, take care of my possessions, and so on) Draw your child's attention to the picture of the Good Samaritan on page 149. Recall this Scripture passage (Luke 10:25–37).

Invite your child to tell how the bottom photograph answers the question: Who is my neighbor? (Help your child discover that the picture shows young people of different races, genders, and abilities: Every human is our neighbor.)

Read **To Love with All Our Heart** and emphasize that prayer is not a chore but a way of being with God. Ask your child to brainstorm ways he or she can communicate love to others. (words, hug, smile, helping people, spending time together, and so on) Then pray together the closing **Prayer**.