

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 4 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 23 WITH US ALWAYS

Objectives

- Explore the promise that Jesus made to his disciples.
- Relate the Emmaus story to the Christian life.
- Discover how the Eucharist changes people and helps them be better disciples.
- Identify the ways to live the Eucharist.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 172–173

Ask your child to think about times when a good friend went on vacation or moved away. Ask: Do you like to receive a postcard or letter from an absent friend? Why? (A letter can comfort us; we may “hear” our friend’s voice in the way the letter is written; we know that our friend is thinking about us.)

Invite your child to imagine how the disciples felt after Jesus died. Then refer to **With Us Always** on page 172, and pray together the opening Prayer.

Pronounce *Emmaus* (eh•MAY•uhs) and tell your child that it was a town within a day’s walking distance of Jerusalem. Read **Scripture Story: On the Emmaus Road** on pages 172–173, and remind your child that the people of Jesus’ time believed a messiah would overthrow the Roman government and make Israel a great kingdom again. Ask: Why do you think the narrator of this story and his friend were saddened? (They had believed Jesus was the messiah, but they lost hope at his death.)

Ask your child to think about the story as he or she looks at the picture. Ask: Who do you think the third traveler might be? Have your child confirm his or her answer by reading the rest of the story.

Briefly explore with your child why it was difficult for the disciples to understand what had happened to Jesus. Point out, for example, that fear distracted them and that understanding the truths revealed in Scripture was not easy. Ask: How did Jesus help them understand what had really happened? (He explained the Scriptures so that they understood their meaning.) Why do you think they invited him to stay? (Possible answers: They were fascinated by his wisdom, and they wanted to hear more; they began to understand the truth.)

Invite your child to study the painting and tell how he or she thinks the artist tried to show the dramatic moment when the disciples recognized Jesus. Share with your child the following information about the painting: *The Supper at Emmaus* was painted in 1598 by Caravaggio (1571–1610). His religious paintings were sometimes criticized because his models were ordinary people from the streets, whom he painted realistically. In the painting the “spotlight” on Jesus and the disciples’ gestures of surprise recreate the drama of the story. Jesus appears without a beard. This was common in early Christian art showing the resurrected Christ, but Caravaggio may also have painted Jesus without a beard to show that the disciples did not recognize him.

Discuss the caption question. (They began to feel his presence when he shared the Scriptures with them; they recognized him when he blessed and broke the bread.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 174–177

Ask your child to retell the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Then read **In the Word and at the Table** on page 174. Ask: How are we like the disciples on the road to Emmaus? (We forget sometimes that Jesus was raised from death; we get distracted and do not recognize Jesus in our midst.) How does Jesus fulfill his promise to be with us? (by being present to us through the celebration of the Eucharist, in the Scriptures, and in the faith community)

Read **Catholics Believe**, and remind your child that we are not just hearers of God’s word, but we are also called to be doers of God’s word. We are gathered into one family of faith in Jesus to do what he did—love God and others.

Act as a partner to your child as you do the **Activity** on page 174.

Continue reading the text on page 175. Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification of the highlighted term.

Point out the similarities between the meal shared at Emmaus and the celebration of the Eucharist as we know it today. Emphasize that we share the word of God, listen to the presiding priest or deacon explain the Scriptures to us, and break bread together. In sharing the Eucharistic bread we come to recognize the Real Presence of Jesus with us. Ask: How is Jesus present to us in Holy Communion? (We don’t just meet Jesus in the Eucharist; we become one with him. He becomes part of us. He unites all of us into his own Body.)

Point out or elicit from your child that the photograph on page 175 shows a priest breaking the consecrated Bread, or Host, at the celebration of the Eucharist. Read aloud the **Landmark**, and explain that the wafer we use at Mass—whether a pressed wafer like the one shown or a loaf—is unleavened like Passover bread, to recall the Israelites hasty departure from Egypt. The breaking of our Eucharistic Bread occurs after the assembly has prayed the Lord’s Prayer. Usually the Lamb of God is sung while the priest is breaking the Eucharistic Bread in a ritual action called the *fraction rite*. Ask: What does breaking the Eucharistic Bread mean? (It reminds us that we share one loaf, which makes us one body in Christ. It also reminds us of Jesus’ suffering and death.)

Draw your child’s attention to the pictures on page 176. Point out that each picture tells how the Eucharist can change us. To discuss the page, you might wish to use the following suggestions:

We are joined with Christ. Just as the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, we, too, are changed. Christ lives in us. Art background: *The Savior* was painted by El Greco (1541–1614). This Greek artist studied in Italy and lived most of his life in Spain. The fixed gaze and front-facing position recall the great icons of Byzantine art, but there is something typical of El Greco’s art in the gentleness of expression.

We gain strength to grow in love and turn away from sin. Explain to your child that in the Eucharist we are reconciled with God and with the Christian community. Just as everyday food nourishes our bodies and gives us strength to live healthy lives, so does the Eucharist nourish our spirits, giving us the strength we need to follow Jesus.

We grow in justice and charity toward all people. Point out that by receiving the Eucharist often, we begin to see all people as our brothers and sisters. We want all people to have what is justly theirs. We want to show the love of Jesus to others.

We are nourished in the new life of the Holy Spirit. Art background: *Pentecost*, a fifteenth-century painting on wood by Sancho de Rojas, shows the Holy Spirit descending upon Mary and the apostles. The scene portrays Acts 2:1–4, in which the Holy Spirit fills the apostles with divine inspiration and courage to proclaim the resurrection and continued presence of Jesus.

Read **Living the Eucharist** on page 177, have your child review the Ten Commandments, the law of love, and the Beatitudes. After reading the text, brainstorm some practical ways young people can love without limits or selfishness. Ask: How is the Eucharist a foretaste of God’s kingdom? (Possible answers: We are united in love with others; God is present.)

Read **Our Moral Guide** and explain to your child that the word *amen* means “Yes, may it be so.” When we say amen to receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, we are saying, “May we live as you lived, Jesus.” Brainstorm with your child some practical suggestions for loving, sharing, following God’s law, and so on.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 178

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

Read and discuss **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish.** Try to follow through on these suggestions.

Complete **Unit 6 Review** on pages 180–181 in your text.

Complete pages 45–46 in your **Faith Journal.**

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 179

Remind your child that Jesus is always with him or her, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Invite your child to tell how the pictures on page 179 show what the Eucharist means to us. (Possible answers: In the Eucharist we share in Jesus' gift of himself on the cross; we are made one with Jesus.) Art background: *The Head of Christ* is the work of Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–1669). This particular version of Christ shows a quiet, reflective man who wears a beard and has shoulder-length hair. In this painting Jesus looks like an ordinary gentleman of Rembrandt's time. This image of Christ reminds us that Jesus is truly among us in every time and every place.

The Cross of Muiredach at Monasterboice, Ireland, is an excellent example of tenth-century Irish Viking stone sculpture. Called a *high cross*, it stands eighteen feet tall and is carved from sandstone. One part of the carving shows the crucifixion.

Read **Looking for Jesus** on page 179. If you wish, share the following information with your child. When he was sixteen years old, Saint Patrick (389–461) was kidnapped from his father's farm in Britain, taken to Ireland, and enslaved. During his separation from his home and family, Patrick grew in awareness of God's love for him. He escaped to Britain and became a monk and then a bishop. Patrick returned to Ireland as a missionary. By the time of his death, most of the Irish people had converted to Catholicism and been baptized.

Invite your child to reflect on Jesus' promise to be with us whenever we gather in his name. Then pray together the **Prayer of Saint Patrick** and close with the Sign of the Cross.