

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 4 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 24

WE CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK: WALKING WITH JESUS

Objectives

- Connect Holy Week with the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- Explore the Way of the Cross.
- Proclaim Easter joy, made possible through the cross.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 182

Explain to your child that suffering is a part of everyone's life. Jesus felt pain. Jesus suffered. Because of this he understands how we feel when we suffer. Refer to the chapter title: **Walking with Jesus** on page 182. Then pray together the opening **Prayer**.

Read the rest of page 182. Help your child understand the meaning of the highlighted words by referring to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification.

Look at the background picture of the Via Dolorosa or Way of Sorrows. Explain that tradition tells us this is the route through Jerusalem that Jesus walked when he carried his cross to Calvary. Point out that the picture on the bottom of the page shows the veneration of the cross. This ritual is usually part of the Good Friday liturgy.

Supply the materials for your child to do the **Activity**.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 183

Talk with your child about the stations of the cross displayed in your parish. Explain that praying at each station started as a Holy Week custom. Read **The Way of the Cross**, and help your child understand the meaning of *devotions* by sharing some examples, such as praying the Rosary or the Way of the Cross. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification of the highlighted word.

Read **Catholics Believe**. Explain that meditating on Jesus' suffering is not meant to make us feel bad; rather it is to remind us of Jesus' great love for us in suffering and dying for us.

Ask your child to identify what he or she sees in the two photographs. (The first shows a station from the Way of the Cross. The second shows people actually walking in a Way of the Cross procession.) Then read aloud the caption.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 184

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.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete pages 47–48 in your **Faith Journal.**

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 185

Point out to your child that Christians have hope even in the midst of suffering. We are hopeful because we know that the suffering of Jesus was not in vain. It led to the joy of Easter. We believe that someday our suffering will end; we will enjoy eternal life with God.

Invite your child to describe the painting of the crucifixion on page 185. Art background: *The Crucifixion* (1945) is the work of David Aronson (b. 1923), a Lithuanian-born painter and sculptor who is now a U.S. citizen. The painting shows the twelve apostles and the women mourners by the side of the dying Christ. Above the cross are the letters *I N R I*, which stand for the Latin of “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” Far from being sad, the painting is an expression of hope. Ask: Why do you think artists throughout the centuries have painted the crucifixion? (Possible answers: to help people imagine what it must have been like; to help people feel closer to the sufferings of Jesus.) Why do Christians see the crucifixion as a sign of hope? (because we believe that Jesus’ death brings salvation)

Read **Joy Through the Cross** and emphasize that the Passion of Jesus must always be linked with his resurrection. Christians are called to be people of hope and joy, not people of sadness and despair.

Go with your child to the place in your home where there is a crucifix or cross. Take a moment to look at the crucifix or cross and recall Jesus’ sacrifice and great gift of love. With your child name one blessing in your life for which you wish to thank God, then name one person, situation, or need for which you seek God’s help. Then pray together the closing **Prayer.**