

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 4 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 27 SEEDS OF THE KINGDOM

Objectives

- Describe God's kingdom in terms of seeds, plants, and the harvest.
- Explain how all people are called by God to grow in holiness.
- Describe three gifts that help one become holy.
- Explore the Lord's Prayer and ways to live for God's kingdom.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 202–203

Explain to your child that planting seeds, caring for plants, and gathering the harvest are good symbols for God's kingdom. (If anyone in your family enjoys gardening or caring for plants use these as an example.) Then pray together the opening **Prayer** of the chapter on **Seeds of the Kingdom**, page 202.

Read the text on that page. Ask: Why are planting seeds, caring for plants, and gathering the harvest all good symbols for our growth in faith? (Possible responses: Faith takes time to develop; one must be willing to work at his or her faith; faith must be nourished; a life of faith yields many rewards.)

Discuss the pictures on page 203 separately, asking your child to describe what he or she sees in each picture. (spring flowers poking through ice and snow, a man working in a garden, healthy vines, a tree that is producing fruit, a gardener who has pulled weeds from around plants) Ask your child to read aloud the caption for each photograph.

Using your family Bible, help your child to complete the **Activity** on page 203.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 204–207

Remind your child that in God's kingdom we will always be happy. Ask: What do you think it will be like to be completely happy?

Read together **Only One Path** on page 204, and refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted term.

Read **Be Perfect**. Invite responses to the text questions. (We can be perfect by loving as God loves—with patience, steadfastness, and understanding.)

Read **Catholics Believe**, and ask your child to think of ways God’s kingdom can grow in his or her heart. (by praying often, by trying to love others, by helping those who are poor, by celebrating the sacraments, and so on)

Draw your child’s attention to the statue of Mary and the child Jesus. Then read the caption. Ask: How is Mary a perfect model of holiness? (She never sinned and always said yes to God.) How can we say yes to God?

Draw your child’s attention to the photograph of the children on page 205. Ask: What do you think the students in the picture are doing? (praying together or singing) How do you think they are growing in holiness? (They are praying, cooperating, living in peace with others, and so on.)

Have your child read the text on the page, and ask: What does it mean to be perfect? (to be whole, complete, mature, peaceful, merciful, forgiving) How can we grow to be complete and whole? (We can turn away from sin and be healed.)

Read **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Philip Neri**, and discuss how each of you would answer the question Saint Philip Neri asked of the people he met.

Read **Three Great Gifts**, page 206, and refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help clarify the highlighted term. Ask: What are the theological virtues? (faith, hope, and love) What is faith? (believing in God and believing in all that God has revealed) What is hope? (looking forward to the happiness of God’s eternal reign) What is love? (the gift of doing all things out of love for God) What is another name for love? (charity)

Read **Our Moral Guide**. Be sure your child understands that growth in holiness is a process; he or she should not give up. Sometimes your child will sin. At those times he or she should remember God’s forgiveness and love and accept God’s help in turning away from sin. Invite responses to the question. (Help your child examine and dismiss misconceptions about holiness: that it is unnatural, possible only for a select few, unrelated to real life, or “no fun.”)

Discuss answers to the caption question. (Help your child understand that for Christians, bound by Jesus’ new commandment, love is the highest virtue and a gift from God; all other virtues and good actions flow from love and cannot exist without love.)

Ask your child to read aloud the opening paragraph and the **Living the Lord’s Prayer** on page 207. Brainstorm practical ways your child can live the teaching of each section of the Lord’s Prayer at home, at school, or in the parish.

Have your child describe what he or she sees in the background photograph. (People are holding hands, praying the Lord's Prayer during Mass.) Explain that many parishes have the custom of asking people to hold hands during the Lord's Prayer as a sign that they are all members of the same family, the family of Jesus. Those in the picture are also raising their hands as the priest does during the Lord's Prayer.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 208

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 in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete **Unit 7 Review** on pages 210–211 in your textbook.

Complete pages 53–54 in your **Faith Journal.**

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 209

Have your child think back on the year and share examples of how he or she has experienced God's faithful love. Ask your child to share why he or she feels hopeful about the future. (God's kingdom of happiness, justice, and peace will come some day.)

Have your child focus on the picture of the tree on page 209. Ask: How does this photograph remind you of God's future kingdom? (Possible answers: We must bear good fruit if we want to live in God's kingdom; we have to remain connected to Jesus, the vine; producing good fruit takes time and patience; we have to do our best while we wait for the fullness of God's kingdom.)

Close the lesson by reading **To Live in His Love.** Explain that the Feast of Christ the King was instituted by Pope Pius XI to remind people that Jesus was the King of Kings, greater than all earthly governments and rulers. This feast on the last Sunday of Ordinary Time (in late November), celebrates our primary allegiance to God rather than to earthly political rulers.

Invite your child to offer spontaneous prayers of thanks for the past year. Pray the closing **Prayer** together.