

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 5 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 10 STORIES AND SIGNS

Objectives

- Recognize the power of Jesus' stories to teach us about God.
- Explore five parables about God's kingdom.
- Connect repentance with our baptismal call to live in God's kingdom.
- Recognize the steps we can take to understand the parables of Jesus.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 74–75

Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 74. Explain that this lesson will deal with some of the stories Jesus told called parables. Note the chapter title: **Stories and Signs**.

Read the modern-day parable on page 74. Explain that stories like this one, which teach moral lessons about how to live, are called *parables*. (Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification of this word.) Ask: What do you think the selfish man learned from his young son? (Answers will vary but should include the idea that the son may treat the father in the same way that the grandfather was being treated.)

Read the text on page 75. Ask: Why do you think Jesus used stories instead of telling people facts about God's kingdom? (Possible answers: Stories are easier to remember; stories can be understood in different ways by people of different times but still carry the same message.)

Read the caption questions. Invite your child to respond to them. (Possible answers: Stories are exciting; they teach us new things; it's fun to pass on to others what you know and enjoy.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 76–79

Be sure your child understands the meanings of the terms *kingdom of God* and *miracles* (Check the definitions for each of these terms in the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook.) Read the text on page 76: **God’s Kingdom Is Here!** Point out to your child that magic is not real; it is the art of illusion. A miracle, however, is real; God causes it to happen.

Read the **Catholics Believe** statement. Remind your child of the saying “Seeing is believing.” In the case of miracles, however, for Jesus it was often “Believing is seeing.” Jesus worked many miracles because of people’s faith.

Read the text on page 77: **What Is This Kingdom of God Like?** Be sure the word *parable* is understood. Ask: What are three treasures of God’s kingdom? (love, justice, and peace)

Use a Bible to read together the parables referenced with the pictures on pages 76 and 77. Then refer to the **Activity** on page 76, and have your child share one of the stories with you.

Help your child come to some practical ways he or she can love, act justly, and make peace to show that he or she is living in the reign of God. (Possible answers: helping a younger brother or sister, getting along with others at school, obeying parents and guardians, or going without some pleasant but unnecessary activity or possession in order to provide some necessities for others.)

Read the **Scripture Signpost**. Invite your child to share his or her thoughts on the question. Lead your child to the understanding that God’s love can be found anywhere there is love, peace, and justice.

Read **We Belong to the Kingdom**, page 78. Then draw attention to the photo. Ask: How is this action an example of living in God’s kingdom? (Most gangs engage in violence, warfare, and crimes. Anti-gang rally supports the values of peace, love, and forgiveness.) Then discuss the caption question by asking your child to share three practical ways he or she can show God’s kingdom is here.

Read **Our Moral Guide**, and invite your child to respond to the question. (It’s hard to admit you’re wrong; turning to God means saying “I’m sorry” and deciding to change.)

Explain to your child that is important not just to know the parables that Jesus told, but also to understand them. Understanding the parables is like breaking a secret code. We have to “decode” the parable to find out its hidden message. Read through the **Stepping Stones on Understanding a Parable**, page 79. If time permits, choose a parable from the Gospels and help your child apply the steps as practice.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 80

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 with the suggestions found there.

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

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 19–20.

Step 4: Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 81

Close the lesson with prayer. Read together **Working Miracles**, and talk about the photos in relation to Jesus' teachings. Then pray the closing **Prayer**.