

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 5 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 14 STEPS ON OUR JOURNEY

Objectives

- Recognize Baptism as the first step on the journey of Christian faith.
- Explore the process of becoming a Church member.
- Identify the Sacraments of Initiation.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 104–105

Use an example from your own life, the news, or a movie to explain to your child how change can be a positive experience. Pray together the opening *Prayer* on page 104.

Read aloud or summarize the text on page 104. Ask: Why is change sometimes difficult or painful? (Sometimes the unknown frightens us or we lose someone or something important to us.)

Explain the term *godparents* and talk with your child about how his or her godparents help your child grow in faith. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for additional information. Discuss other people in the life of your family who provide good examples of faith-filled living.

Look at the picture on the top of page 105. Jesus is teaching Nicodemus (nik-uh-dee-mus). Remind your child that Jesus was a great teacher. Let your child speculate on what Jesus might be teaching Nicodemus, then read the **Scripture Story: Entering a New Life** and the **Scripture Signpost**. Ask: What term confused Nicodemus? (“born again”) Discuss the question at the end of the page. (Answers should show an understanding that through baptism we were born again and enter the new life that Jesus made possible through his death and resurrection.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 106–109

Read **One Step at a Time** and **The Journey Continues**, pages 106–107, and help your child understand the terms *initiation*, *catechumenate*, and *sponsor*. Go to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for further explanation of these terms. Discuss the caption question on page 106. Focus on how people prepare for initiation by asking questions and sharing stories. The early Church concentrated on the conversion of adults. In time the Baptism of adults was preceded by a period of formation known as the catechumenate. Do you have a catechumenate at your parish? This process of formation is called the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Ask your child: Why is it important for catechumens like Jenny to have sponsors? (Answers should indicate that initiation involves a community, not just an individual, and that it is important to have someone provide support during this journey.)

Help your child understand that faith is not something we can learn once and for all. All of us are constantly learning and constantly journeying to deepen our faith.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe** on page 106. Point out to your child that Church membership involves growing in our relationships with God and with our faith community.

To learn about Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, read **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Cyril of Jerusalem**, page 107, and explain to your child that Saint Cyril was a great teacher of the early Church who studied the Scriptures. Because of his great teaching ability, he was put in charge of instructing catechumens. He designed a program of group instruction to compensate for the lack of teachers.

Have your child do the **Activity** on page 107. Encourage your child to choose inspiring stories from a variety of sources: Scripture stories, stories from their outside reading, or stories from television or movies. Act as your child's partner in this activity.

Read **A Night to Remember** on page 108 and clarify the term *elect* by referring to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook.

Next read **Our Moral Guide** and answer the question there. (Answers should show an understanding that grace to overcome temptation is available through prayer, the sacraments, practicing good habits, and the support of the faith community.)

Direct your child's attention to the pictures on page 108. What are the three Sacraments of Initiation shown here? (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)

Continue reading together the story of Jenny's initiation on page 109. Have your child imagine he or she is Jenny. Ask: What would be the most special moment of this Easter Vigil for you? (Answer will vary based on your child's experience and understanding.)

Explain that while adults who are initiated celebrate these sacraments all at once, most children who are baptized as babies celebrate these sacraments separately to provide them with the opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith gradually and to understand the meaning of the sacraments. Finish reading the page—**Only the Beginning**.

Look at the photo on the bottom of page 109 and read the caption. Ask: Why is it important to renew the promises made at Baptism, as these young people are doing? (to recommit ourselves to the journey of faith) Remind your child that each time people dip their hand into the holy water font and bless themselves, they are renewing their baptismal promises.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 110

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

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 words.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 27–28.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 111

Read **Born of Water and Spirit**, and follow the directions found there for praying the closing **Prayer**.