

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 5 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 17 CALLED TO GOD'S KINGDOM

Objective

- Conclude that everyone is loved by God and called to his kingdom.
- Explore the meaning of the Beatitudes.
- Recognize Christian morality is based on the belief that everyone is made in God's image.
- Examine some steps that can help in making moral decisions.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experiences), pages 126–127

Discuss with your child a time when he or she was invited to join a group and how that felt. Tell him or her that Jesus loves us and invites us all to join him in God's kingdom. Note the chapter title: **Called to God's Kingdom**. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 126.

Look at the photograph on page 126. Ask: How do you think the boy standing alone feels? (He probably feels sad and lonely because he's not part of the group.) What could the other children do to make him feel welcomed? (They could invite him to join their game.)

Read the text on pages 126–127 and discuss it with your child. Ask: What did Jason's mother mean when she said, "It's their loss"? (Others were missing out on the opportunity to get to know him and enjoy his company.)

Work with your child to complete the **Activity** on page 126.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 128–131

Remind your child that God's love includes everyone. We are all called to belong to God's kingdom. Read the **Scripture Story: Real Blessings from God** on pages 128–129. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for further clarification of the highlighted words. Ask your child to identify each group of people whom Jesus praised. (for example, the poor in spirit and those who mourn) Work with your child to come up with a simple, basic definition of each group.

Explain that some people think of the Beatitudes as “be-attitudes.” Jesus promises that if we have these Christian attitudes throughout life, we will experience the happiness of God’s kingdom.

Read **Catholics Believe** and emphasize the words *be* and *act* in the statement by writing them on a piece of paper in large letters. Explain that while all people are invited to belong to God’s kingdom, we have the freedom to choose. We demonstrate our choice to be members of God’s kingdom through our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

Direct your child’s attention to the picture and caption on pages 128–129. Ask: What types of people do you see in the picture? (young, old, men, women, soldiers, ordinary people) Remind your child that Jesus calls all people to God’s kingdom. Explain that in the Bible, the Gospels according to both Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus preaching the Beatitudes. Matthew’s Gospel describes Jesus delivering his sermon from the top of a mountain. This notation of the place where the sermon occurred connects Jesus to Moses, who received God’s commandment on Mt. Sinai.

Read the **Scripture Signpost** and have your child answer the question. (Jesus brought them together, protected and cared for them, and showed them the way to live.)

Ask your child to describe a time when he or she felt very happy. Emphasize examples that involve sharing with family members, friends, and community members. Lead your child to realize that true happiness is the result of *who* we are and the *good relationships* we have with others. Remind him or her that the Beatitudes tell us how we can attain true happiness—*who* we need to be (the attitudes we should have) and *how* we should relate to others.

Read **The Christian Attitude** on page 130 and refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to better understand the term *morality*.

Direct your child’s attention to the photograph. Ask him or her to explain how the images on the banner might relate to the Beatitudes. (They are all images of reconciliation and peacemaking.)

Have your child do the **Activity** on page 130. To clarify the task and prompt your child’s ideas, do one example together. Then allow time for your child to work on his or her own.

Read **Our Moral Guide** and discuss the possible answers to that question with your child. (Answers will vary depending on your child’s experiences and family situation.)

Ask your child to describe what the two people in the photograph on page 131 seem to be doing. (having a serious discussion) Why is it helpful to talk things over with another person? (A family member or a friend can help you make up your mind or solve a problem.) Emphasize that praying to God also helps us when we are making moral decisions.

Read through the first paragraph of **Stepping Stones: Making Moral Decisions**. Then ask your child to read the steps aloud. Go over these steps and have your child put them into his or her own words. Apply these steps to each of the following situations: (1) Some friends want you to skip school and go to a movie with them. (2) You didn't have time to study for a test, so you're thinking about pretending to be sick and staying home from school. (3) In order to belong to a popular group, you must steal a small item from the store.

Have your child read **Where Will This Lead Me?**

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into daily Life), page 132

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

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 terms.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 33–34.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 133

Ask your child to describe people they know or people in the news who practice the Beatitudes in their daily lives. For example, Mother Teresa devoted her life to helping the poorest of the poor in Calcutta, India.

Call attention to the photographs on page 133. Ask: How can young people help one another live the Beatitudes? (Accept all reasonable ideas, such as making sure others are not left out of the activities and helping resolve disagreements, and talking with a friend who is trying to make a difficult decision.) How does gathering together to pray help us? (We feel the love and support of our faith community.)

After reading the opening paragraph of **Blessed Are We**, remind your child that God calls everyone to be happy or blessed. We grow in happiness by following the Beatitudes.

Close the lesson by praying together the **Prayer**.