

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 5 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 23

WE CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST

Objectives

- Relate our physical need for food to our spiritual need for the Eucharist.
- Recognize that Jesus is truly present in the consecrated Bread and Wine of the Eucharist.
- Describe the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the concluding rite.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 172–173

Invite your child to describe his or her favorite kind of bread. Ask him or her to think of reasons why many cultures consider bread a staple, one of the foods that is basic to life. Remind him or her that the consecrated bread we share every Sunday at Mass is part of our most sacred meal, the Eucharist. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** of the chapter **We Celebrate the Eucharist**, page 172.

Direct your child's attention to the photograph on page 173. Ask: What do you think is happening in this picture? (Some people are passing out soup and bread to others.) When and where do you think this picture was taken? Explain that this photograph was taken in the United States in the 1930s; however, hunger is still a problem today.

Read or summarize the text on page 172. Ask: Why were some people hungry during the 1930s? (Possible answers: People lost jobs because factories shut down, drought destroyed many farms, the Depression.) Name ways that your parish reaches out to the hungry in your community? (Possible answers: monthly food drive, Social Concerns committee, CROP Walk, and so on.)

Have your child read and do the **Activity**.

Read **The Bread of Life** on page 173, and ask your child to think about the meaning of the word *hunger* used as a verb. Ask: What good things do you think people hunger for in the world today? (Possible answers: love, security, peace, knowledge.)

Point out some of the signs of our spiritual hunger: feelings of inadequacy, fear, restlessness, boredom, envy, and so on. Not only do our bodies experience hunger, so do our souls. Ask: How can this kind of hunger be satisfied? (by celebrating the Eucharist) What good things do you think people hunger for in the world today? (Possible answers: love, security, peace, friendship, knowledge.)

Read the **Scripture Signpost** and answer the question. (Jesus offered himself on the cross to gain new life for us; by eating the bread of the Eucharist, we become one in Christ.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 174–177

As you work with **Scripture Story: While They Were Eating**, remind your child that in the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe the Last Supper as a *Seder*, the sacred meal eaten by the Jewish people during Passover to recall the liberation of the Israelites. Jesus' words, however, gave new meaning to the meal. *Do this in memory of me* means that we are not only to repeat Jesus' words and share meals but also, like Jesus, we are to give our lives in service to others. Ask: When do we do what Jesus asked of his friends at the Last Supper? (When we celebrate the Eucharist, the presider repeats the words and actions of Jesus; like his friends we share the Body and Blood of Christ.)

Call attention to the picture on the bottom of the page, and read the caption. Ask: Why do you think Jesus often used the image of a banquet or family meal when he talked about the kingdom of God? (Answer should show an understanding that people generally come together in love and friendship to share a meal; meals also suggest our need for food—both physical and spiritual.)

Look at the photograph on the top of page 175. Ask your child to relate the photograph on page 175 to the picture on the previous page. (The photograph shows a priest consecrating the bread and wine at Mass, just as Jesus did at the Last Supper.) Invite a response to the caption question. As your child responds, make sure he or she sees that our understanding of what happens in the Eucharist comes from faith—the personal, trusting relationship we enter into with God.

Read Through the Power of His Spirit and refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted term. Invite responses to the text question. (We become more like Christ—more unselfish and loving.)

Read **Our Moral Guide** and discuss the question. Explain that the Church teaches that the effects of the Eucharist are as follows: It strengthens our union with Christ, separates us from sin, makes us the Body of Christ, commits us to those who are poor, and unites us with other Christians. Point out that we must remain open to God's gift of grace for the Eucharist to have these effects in our daily lives. If your child has lingering questions about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, consult the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1373–1381).

Read over the chart on **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**, pages 176–177. Ask: What moments of the liturgy are shown in the first chart? (when we bring the bread and wine to the altar; when the presider consecrates the bread and wine) Remind your child that the *Paschal mystery* is defined as the accomplishment of God’s plan of salvation in Jesus’ passion, death, resurrection, and ascension. Point out that we share in this Paschal mystery when we participate in the sacraments and especially in the Holy Week liturgies. You may also wish to recite for your child the concluding words of praise, called the *doxology*: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.

Emphasize the assembly’s participation; remind your child that through Baptism we all share in the priesthood of Christ. Ask: How do we show that it is the whole assembly—not just the presider—who is making an offering to God? (Possible answers: We bring the gifts to the altar; we join the presider in offering the sacrifice; we speak our praise and belief as a response to the presider’s actions.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 178

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 Six Review** on pages 180–181 in your textbook.

Complete pages 45–46 in the **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 179

Remind your child that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Look at the background picture on page 179. Point out both the tabernacle and the sanctuary light, which are signs of Christ’s presence in the consecrated Bread. In discussing the top inset painting, share the following information with your child: *The Sacrament of the Last Supper* was created by the Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dali (1904–1989) in 1955. The painting, in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, shows a modern setting with Jesus and the twelve apostles. Behind them is the risen Christ with nail wounds from the crucifixion. The painting connects today’s Mass, the Last Supper, and Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Read **Truly Present** and help your child to understand the term *Blessed Sacrament* by referring to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for further clarification.

Pray together the closing **Prayer**, called *Anima Christi*—a prayer attributed to Pope John XXII (1249–1334).