

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 5 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 27

THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME

Objectives

- Relate the experience of working to achieve a goal to living our Catholic faith.
- Recognize that the kingdom of God is both in the future and in the present.
- Explore what we must do to help God's kingdom become a reality.
- Discover how the sacraments help us in the work God calls us to do.

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

Discuss experiences of learning and mastering a skill. Discuss the sense of “already” and “not yet” that is part of such an experience. Point out that serving in God’s kingdom is also a skill that requires hard work. Read aloud the title (**The Life of the World to Come**) and pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 202.

Read about David and his clarinet. Ask: How did David feel about practicing the clarinet? (Possible answers: angry, impatient, frustrated, discouraged.) What will it take for David to do well? (patience, perseverance, a goal) Help your child understand that reaching a goal demands practice, even when it’s not fun, and dedication, especially when it’s not convenient.

As you read **A Powerful Pull** on page 203, use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted term. Ask: What kinds of things would make the world a better place to live? (Possible answers: choosing good instead of evil, being unselfish, helping others.) Discuss the importance of making these habits in the Christian life.

Have your child focus on the picture as you read aloud the activity caption. Ask: Who do you think the adult in the picture might be? (Possible answers: a school principal, a teacher, a counselor.) Share with your child that “walking by faith” is not something we do alone. Remind him or her that we grow in faith in the company of others, especially the members of our faith community.

Discuss the **Activity** with your child.

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

Have your child identify some common motives for doing good or avoiding evil, such as self-interest, fear of punishment, and love of God and others. Explain that as members of the Body of Christ, our motives should be rooted in what Jesus taught us.

Direct your child’s attention to the illustration on page 204, and invite him or her to respond to the caption question. (Possible answers: It represents God’s kingdom; its riches show that it is a perfect place, with no suffering, evil, or death.)

Read the **Scripture Story: A Heavenly Vision**. Ask: How does the story tell you that God’s reign is meant for everyone? (John says the gates will be open to all people of good will, and people from every nation will pass through.)

As you read **Catholics Believe**, explain that the kingdom of God is present through the Holy Spirit in the Church here and now. Stress that we must do whatever we can to bring about love, peace, and justice in our world. Point out that we can’t just sit and wait for the kingdom to appear in its perfect, final form.

Have your child read aloud **Working Toward the Vision** on page 205. Ask: What does the word *mercy* mean for us as members of the Church? As your child responds, make sure he or she understands that mercy involves not only attitude (*feeling* sympathy for people who are in need), but also action (*doing* something to help them).

Read **Scripture Signpost** and have your child answer the question. (all who work for justice and peace)

Ask your child to tell how he or she thinks the people in each photograph are practicing works of mercy. (collecting food and clothes for people who need them, keeping an older woman company, collecting children’s clothes and toys for families in need)

Discuss the **Activity** with your child.

As your child examines the painting on page 206, point out that there are actually two scenes from Jesus' life shown here, the Sermon on the Mount and the healing of a leper. Ask: How does this painting show that in Jesus, the kingdom of God is made present in both word and action? (Jesus told people about the kingdom of God, and he healed the sick.)

Read **We are Invited** on page 206. Remind your child that parables are simple stories that illustrate religious truths. Ask: What special sign do we have in the Church that shows the kingdom is among us? (the Eucharist) Have your child recall that in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church to bring about the kingdom of God.

After reading aloud **The Kingdom of Glory**, page 207, you might review how each sacrament is a sign of God's reign. Ask: Why is it important to have images and symbols in this life? (Possible answers: We can be distracted and need to be reminded of who we are and where we are going; images and symbols speak more deeply to us than words alone.)

Discuss the quotation from *1 Corinthians* and share the following information: In *1 Corinthians 13:12–13*, Paul is talking about the importance of love, not only in our lives in the present, but also in the fullness of God's kingdom in the future. Because we will see God face to face, we will no longer need either faith or hope. Indeed, there will be only love, and this love will last forever.

Remind your child of what he or she learned earlier—that one of the ways of describing the Church is as a pilgrim people journeying toward a holy place. Ask: Have you ever felt like a pilgrim on a journey? When?

Invite your child to relate the photograph to the theme of the chapter. (Possible answer: We are signs of God's kingdom when we love others.)

Provide art materials for your child to do the **Activity**.

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

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

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

Read **A Joyful Jubilee** on page 209. Make sure your child understands the meaning of *jubilee*; you might wish to mention that the words *jubilee*, *joyful*, and *jubilation* all come from the same Latin word, *jubilare*.

Look at the symbols shown in the stained-glass insert on page 209. Explain that these are the letters *alpha* and *omega*, the first and last letters from the Greek alphabet. They are used to symbolize God's eternal life, which has no beginning and no ending.

Close the lesson by sharing this information: New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz, a uniquely American form of music that is rooted in both African and European cultures. One of the greatest jazz musicians of the twentieth century, known for his New Orleans style jazz, was cornetist and trumpeter Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong (1900–1971). One of his most famous hits was the song "When the Saints Go Marchin' In."

Then pray together the **Prayer**. If possible sing "When the Saints Go Marchin' In" at the end of your prayer.