

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 5 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 28

WE CELEBRATE EASTER: THE GREAT VIGIL

Objectives

- Discover the importance of the Easter Vigil.
- Recognize how our journey this year is like the journey of those joining the Church.
- Renew our faith in the risen Jesus.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 212

Ask your child to name a time he or she eagerly waited for some celebration. Let your child describe what that excitement felt like. Then pray together the opening Prayer on page 212.

Note the chapter title: **The Great Vigil**. Tell your child that during the Easter Vigil we use all our senses to celebrate. Read the poem and have your child identify where he or she could use one or more of the senses. (smelling smoke and seeing fire, seeing candles, hearing the story of salvation, feeling the sprinkled water, tasting the sacred Bread and Wine, hearing the singing)

Explain that the Vigil has four parts: The Service of Light, The Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism and Confirmation, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Help your child with the **Activity**.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 213

Have your child think about all that he or she has learned this year. Invite your child to tell one thing he or she would share with someone who wants to join the Church.

Read **A Year to Remember** and turn to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted term. Ask: Why celebrate Baptism during the *Easter Vigil*? (At the Vigil we celebrate Jesus' dying and rising. At Baptism we die with Jesus, then we rise with him.)

Read **Catholics Believe**, and explain that the saving events we celebrate in the Easter Vigil are present and real every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

Ask your child why the background photograph, which shows scenes of God's creation, is appropriate for this last chapter. If necessary, point out that the Easter Vigil celebrates God's saving plan, beginning with creation and leading up to the new creation—the new life—made possible for us by Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 214

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 pages 55–56 in your **Faith Journal.**

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 215

On a piece of paper write: As Christians we have reason to sing alleluia. Ask: Why do you think this statement is true? (Possible answers: We are joyful because we know that God loves us, Jesus has saved us, and the Holy Spirit is with us as we walk in faith toward God's kingdom.)

Ask your child to describe how the photographs on these pages reflect the sentence on the piece of paper. (Children are dancing with joy, happy to be alive; a forest stream or lake reminds us of Easter life.)

Read **We Have Come Full Circle** on page 215. Remind your child that Jesus' death and resurrection opened the door to eternal life. At Baptism the Church community helped us walk through that door—so we could begin sharing new life.

Explain that every year when we celebrate the Easter Vigil, we return to the center of our faith—the resurrection. Remind your child that as followers of Christ, we are both believers and doers. Ask your child to think about this as he or she renews his or her baptismal promises.

Close the lesson with the closing **Prayer** by leading your child in renewing his or her baptismal promises. Refer to the back of the book for praying the Creed (page 218).