

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 6 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 11 THE PROMISED ONE

Objectives

- Describe a prophet.
- Identify some American prophets and their visions for America.
- Summarize the role of prophets in Israel.
- Explain that Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 82–83

Pray together the opening **Prayer** for the chapter on **The Promised One**, page 82.

Invite your child to describe what kind of world he or she wants to see in the future. Then read the text on page 82. Ask: How do prophets help us look beneath the surface? (They call attention to the realities the rest of us would rather ignore; they help us connect with our past and look for a better future.)

Take note of the photo and read the caption. Discuss the question. (Point out current examples of political and social injustice.) How might a prophet help us deal with the injustices in our society and world today? (A prophet would point out the injustice, explain its causes, and call us to correct it.)

Read **Some Who Saw** on page 83. See the **Language of Faith** for a fuller definition of the highlighted word. Ask: What did these five American prophets have in common? (They were concerned about the needs of others, especially those who were poor, and they worked to bring justice.) In what way was John Carroll a prophet? (He spelled out the ever-changing and growing needs of Catholics in the colonies, later the United States.)

Read the **Landmark**. (Bardstown, now Louisville, Kentucky, was the second U.S. diocese; it was established in 1808.)

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 84–87

Read together the text on page 84: **Early Prophets of Israel**. Ask: What did God want from the people of Israel more than anything? (God wanted them to stop worshiping false gods and to worship him alone.) Which prophet anointed David king of Israel? (Samuel) Who among the judges could say, “I was the only one”? (Deborah, the only woman judge) Who was called the father of nations? (Abraham) Who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt? (Moses) Why were some prophets false seers? (They told their kings only what the kings wanted to hear.)

Study the map and read the caption.

Read the **Catholics Believe** statement. Explain that for centuries, God the Father had prepared the people of Israel for the coming of his Son. This preparation was gradual and carried out through the Spirit at work in the prophets and others.

Read **New Messengers from God** on page 85. See the **Language of Faith** for a fuller definition of the highlighted word. Ask: In what way were the two kingdoms turning away from God? (They were worshiping idols, dishonoring the temple, and treating those who were poor unjustly.) Why did God send prophets throughout the centuries? (to turn people’s hearts around) In what ways did the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah come true? (Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians, and the people of Judah were sent into exile.)

If you have time, use your Bible to read the passages noted in the text on this page. Then do the **Activity**.

Read **Our Moral Guide**. Invite your child to respond to the question. (Possible answers: when tempted to avoid responsibilities or to tell a lie to escape punishment, when discouraged in studies or in other activities, when facing challenges in doing something new or difficult, when alone among friends in standing up for what is right.)

Read the text on page 86: **Prophecies of Hope**. Then have your child study the chart on **The Biblical Prophets**. Ask: What was required of Israel to bring about its renewed life? (Return to justice and faithfulness; do right and love goodness.)

Read the text and Scripture passages on page 87. See the **Language of Faith** for a fuller definition of the highlighted word. Remind you child that the kingdom refers to a transformed, or changed, world. Invite him or her to describe such a world.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 88

Review the material taught in this lesson by completing 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 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 **Unit 3 Review** on pages 90–91

Complete pages 21–22 of the **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 89

Call attention to the center photograph on page 89. What is pictured here? (a symphony orchestra) What is shown in the background photograph? (horns and trumpets) What do the horns symbolize? (celebration; an important announcement)

Read **Message of Wonder**. See if you can locate a copy of the words to any of the songs from Handel's *Messiah*. (Check the Internet, or perhaps you have a recording at home.) Discuss the lyrics and notice that this work traces the history of Christianity (the prophecy of Jesus' coming, his birth, passion, death, and resurrection.) Tell your child that Handel's *Messiah* is often performed during Advent and is quite popular among audiences all over the world.

Remind your child that God uses all of creation to communicate with us. If possible, close the session by listening to the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*. If you do not have access to the music, prayerfully reread the Scripture passages on page 87.