

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 6 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 12

WE CELEBRATE ADVENT: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL!

Objectives

- Identify the two dimensions of Advent preparations.
- Explore the meaning of the kingdom of God and God's continuing presence in history.
- Relate the O Antiphons to salvation history.
- Explore how people of faith contribute to the kingdom of God.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 92

Remind your child that during Advent, we prepare our hearts to meet Jesus when he comes again. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 92.

Then read the text on page 92. See the **Language of Faith** for a fuller definition of the highlighted word.

Have your child complete the **Activity** at the bottom of the page.

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), page 93

Read **Christ, Come!** on page 93. See the **Language of Faith** for fuller definitions of the highlighted words. Focus on the antiphons that express our longing for the kingdom of God, which will come in its fullness at the end of time.

Read the **Catholics Believe** statement. Point out that we Christians are a people full of hope. To hope is to expect; we expect Jesus' return because he fulfills his promises—for example, he promised to send the Holy Spirit, and he did.

Read the picture caption. Point out that the stained-glass window is a picture of a Jesse tree. Explain that this is Jesus' family tree and is named after Jesse, the father of David and one of Jesus' ancestors. The window is a very early stained glass window constructed in the twelfth century for an abbey near Paris.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 94

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 pages 23–24 of your **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 95

Point out the plant in the stained glass window pictured on page 95. How is the kingdom of God like a plant that grows from a small seed? (It starts out small and grows bigger.) Explain that just as the sun helps plants to grow, Christ sends the Holy Spirit to help the kingdom of God grow in the hearts of the faithful.

Read **Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel!** And remind your child that *Emmanuel* means “God with us.” Why are the words “O come, O come” in the Advent song so appropriate for this season? (God promised a redeemer would come. Jesus has come and remains with us now, and he will come again at the end of time.)

If you have a copy of the words to the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” either sing or pray this hymn to close the lesson. If you do not have the words, pray the O Antiphons found on page 93 and repeat the refrain on page 95 after each antiphon.