

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 6 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 14 THE CHURCH GROWS

#### Objectives

- Explore the challenges of witnessing to one's faith.
- Relate the events of Pentecost and describe developments of the early Church.
- Explore the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

#### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), pages 104–105

Invite your child to recall a difficult situation in which he or she found themselves. Ask how they knew what was the right thing to do. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 104.

Direct your child's attention to the tape pictured across these two pages. What does this tape mean? (Possible answers: crime scene, on-going police investigation.)

Read page 104. Ask your child to name some things the person in the story could do to decide either to step forward as a witness or to keep silent? (Possible answers: pray, talk to a trusted adult, imagine themselves in the clerk's place.) Have your child answer the final question of the story and explain the answer he or she gives.

As you read **Called to Be Witnesses** on page 105, make sure your child understands what being a witness to our faith means acting in ways that show our beliefs and love for others. Remind your child that original sin refers to the first humans' free choice to turn away from God. Since that time the consequences of that sin—evil and hardship—have been present in our world.

Read **Scripture Signpost** and answer the question posed there. Explore with your child what the person might need and want to know: who Jesus is, how Christians should live, how the Church worships God, and how members of the Church community witness to their faith.

Have your child look at the picture at the bottom of the page and answer the caption questions. (Possible answers: during the Sacrament of Baptism, and whenever we renew our baptismal promises.)

## **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 106–109

Read the **Scripture Story: The Mission Begins** and the text that follows on page 106–107, as well as **Catholics Believe**. Explain to your child that the Holy Spirit gives life to the Church by uniting the Church in Christ, guiding us to make loving choices, and helping us witness to and spread faith in Jesus Christ. Ask: What was the promise of the Father? (to send the Holy Spirit) How did the apostles know that the Spirit was with them? (the Holy Spirit shook the house like wind and appeared as tongues of fire)

Look at the picture on page 106. Have your child answer the caption question. (Possible answers: after the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, Jesus' followers carried the good news to the people of the world.)

Ask: How were the followers of Jesus changed on Pentecost? (Possible answers: no longer afraid; excited and happy to go about their mission and proclaim the gospel.) Point out that the apostles carried out their mission not for their own good but for the good of others.

Look at the artwork and read **Landmark** on page 107. Remind your child of the gifts of the Spirit. (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord) Explain that these gifts are tools to help us witness to our faith in deeper and more meaningful ways.

Have your child look at the art on page 106 and find the dove, the olive branch, and the seven tongues of fire. Remind him or her that a dove returned to Noah carrying an olive branch, which signaled the reappearance of dry land after the flood. The olive branch was a sign of hope for new life. Ask: How does the story of Noah relate to the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost? (By coming to Jesus' followers, the Holy Spirit filled them with strength and new hope to spread the good news, just as the dove brought Noah hope to start over after the destruction caused by the flood.)

On page 108 read **Work of the Early Church** and **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Barnabas**. Explain to your child that Barnabas was originally named Joseph, but the apostles gave him the Hebrew name *Barnabas*, which means "son of encouragement."

Read together **Pentecost and Us**, page 109. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to better understand the term *apostolic succession*. Point out to your child that those who are ordained as bishops, priests, or deacons are empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry out their duties: to help the faith community become a holy people.

Read **Our Moral Guide** on page 109. Emphasize to your child that by their actions the faithful give witness to their faith. Have your child answer the question. (by treating others with respect, being just, sharing our beliefs with others, and sharing with those in need)

**Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 110

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share, and Continue the Journey.**

Read **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 the **Faith Journal**, pages 27–28.

**Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 111

Read **Come, Holy Spirit**, on page 111. Why is “Veni, Sancte Spiritus” the perfect hymn for Pentecost and ordinations? (It reminds us the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, and invites the Spirit to continue guiding us.)

If you cannot locate a copy of “Veni, Sancte Spiritus” make up your own **Prayer** to the Holy Spirit asking for guidance in your life.