

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 6 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 16

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS: THE PROMISE FULFILLED

Objectives

- Realize that God answers prayers in unexpected ways.
- Contrast the expected messiah with the Messiah whom God sent.
- Praise God for his gift of the Messiah.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 122

Discuss with your child a time when each of you has prayed to God for help. Tell him or her that the people of Israel prayed for the coming of God's promised messiah. At Christmas we rejoice in the fulfillment of that promise. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 122.

Read the text on page 122. Discuss with your child any time(s) he or she felt that his or her prayers were not being heard or answered. Help your child understand that sometimes God's answer comes in a way we do not expect.

Read the caption. Then have your child read the Scripture passage referenced.

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), page 123

Direct your child's attention to the illustration on the top left of page 123. Explain that the artist, Elimo Njau, is from Kenya. Ask: How can you tell this is a picture of the nativity? (the shepherds, mother, and child) How is this different from other pictures you have seen depicting the nativity? (the landscape, the huts)

Read **The Messiah Comes** and **Catholics Believe**. Ask: Why is it hard for many people to believe that Jesus was the Messiah? (He was not what they expected. They expected a king like David, not a "suffering servant.")

Join your child in completing the **Activity** on page 123.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into daily Life), page 124

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 31–32.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 125

Use your Bible to read Luke 2:1–20. Point out to your child that when the shepherds saw Jesus that night they realized that the promise of a messiah had been fulfilled and they glorified and praised God.

Read **Glory to God** on page 125. How should the “Glory to God” (also called the “Gloria”) be prayed or sung in order to “capture the spirit of praise” in it? (loudly and clearly, happily and joyfully) Then pray the closing **Prayer** together.