

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 6 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 19 THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTION

#### Objectives

- Associate the Holy Spirit with the lives of Spirit-filled people.
- Examine the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Discover what it means to be anointed with chrism.
- Explore the fruits of the Spirit.

#### Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 142–143

Ask your child to tell what comes to mind when he or she hears the words *Holy Spirit*. Tell your child that in this chapter you will explore how the Holy Spirit works in and through members of the Church community. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 142.

Read the text on the page and use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to help your child understand the highlighted term. Remind your child that we meet the living Jesus in word and sacrament, the same living Jesus whom the disciples met day after day. How is God revealed in the material world? (through creation and Jesus) How can we learn about the Holy Spirit? (through the actions of people filled with the Spirit)

With your child, do the **Activity** on page 142.

Read about Saint Thomas Aquinas, **A Life Gifted by the Spirit**, on page 143. Ask: What challenges did Thomas face in his life? (His family disapproved of his choices; some people disapproved of his teaching.) What spiritual gifts did Thomas possess? (wisdom, humility, devotion to God)

Direct your child's attention to Thomas's portrait and the caption. Remind him or her that Thomas used his talents to follow the Spirit and that he became a scholar and doctor of the Church (a teacher of faith).

Focus attention on Thomas's statement *All that I have written . . .* in the second last paragraph. Ask: What do Thomas's words say about our knowledge of God? (Possible response: Our knowledge of God is limited and incomplete.)

Read **Scripture Signpost** on page 143 and answer the question. (He had the courage to develop his talents even when others were not supportive.) Help your child think about where the Spirit is active in his or learning, prayer, discernment, and other activities.

## **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 144–147

Remind your child that he or she can learn about the Holy Spirit by discovering how the Spirit transforms people's lives. Read **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit** on pages 144 and 145, and refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for further clarification of the highlighted word. Emphasize the point that one way Thomas gained knowledge of God was by studying Scripture. Ask: How can you learn about God? (Possible answers: by reading Scripture, attending weekly Mass and listening to your priest's homilies.)

Read **Catholics Believe**. Remind your child that the Spirit continually helps us choose the moral path, the path that leads to God. Emphasize that there is no situation in which the Spirit cannot guide us.

Have your child look at the picture on page 144 and then ask: How is the grandfather sharing his wisdom with his granddaughter? (by showing her how to repair her bike) After you read aloud the caption question, invite your child to respond. (Your child may name his or her parents and other older relatives, teachers, priests, and others who help guide him or her.)

Continue to explore the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Point out that when faced with a difficult choice, we sometimes struggle to make the best decision. People who have the gift of counsel can help us. Ask: What did Thomas sacrifice to become a Dominican? (the support of family)

Ask your child to reflect, in writing, on a time he or she faced disapproval for doing something right. Ask: How did the gift of fortitude help you do what was right? (If your child has difficulty seeing this, give suggestions.) Why are we filled with wonder and awe when we look upon creation? (because creation reflects God, who is the Creator of everything)

Read **Our Moral Guide** on page 145 and discuss how we grow in spiritual maturity as the gifts of the Holy Spirit develop within us. Ask your child to respond to the question. (Help your child understand that being spiritually mature means acting in ways and practicing spiritual disciplines appropriate for one's age.)

Have your child look at the photo on page 145. Ask: What makes this a spiritual setting? (Possible answers: It is outdoors, where we see signs of God's presence in creation; the students are gathered together and singing—something that helps us talk to God in a special way.) Elicit answers to the caption question. (Encourage your child to suggest everyday situations in which he or she might use the gifts of the Holy Spirit.)

Read the **Scripture Story: Jesus Sends Us the Spirit** on page 146 and use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to explain the highlighted term. Point out that Jesus promised his disciples that the Spirit would never leave them. Ask: How do we know the Spirit is still with the Church? (The Church is alive and growing and continuing its mission.)

Emphasize that each Sacrament of Initiation brings a person into the Church's life. Invite your child to recall the added sense of belonging he or she felt when first celebrating the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Ask: What does it mean to be marked with the Spirit? (to be committed to being a follower of Jesus) How does the world see the Holy Spirit? (through the actions of those people who actively witness to their faith in word and deed)

Before your child reads **The Fruits of the Holy Spirit** on page 147, draw a simple outline of a tree on a large piece of paper—twelve branches, each branch supporting a fruit. Inside the fruit write the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit listed on this page. With the book closed, work with your child to create brief definitions for each fruit of the Spirit.

Ask your child to read aloud the introductory text on page 147. Turn to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to better understand the term *fruits of the Spirit*. Call attention to the tree and fruits that you drew. Point out that just as trees mature and bear fruit, Christians grow in spiritual maturity and bear fruits of the Spirit. Compare your definitions with those in the chart.

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 148

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

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 terms.

Complete **Unit 5 Review** on pages 150–151.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 37–38.

**Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 149

Turn to page 149, look at the picture of the banner, and notice the descending dove. Ask: When did the Holy Spirit first descend upon the members of the faith community? (on Pentecost) Who sent the Holy Spirit? (God the Father) Why? (to guide us, to help us understand the good news, and to proclaim the gospel)

Direct your child's attention to the background picture. Ask: Why is the flame a symbol of the Holy Spirit? (The Spirit first came to Jesus' followers like tongues of flame; the Holy Spirit is like a light, guiding us to God.)

Have your child read aloud the introductory paragraph of **Fill Our Hearts, O Spirit!** Ask: How does the Holy Spirit work in our lives? (by guiding us, teaching us, helping us pray and witness to God's presence in the world)

Pray aloud the closing **Prayer** with your child.