

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 6 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 20

### WE CELEBRATE LENT: FORTY DAYS IN THE DESERT

#### Objectives

- Explore the story of the Israelites in the desert.
- Compare the desert experiences of the Israelites and Jesus.
- Explain the observance of Lent.
- Affirm that Lent offers the opportunity to remember those in need.

#### Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 152

Ask your child to recall a time when he or she struggled, was in pain, felt all alone, or was tempted. Tell your child that in this chapter you will be exploring how Jesus is our model for these difficult times. Then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 152.

Read the introductory paragraph and invite your child to describe deserts the family has visited or has seen in photographs or movies. Read the **Scripture Story: Lost in the Desert**.

Point out the painting. Explain that the top portion of the picture is of the Israelites worshipping the golden calf. The bottom portion shows Moses ready to break the tablet of the Ten Commandments in anger at discovering the people's wavering faith. Ask: Which commandment did the Israelites disobey? (I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.)

#### Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), page 153

Review the gifts of the Holy Spirit that strengthen the faithful when they face difficult times. (See pages 144–145 in Chapter 19.) Read the **Scripture Story: Jesus Is Faithful**, page 153, and help your child understand the highlighted term by referring to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification.

Remind your child that Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence only. (The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat.) People between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine must follow the laws of fasting and abstinence; those over the age of fourteen must follow the laws of abstinence.

Help your child make the connection that the forty days of Jesus' fast recall the forty years of the Israelites wandering in the desert.

Read **Catholics Believe**. Explain that Jesus' victory over temptation should inspire us because he, both fully divine and fully human, was tempted, just as we are.

Read the **Activity** and help your child plan these strategies.

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 154

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 the **Faith Journal**, pages 39–40.

### **Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 155

Read and discuss **A Season for Charity** on page 155. Ask: What did Saint Basil sacrifice in his life? (his wealth) Why is Saint Basil a good role model for us to recall, especially during Lent? (His life and his actions remind us of the importance of giving to others.)

Pray aloud Saint Basil's **Prayer** to close this lesson.