

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 6 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 21 THE CALL OF BAPTISM

#### Objectives

- Examine the mission of the baptized.
- Connect the sign of water with salvation history.
- Affirm that the baptismal call is to share in Jesus' mission as priest, prophet, and king.

#### Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 156–157

Read aloud the chapter title, **The Call of Baptism**, page 156, and invite your child to imagine he or she is working as a special agent on an assignment to track down people who are polluting the environment. Ask your child to describe what he or she would need to accomplish the mission. Tell your child that this chapter explores the special mission we as baptized persons must carry out. Then pray together the opening **Prayer**.

Read **Mission: Possible** on page 156. Ask: What is the mission's goal? (to reveal the truth about God's love) With whom will you be working? (members of the Church) Explain that every baptized person works in his or her own way to accomplish this goal. How are we to accomplish this goal? (learn about God's love for people, become familiar with the story of salvation, share the Eucharist, form a loving community, work closely with the Holy Spirit, learn about Jesus)

Call attention to the photograph of the students reading the Bible. Ask: How are these agents trying to accomplish their mission? (by studying the Bible, the story of salvation)

Have your child continue reading aloud the remaining text on page 157. Ask: How are we to accomplish the mission? (by working closely with the Holy Spirit, learning about Jesus) Add these responses to the list from the previous page.

Point out that at Baptism the Spirit provides us with seven qualities or gifts: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. Help your child compose a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Have your child note the picture of the crowd of people. Ask: Why might these people be gathered together? (to celebrate God's love)

Point out that different people have individual talents. These talents make it possible for each person to fulfill his or her mission. Discuss the different talents people bring to their mission.

Help your child create the list mentioned in the **Activity** on page 157.

## **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 158–161

Remind your child that our mission to spread the good news of God's kingdom begins when we are baptized and continues throughout our lives. Have your child read **Scripture Story: A Day of Wonders** on page 158 to find out how the Holy Spirit helped a man named Philip carry out the mission. Ask: How did Philip accomplish the mission? (He told an Ethiopian man the whole story of the gospel and then baptized him.)

Read **Catholics Believe** and point out that when we are baptized we become part of the Church, which is the Body of Christ. Our mission is possible because we are united in Christ and led by the Holy Spirit.

Have your child note the two characters deep in conversation in the picture on page 158. Ask: What might you say about Jesus to teach other people about God's love? (Responses will vary.)

Be a partner to your child as he or she does the **Activity** on page 158.

Direct your child's attention to the photograph on page 159. Ask him or her to recall times he or she has experienced the sprinkling of holy water.

After reading the caption, point out that the sprinkling of holy water reminds us of Baptism. Ask your child to name a time when the presider sprinkles us with holy water and we renew our baptismal promises. (Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday)

Before your child reads the text, list the terms *life*, *salvation*, *freedom*, and *promised land* on a piece of paper. Explain that in salvation history each of these terms has a special connection to water. As your child reads **Our Sacrament of Water** on page 159, record information about these connections: *life*—waters of creation (Genesis 1:2); *salvation*—Noah and the flood (Genesis 7:17–8:21); *freedom*—crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21–22); *promised land*—crossing the Jordan River (Joshua 3:14–17). Ask: Why would a Christian leader, when referring to Baptism, say, "How happy is our sacrament of water"? (The waters of Baptism offer us life in Christ, salvation from sin, hope of freedom from death, and a place in God's kingdom.)

Draw attention to the picture of Jesus' crucifixion at the top of page 160. Christ's cross is at the center of the painting because Christ is at the center of our faith. Note the community of believers gathered together. These disciples and saints will continue the work of Jesus, creating a tradition that helps us become agents of Jesus' mission.

Have your child read **Baptized into the Mission of Jesus** on page 160 to discover the threefold mission of Jesus. Ask: In what three ways did Jesus serve people? (as priest, prophet, and king) How was his sacrifice unlike that of other priests? (Jesus offered his own life as a sacrifice.) How was his prophecy unlike that of other prophets? (He was the Word of God.) How was his kingdom unlike that of other kings? (His kingdom is not of this world.) When is Christ's sacrifice on the cross made present in our lives? (at our celebration of the Eucharist)

Read **Scripture Signpost** on page 160 and tell your child that this passage reminds us of the importance of Baptism, which is our entrance into the kingdom of God. Invite your child to respond to the question. (that we must have new life through Baptism and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives)

Work with your child to do the **Activity** on page 160.

Continue reading the text on page 161, and refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted term.

Recall with your child that we share in Jesus' mission as priest by offering up our prayers and work as sacrifices to God. Ask: How do we share in Jesus' mission as prophet and king? (We give witness to our faith through our words and actions. We show our allegiance to God's kingdom by living as children of God.)

Have your child describe the holy-water font and compare it to ones they have seen. Read the **Landmark**, and explain that the holy water contained in fonts and pools is blessed at different times during the year. Point out that the water opens wide the door to everlasting life, which Jesus, through his death and resurrection, won for us.

Read **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Rose Phillippine Duchesne**, and point out that Sister Rose was always finding new ways to respond to her baptismal call. She was widely known for her charity and prayerfulness.

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 162

Review the material taught in this lesson by completing the 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 these suggestions.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete pages 41–42 in your **Faith Journal**.

#### **Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 163

Read **Keeping Our Promises** on page 163. Point out to your child that by keeping our baptismal promises, we help our relationship with God grow stronger.

Look at the background art. Ask: Where do you see the symbol of the Trinity? (in the triangle) Prompt your child to connect the promises to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with the symbol of the Trinity in the art.

Note the rays of light beaming out of the symbol of the Trinity. Explain that through our participation in the work of evangelization, we bring the light of faith to those who dwell in the darkness of doubt and disbelief.

If possible place a bowl of holy water in the middle of a table. Then pray the renewal of your baptismal promises with your child. At the conclusion of this **Prayer** each should bless yourself with the holy water—recalling that this is the sign by which we identify ourselves as members of the Church, as agents fulfilling a mission.