

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade K / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 12 ADVENT

#### Objectives

- Understand that Advent is a time of preparing for Christmas.
- Explore Advent customs.
- Explain how to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

#### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), page 59

Ask your child to tell what Christmas means to him or her. Ask: What do you think of when you hear the word *Christmas*? (Answers will vary but may include Christmas trees, snow, Christmas ornaments, Santa Claus, and Christmas songs.)

Pray aloud the opening **Prayer** on page 59. Remind your child that Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

#### **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), page 59

Tell your child that Advent is a special time to prepare for Christmas. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. Read the following Advent poem to establish the idea of preparation.

In the winter,  
We are preparing,  
We are preparing,  
For Christmas to come.  
We are counting the weeks  
One by one,  
ONE week,  
TWO weeks,  
THREE weeks,  
FOUR weeks,  
And then,  
Hooray! Hooray!  
It's Christmas again!

Read the chapter title on page 59 (**Advent**). Point out the picture of the Advent wreath. Explain that each candle on the wreath stands for one Sunday (or week) before Christmas. Have your child point to each candle while counting them.

Explain that another way to prepare for Jesus is with prayer.

Read aloud **Scripture Signpost**. Talk with your child about lighted candles giving off bright light. Tell your child that Jesus is like a bright light that we wait for at Christmas.

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 60

Recall with your child that Advent is the time before Christmas when we prepare for the coming of Jesus, who was born on Christmas Day.

Have your son or daughter count the candles on page 60. Tell him or her that these candles will be used to make **An Advent Wreath** (note the heading).

Point out that three of the Advent candles are purple and one is pink. The purple candles remind us that Advent is a time of serious prayer and planning. Explain that the pink candle stands for the third Sunday (or week) of Advent. On that Sunday the readings at Mass remind us to rejoice because Jesus is coming. Invite your child to complete the **Activity** by coloring the Advent candles in the correct colors. Then give him or her a small paper plate to use as a base for an Advent wreath. Ask your child to color a ring of green on the plate to make it look like a green wreath. Then help your child cut out the candles, fold back the tabs, and tape them around the wreath to look like the candles pictured on page 59. Set aside a special place in your home for your child to display the Advent wreath.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Ask your child how he or she might use the Advent wreath to help prepare for Christmas. When possible, gather around the wreath each evening of Advent to pray as a family.

### **Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 60

Close the lesson with prayer. Take turns with your child in explaining how you will prepare for Christmas. Then hold hands and pray the **Prayer** together.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 36–38.