

WALKING by FAITH

Grade K / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 13 CHILDREN OF GOD

Objectives

- Understand that all people are children of God.
- Connect our families with the Church.
- Demonstrate a welcoming of all people to the family of God.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 65

Begin the lesson by praying aloud the opening **Prayer** on page 65. Remind your child that God is a loving parent to us all, and that all people are part of a family made by God.

Have your child look carefully at the picture. Use the picture to talk about a world filled with families of all kinds. Invite him or her to explain what the family shown in the picture is doing. Help your child recognize some times when your family prays together.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe** on page 65. Use the statement to remind your child that we are all part of God's family. Invite your child to tell when and where people gather together with family members to pray to God. (at the dinner table, in church, prayers at bedtime, and so on)

If possible, place a small globe on a table nearby. Explain that the globe represents the world in which we live. If you wish, sing with your child "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 66

Invite your child to share his or her ideas about why families are important to us. (Our families help us, give us love, and so on.)

Point out the picture of the church with people gathered around it on page 66. Tell your child that a church is a building, but *the* Church is the people who gather there for Mass.

Tell your child that at Mass we gather together with our parish family. Together we pray and listen to God’s word. Ask your child to tell what he or she does at Mass. (pray, sing, and so on)

To focus on the church as a gathering place for some members of God’s family, perform the finger play “Here is the Church.”

Here is the church (*Interlock fingers with hands folded down.*)

Here is the steeple. (*Move forefingers together to make a steeple.*)

Open the door. (*Part thumbs.*)

See all the people. (*Turn hands over and show fingers.*)

Point out the **Scripture** verse on this page and read it aloud. Tell your child that these words from the Bible remind us that we are all part of God’s family.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 67

To encourage your child to think about your own parish, ask your child to close his or her eyes for a moment and pretend to be in church. Use prompts such as the following to help your child visualize and respond to the scene.

- I see people gathered together as a parish family. Ask: What do you see? (statues, priest, candles, and so on)
- I hear the priest reading from the Bible. Ask: What do you hear? (singing, praying, whispering, and so on)
- I feel the love offered to God in prayer. Ask: What do you feel? (happy, holy, special, and so on)

If circumstances allow, provide a container of holy water. Have your child practice using the water to make the Sign of the Cross as he or she would upon entering a church.

Provide your child with crayons. Using the drawing space on page 67, have him or her draw pictures of your family attending Mass.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 68

Call attention to the words “Welcome to Our Church” on the welcome sign on page 68. Then have your child trace the word *Church*.

Develop the idea that as members of God’s family, all people are welcome to attend church. Ask your child to suggest what he or she might do to make new members feel welcome. (smile at them, say hello, and so on)

Conclude the lesson with prayer. Take a few quiet moments to let your child reflect about what the Church means to him or her. Then pray together the closing **Prayer**.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 39–41.