

WALKING by FAITH

Grade K / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 15 MOTHER OF OUR CHURCH

Objectives

- Affirm that Mary is Jesus' mother and our mother, too.
- Understand that Mary is the mother of our Church family.
- Learn how Mary followed Jesus.
- Understand that Mary helps all members of the Church follow Jesus and show God's love.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 73

In Chapter 4 your child learned that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is our mother, too.

Begin the lesson by praying aloud the opening **Prayer** on page 73.

Ask your child to tell what he or she already knows about Mary. (chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus, part of the Holy Family, called the Blessed Mother, honored with the Hail Mary prayer, and so on) Explain that in this lesson your child will learn more about Mary.

Call attention to the picture, and have your child describe what he or she sees. Be sure your child recognizes that the picture is showing Mary holding Jesus.

Tell your child that Mary is so special that she is the mother of our Church family. Mary helps all members of the Church follow Jesus and show their love for God.

Read aloud the **Scripture** on page 73. Talk with your child about what these words of Mary mean.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 74

Ask your child to recall some of the ways that Jesus loved others. (Jesus fed the hungry, helped the sick, and so on.) Use the following descriptions of the pictures on page 74 to talk with your child about how Mary showed love, too.

- Mary was a good mother to Jesus. She took good care of him from the time he was born until he died.
- Mary was a good friend to two people who were getting married. When Mary learned that the couple didn't have enough wine to serve their wedding guests, she told Jesus about the problem. Jesus performed his first miracle by changing jugs of water into wine. Because of Mary, the wedding guests had enough wine.
- Mary was a good cousin to her cousin Elizabeth, who was going to have a baby. Mary went to visit Elizabeth and help her.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Then have your child use the pictures on this page to show how Mary teaches us to show love.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 75

Provide your child with a pencil and show him or her how to connect the large dots to make a five-pointed star on page 75. Then read aloud the words on the star. If time allows, have your child color the star with crayons.

Engage your child in role-playing the following scenes. Tell your child that each of these scenes shows a way of following Jesus and showing God's love.

- A friend is sick and can't come to school. What might you do? (visit her, send her a card, call her to cheer her up, and so on)
- An older family member comes home tired. What might you do? (offer to help set the table for dinner, feed the dog or cat, or anything else you can safely do)
- A classmate can't find his crayons. What might you do? (help him look for them or offer to share yours)

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 76

Remind your child that as Mother of the Church, Mary wants us to show God's love whenever we can. Call attention to the words on page 76 and ask your child how he or she might finish the statement. (Answers will vary but might include: be kind to people, show that I care, and help people I know.)

Give your child a few minutes to consider how he or she would like to finish the sentence. Have your child dictate the words to you. Write them on the lines provided.

Close the lesson with prayer. Place a picture or statue of Mary on a table nearby. Ask your child to pray a quiet prayer to Mary in his or her heart. Then pray aloud each line of the closing **Prayer**, having your child repeat each line after you. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 45–47.