

WALKING by FAITH

Grade K / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 16

CHRISTMAS

Objectives

- Understand that at Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- Recognize that Christmas is celebrated in many different ways.
- Affirm that at Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 77

Talk with your child about how he or she likes to celebrate birthdays. (with a birthday party, song, cake or other special food, and so on)

Begin the lesson by praying aloud the opening **Prayer** on page 77. Remind your child that Jesus was Mary's baby and the Son of God.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 77

Have your child describe what the people in the right-hand picture are doing. Help your child understand that the picture shows a special way of celebrating the birth of Jesus called *Las Posadas*. Many people of Mexican heritage and other Spanish heritages have *posadas*, or "lodging" parties that dramatize the long journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The members of each *posada* recreate the journey by going from door to door seeking lodging. When a host family finally welcomes the travelers, everyone cheers. The procession stops to pray, and a feast is given at the welcoming home for everyone in the *posada*.

Point out that people everywhere have their own ways of celebrating Christmas. Then talk with your child about how your family celebrates Christmas. (Answers will vary but may include going to Mass, opening presents, and singing Christmas songs.)

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Tell your child that Jesus is also called *Christ* or *Jesus Christ*. Explain that the word *Christmas* comes from the word *Christ* and the word *Mass*.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 78

If possible, display all the figures in a nativity scene. Tell your child that Saint Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene, which is also called a *crèche*.

Have your child identify the pictures on page 78 of Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus in the manger. Have your child cut out the figures.

Then provide your child with an empty shoebox with which to make a nativity scene. Show your child how to fold back the tabs to make the figures stand up within the nativity scene. If time permits, provide your child with modeling clay to make animals for the scene.

Read aloud the **Scripture** on this page. Invite your child to tell how he or she can show peace on earth.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 78

Carefully take out the **Scripture Story** found on pages 79–82. Prayerfully read “The First Christmas” to your child. Then have your child draw a picture in the box on the eighth page of the booklet.

Gather with your child around the nativity *crèche* he or she just made. Ask your child to think quietly about what Christmas means to him or her.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 48–50.