

WALKING by FAITH

Grade K / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 25 HEAVEN IS A PERFECT WORLD

Objectives

- Realize that we live in an imperfect world.
- Recognize how heaven differs from our world.
- Understand that even though we cannot see heaven, we believe that it exists.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 119

Talk with your child about a time when you wanted to do something outdoors but were prevented from doing so because of the weather. Ask your child to share a similar time with you. Then pray together the opening Prayer on page 119.

As you discuss the first picture with your child, explain that rain is good, but sometimes it rains too much. Too much rain causes floods that damage buildings, destroy crops, and sometimes kill people and animals. Our world is not perfect. Emphasize that we don't always know why bad things happen to God's creation.

Discuss each of the remaining pictures. Sometimes it is too hot. Plants dry up and die. Sometimes it is too cold. We have a hard time staying warm. Other times it is too windy. There are tornadoes and hurricanes.

Point out the **Scripture** verse, and read it aloud. Explain that it is God's plan for us to live in a perfect world with him. We can't even imagine how wonderful that world, called heaven, will be. Read the chapter title: **Heaven Is a Perfect World.**

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 120

Remind your child that our world is good but not perfect. Sometimes bad things happen. Tell your child that heaven is a perfect world. Make sure he or she realizes that our world is not all there is. Although we cannot see heaven, it really exists.

Ask your child to compare each pair of pictures on page 120 and tell which ones show the perfect world that reminds us of what heaven is. Read the captions. Explain that in heaven good people live forever with God.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Tell your child that heaven is where God is. That is why, in the Lord's Prayer, we pray to Our Father in heaven.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 121

Remind your child that God made both heaven and earth. Ask: Which one is a perfect world? (heaven)

Read the first two sentences on page 121 aloud. Make sure your child realizes that heaven is not a big house with many rooms. Rather, it is *like* a big house with many rooms because there is room for everybody. Read aloud the following poem:

*Heaven is like a big house;
Heaven has room for all.
The young and the old,
The rich and the poor,
The big and the small,
The short and the tall.
In God's house
There's room for them all.*

Discuss the picture. Ask your child to describe the people they see in God's house. (young, old, girls, boys, people of different races, and so on) Point out that all the people are happy to be in heaven with God.

Provide your child with crayons. Have him or her draw a picture of himself or herself in the empty room in God's house on page 121.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 122

Provide crayons. Call attention to the hidden-word puzzle. Then have your child find the hidden word by coloring in only the spaces marked with an X. When he or she finishes, read the hidden word *HEAVEN* aloud. Remind your child that although they could not see the hidden word at first, it was really there. Likewise, we cannot see heaven, but we believe it is really there.

End the lesson with the closing **Prayer** found on page 122. Pray it aloud, and invite your child to repeat it after you. End with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 75–77.