

# WALKING by FAITH

## *Grade K / Home Lesson*

### **CHAPTER 26** **NEW LIFE FOREVER**

#### **Objectives**

- Connect the new life of spring with our new life in heaven.
- Understand that saints enjoy new life with God in heaven.
- Recognize heaven as a new creation, much like a rainbow.
- Realize that we can pray to the saints, who will lead us to new life.

#### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), page 123

Share with your child one reason why you are glad you are alive. Invite your child to do the same. Ask: Who gave us the wonderful gift of life? (God)

Tell your child that today you will be explaining the wonderful new life God gives us in heaven. Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 123.

Remind your child that we have four seasons of the year: summer, fall, winter, spring. If you live in an area that has four distinct seasons marked by great changes in temperature, ask your child to describe the kinds of clothes he or she wears in each season.

Explain that many living things change from season to season. Discuss each picture of the maple tree, letting your child describe the maple tree in that season. Point out that the tree looks dead during the winter, even though it isn't. When spring comes, however, the tree grows new leaves and seems to come alive again.

Point out the **Scripture** verse, and read it aloud. Explain that Jesus promises that if we follow him in this world, we will have new life with him forever in heaven. Read the chapter title: **New Life Forever**.

#### **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), page 124

Remind your child that life is a wonderful gift that God has given us. Then explain that people who love God do not believe that death is the end of life. They believe that we live on with God in heaven.

Read the title and two sentences aloud on page 124. Recall with your child the saints he or she learned about in Chapter 8. Explain that everyone is called to be a saint. God loves everyone and wants us all to live forever in heaven.

Call attention to the picture. Explain that Jesus is in heaven. When we die, we join Jesus there. He gives us new life. Point out the different people around Jesus. Explain that each of these people is a saint because he or she followed the teachings of Jesus. Note the multiracial group of people of all ages.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Remind your child that the saints in heaven followed Jesus when they lived on earth. We can choose to follow Jesus also. We can ask the saints to pray for us and the whole world.

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 125

Remind your child that the saints are enjoying new life with God in heaven.

Read the title (**New Life in Heaven**) and two sentences on page 125 aloud. Explain that life in heaven is a brand-new kind of life that lasts forever.

Call attention to the picture of the rainbow. Point out that the rainbow reminds us we can enjoy a new life with God in heaven.

Provide your child with crayons. Have him or her color in the rainbow.

### **Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 126

Explain to the children that God wants everyone to be a saint with him in heaven. Recall with your child the names of Saint Francis and Saint Patrick and some of the other saints you talked about when discussing Chapter 8.

Tell your child that he or she will make a prayer card as a reminder to pray to a favorite saint for help in following Jesus. Ask your child to name his or her favorite saint, and write the name for him or her on the line provided. Have your child cut out the prayer card and display it where it can serve as a reminder.

Close the lesson with a prayer. Use the closing **Prayer** on this page. 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 78–80.