

WALKING by FAITH

Grade K / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 27 GOD MAKES US HAPPY

Objectives

- Associate happiness on earth with eternal happiness in heaven.
- Realize that we were created to know, love, and serve God.
- Understand that God wants us to be happy, both on earth and in heaven.
- Express appreciation to God for the happy times during the year.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 127

Share with your child a recent action or event that made you very happy. Ask your child to share examples of times when he or she has been happy, too. Ask: Who made us so we can laugh and be happy? (God)

Tell your child that today you will talk with him or her about the gift of happiness. Have your child repeat after you the opening **Prayer** on page 127.

Ask your child to point out all the examples of happiness he or she can find in the picture on page 127. When your child names an example, share a time when you did similar things.

Ask your child to mention other happy times that could have been in the picture. (a family trip, a visit to church, a walk in the park)

Explain that the reason we can be happy is that we know God loves us. Read the chapter title: **God Makes Us Happy**. Point out the **Scripture** verse, and read it aloud.

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), page 128

Remind your child that God loves each of us. Then read the title on the page (**Why God Made Us**) and the opening sentence. Explain that there are three ways we can love God in return for the love God shows us: (1) by learning more about God and his love for us, (2) by loving the human family that God created, (3) by helping our brothers and sisters—all God's family on earth.

Talk about the picture of the parent and child who are reading the Bible together. Encourage your child to tell what they learn about God from reading the Bible booklets.

Point out the second picture. Remind your child that whenever we love others, we show our love for God. Ask your child to tell how the girl and boy are showing their love for God.

Remind your child that we serve God by serving others. Ask your child to tell how the final picture shows an example of serving God.

Throughout your discussion, make sure that your child realizes that happiness comes from knowing, loving, and serving God.

Read the **Catholics Believe** statement at the bottom of page 128 aloud. Explain that whenever we have a happy time, we are getting a small “taste” of what heaven is like. In heaven we are happy all the time because we are with God.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 129

Remind your child that he or she is created to know, love, and serve God, and to be happy with him forever in heaven.

Read the title on page 129 (**What Makes You Happy**). Ask your child to close his or her eyes for a minute and pretend that it is summer and they can go anywhere they would like. After a moment or two, ask your child to describe his or her happy vacation spot and tell what he or she might do there. To spark interest, you might lead off with a response of your own.

Supply your child with crayons. Have your child draw a happy scene of his or her “pretend” summer vacations. Emphasize that our happiness in heaven with God will be greater than any of our happy times on earth.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 130

Talk with your child about the happiest times you remember from this year. Ask your child to share his or her memories of happy times during the school year. Remind your child that God gives us the gift of happiness. God made us to be happy, both in this world and in heaven.

Provide your child with crayons. Ask him or her to draw a happy, smiling face in the center of the circle on page 130 under **Thank God for a Happy Year**. Then have your child complete this sentence: I am happy that God _____.

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 81–83.