

WALKING by FAITH

Grade K / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 3 CARING FOR GOD'S WORLD

Objectives

- Connect the gifts of creation with our duty to take care of them.
- Recognize how we can care for God's creation.
- Understand that when we care for God's creation, we are showing our love for God.
- Communicate commitment to taking care of God's world.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 15

Sit quietly with your child for a few moments. Then read aloud the opening **Prayer**.

Talk with your child about the need to take care of the things we are given. Ask: How would you feel if you gave someone a present and that person didn't take care of it? (Encourage your child to share his or her thoughts. Help him or her see that taking good care of gifts honors the giver by showing that you appreciate the gift.) Why is it important to take good care of the gifts we get from God? (We show honor and love for God when we take care of his creations.)

Draw attention to the pictures on this page. Have your child explain how each child is helping to care for God's creation.

Invite your child to name some ways that he or she can care for God's creation.

Read aloud the **Scripture** verse at the bottom of the page. Explain that if we are not sure how to take care of God's gifts, we can pray and ask him to show us what we should do.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), page 16

Have your child name something in our world that was created for us by God. Help him or her suggest ways to take care of that gift from God.

Now talk with your child about some of the ways you and your family have already taken care of God's creation, such as feeding pets, recycling newspapers, and watering plants.

In the activity box on this page, have your child draw one of the ways he or she takes care of God's world.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe** at the bottom of the page. Talk with your child about how we serve God by not hurting or destroying or wasting what God has given us.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 17

Remind your child that he or she can care for God's creation wherever your family lives—a large city, a small town, or anywhere else.

Direct your child's attention to the picture on this page. Read aloud the title and the sentence below it. Then have your child use his or her index and middle fingers to "walk" along the path, starting at the footprints at the top of the page. Have your child pause at each numbered scene in the picture and explain how the person or persons shown are caring for God's creation.

Teach your child the following song to the tune of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes."

This is the way we show we care,
Show we care,
Show we care.
This is the way we show we care
For all the things God made.

As a way to review the last three chapters, have your child tear out pages 21–24 (**Scripture Story: God Made All Things**). Read the Scripture story with your child and help him or her do the activities found there. Tell your child that you are happy God has created him or her!

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 18

Point out the badge on this page. Read aloud the message on the badge: *I promise to take care of God's world*. Have your child trace over the word *I*, color the drawings on the badge, and cut the badge out. Pin or tape the badge on your child's clothing.

As part of your closing prayer, have your child repeat after you: *I promise to take care of God's world*. Then name a gift of creation for which you are thankful. Say: "Thank you, God, for giving us [flowers]. I promise to take care of them." Invite your child to do the same.

For additional activities contact the director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 8–10.