

GRADE Five
CHAPTER Three
Signs of God's Presence

Objectives

- Understanding the power of presence
- Learning ways God has been present throughout history
- Understanding the connection between presence and sacraments
- Learning the meaning of covenant

Step One: Invite: Name your personal experience

- Have you ever experienced a time when you wanted someone to be with you but they were not? Tell about that.
- Share a story about a time when you felt so happy to have someone near you and sharing your life.
- On the internet or in the library, look up the meaning of each family member's name. On construction paper, put the name and its meaning and hang them on each person's bedroom door. Talk about what you could do to show the meaning of your name in actions. Read Matthew 1:21-23 to learn the meaning of Jesus' name.
- Read the stories on p. 58-59. What were some of the "signs" God used to show that he was present? Discuss the meaning of those signs...what was the message?
- Have you ever seen a sign of God's presence outside of church? What was it like? Can you describe the message God might have been sending through this sign?

Step Two: Explore: Understand the meaning of God's Word and Teaching

- After looking at Words of Faith on p. 61, complete the activity at the bottom of the page, substituting your family where it says class. Draw and decorate the covenant and post it in a special family gathering place.
- Look for the answers to these questions on p. 60-61:
 - o What was the special meal God asked the Israelites to eat?
 - o Who led the Israelites out of slavery?
 - o How often do Jewish people eat this meal in the 21st century?
 - o What are the seven signs of the new covenant called?
 - o Who acts in the sacraments?
 - o What do sacraments celebrate?
 - o Who is the great universal sign of God's love?
 - o What is the basis for the new covenant?
 - o What is the name of the meal that Christians eat to remember their covenant with God?

Step Three: Celebrate: Offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving

- Use the prayer on p. 64 to express your desire to recognize God in the many signs around us.

Faith Activities: Tips

- Throughout each chapter, there will be sections marked “Activity.”
- Feel free to choose as many activities as you wish to share with your family. At a minimum, choose one activity above and beyond what might be mentioned in Steps 1-3.
- Follow the directions for the activity, share popcorn or a treat, relax and enjoy it.
- Post any artwork until the next lesson and then use the next chapter’s activity to take its place.