

Getting Ready for Chapter 8

Take Home



Our Journey and God's Presence

We are a pilgrim people with roots in the wanderings of the nomadic Israelites. We seek a “promised land” just as they did. Their promised land was Canaan, which they reached after forty years in the desert, led by God. Our promised land is a land of happiness for our souls, reached by being faithful followers of Christ throughout our lives.

ACTIVITY

Signs of God Joshua and the Israelites had to pay careful attention to God’s directions when storming the promised land. Have each family member draw a symbol of something that keeps him or her in touch with God. Swap symbols, and try to experience another person’s way of hearing God’s voice this week.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Think of your trip to church as a journey. Identify what makes your destination special.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



**Saint Frances Xavier
Cabrini (1850–1917)**

From her early childhood in Italy, Frances Xavier Cabrini had wanted to be a missionary to China. As a Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart, she traveled to America instead, where she founded sixty-seven institutions dedicated to the care of the poor.

Patron Saint of: hospitals and orphans

Feast Day: November 13



**A
Prayer
for the
Week**

Lord, with your help we can achieve great things. Help us to rely on your love and to see your goodness in the world around us. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

The Ram's Horn The ram's horn (*shofar*) is a powerful image throughout Scripture. Joshua and his soldiers were able to topple Jericho's city walls by blowing horns and shouting (Joshua 6:1–21). The deep mournful sound of the horn called Israel to arms and launched battle. Horns were used to call assemblies, to announce a new year, and to warn of danger. They were also used in anointings, as when Samuel anointed David as king (1 Samuel 16:13). Shofars are still used today. A shofar is sounded at the Jewish new year (Rosh Hashanah) and to signal the end of fasting on the Jewish day of atonement (Yom Kippur).

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Sacramentals

The Jordan River Joshua crossed the Jordan River, which was also the river where Jesus was baptized. Blessing rivers or fountains is a custom of Eastern countries. In Africa the Nile is blessed on the Feast of the Epiphany and in commemoration of the Baptism of the Lord. Christians traditionally would dip themselves in the blessed water three times, and even animals would be herded into the water to receive its blessing.