A Light in Darkness: Part I

GRADE 8

CHAPTER 13 Study Guide

Keep these ideas in mind as you study ***Chapter 13****.*

During the Middle Ages, the Roman Empire fell apart. Invaders opposed the Roman government, worshiped pagan gods, and caused bloodshed. This period was known as the Dark Ages. During this time, the Church was a beacon of light , bringing God's peace and the power of God's Word.

Page **120**

The powerful emperor Charlemagne protected the pope and the Church, established schools, and made laws that supported the Church. For all the good Charlemagne did, the difference between the Church and the empire became unclear, causing church leaders to forget their real roles as servants of God.

Page **122**

Pope Gregory the Great led the Church through the difficult times of the early Middle Ages. He organized Rome and negotiated peace. Most important, Pope Gregory sent monks to every land to evangelize the invaders and to preach the Good News to all people.

Page **120**

Pope Gregory VII was a reformer who got the Church refocused on its mission. He said that the pope, not the king, should appoint bishops. Pope Gregory VII started the reform, but it took 300 years before kings realized they did not control the Church and that God has true authority.

Page **122**

As followers of Jesus, we are sent to conquer the world with virtue. Virtues lead us to live in a close relationship with Jesus. The three most important virtues—faith, hope, and charity—are called *Theological Virtues* because they come from God and lead to God. The Cardinal Virtues are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. These are human virtues acquired by education and good actions.

Page **121**

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