

Lesson 3



Theme: Refusing to Love

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, your child should be able to:

- Define sin and the different types of sin
- Describe how sin hurts their relationship with God and others
- Explain that the Church celebrates God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance

Key Words

1. Free Will
2. Sin
3. Mortal Sin
4. Venial Sin
5. Mercy
6. Penance
7. Reconciliation

Materials Needed for this Week:

- Candle, Bible - Psalm 95: 7-8, Matthew 25:41-45
- If your child has to miss Mass, please fill out backside of questionnaire and turn in.
 - **Looking Ahead:** Sign up for which Saint your child will present next month! (List by Shelly's office.)

PARENTS

Keep in Mind

This week, we focus on free will which is a powerful gift from God. Confronting our own sins is not a comfortable experience. Yet, God offers us His grace through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation's gifts of conversion and healing. As sinners, we are all in great need of God's mercy and forgiveness. It is our mission to journey toward holiness by confronting our sinfulness and living the life of grace bestowed upon us at our Baptism.

- *Point out how important it is for your child to stop & think in order to make good decisions.*
- *Accidents are not sins, even if people get angry and upset. Sin is a deliberate choice.*

This chapter's theme builds on past weeks' themes: How much God love us; how we must love others; and now - what happens when we refuse to love? (God's mercy and forgiveness are waiting us through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.)

Preparatory Thoughts:

- How is God calling you to repentance?
- In what ways do you confront "all that is sinful" in your life?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, I have sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and what I have failed to do. Please have mercy on me. /Amen/

PARENT & CHILD LESSON 3

****Don't rush ~ A page (or two) a night = easily done ! ****

Day One: I Say No

As you read this story, ask for your child's help by saying 'no' whenever it occurs & discuss the (3) questions in gold box.

- Identify the motive in 2nd stanza (paragraph of the poem): "I want my own way!"
- Ask your child of the different ways they might hear God's voice guiding them in these negative times: In their heart? in requests of parents/teachers? Through needs of others?
- ✓ *Practice the Sign of the Cross and pray the Five Finger Prayer together focusing on those in our lives we love (last week).*

Day Two: Failing to Love

- Light a candle & let your child hold your bible to connect the story to the Word of God.
 - Prior to reading this story, explain:
 1. Sometimes we say 'no' to God by not doing what we should do.
 2. When we fail to love our neighbor, we fail to love God.
 - After reading the reading,
 - Ask for the reason the people might be surprised & talk about who the King was in the story (Christ).
 - Write out the Works of Mercy (below 1-6) & talk about (or act out) scenarios in life where we are called to:
 1. Feed the Hungry
 2. Give drink to the Thirsty
 3. Clothe the Naked
 4. Shelter the Homeless
 5. Visit the Sick
 6. Visit the Imprisoned
- Discuss questions in LOVING CHOICES box
- ✓ *Practice the Sign of the Cross and have your child lead Grace before dinner.*

Day Three: Sin & Forgiveness

Look at the picture on this page & ask, "Are these children choosing to love? (No) Explain that to sin is to turn away from God (choosing to hurt others or do things that are not right on purpose). Now, turn the page and discuss the picture & ask, "Are these children choosing to love? (Yes)

- SEE page 137 and read #17 together (free will)
- Define and Discuss the bold key words
- SEE page 139 and answer #3
- ✓ *Reinforce: page 167, #1-3*
- ✓ *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

Day Four: Wrong Choices

After each question, ask what should happen next? Challenge your child to come up with other examples.

Explain that this is the Penitential Act (We reconcile with God and the others are the beginning of every Mass.)

- ✓ *Practice the Sign of the Cross and say The Glory Be*

WRAP UP : Read CHOICES handout together & emphasize God's love through his forgiveness.

