

Topic: Jesus Gives us a Second Chance

Family Small Group for FHC Cycle Week 2.11 (December 15, 2024)

Lesson Overview for Parents

This week's family lesson takes us back into our Reconciliation book. We will learn that God sees more than just our actions. He sees into our hearts! This is illustrated in the bible story about Matthew the tax collector. We will also learn that God gave us Free Will, the ability to make good or bad choices. When we make bad choices, that leads us to sin. There are two types of sin: venial and mortal.

1. Opening Prayer

Let's pray an Act of Contrition for two weeks. You can pray the one below or you can go to your My Guide to Reconciliation booklet and pick out one to work on. If you select Prayer #1 in the booklet, please pick a second prayer too. Remember – once your student has an Act of Contrition memorized (other than Prayer #1), they can recite it to their Small Group Leader or the Director and then they will receive a gift!

2. Mass and Mass Journal

Did your student write in their mass journal this weekend?

Reminder: *Students receive a small prize each time they write in their mass journal using their Mass Journal Bingo card. Students receive a bigger prize each time they complete a ROW on their Mass Journal Bingo card.*

Act of Contrition

Father, I have sinned against you and I am not worthy to be called your son/daughter. Be merciful to me, a sinner.

Amen

Spend a minute or two talking about what your student wrote in their mass journal.

If you haven't gone to mass yet, look at their Mass Journal Bingo card and help them select 1 prompt that they will use this week.

3. Sacrament Book Readings

*Remember, you are your students first and most important Catechist. You have options on how you cover the material below. You can read the information in the books below yourself and then talk about it with your student. You can read it together like story time and talk about it as you read it. We are asking you to focus on **parts** of the chapter. If you would like to go through the entire chapter with your student, you are welcomed to do that too.*

Grades 1-3

Book: *God's Gift Reconciliation*

Step 1: Chapter 3, pages 22-23 – Read the story about Matthew OR read the story in your family bible (Matthew 9:9-13). Point out that God looks at our hearts not our actions. He knows our hearts are good but sometimes we make bad choices. Have your student put the stickers on the pages as you read the story.

Step 2: Chapter 3, page 24, 26 – We want our students to understand they always have a choice because God gave them Free Will. They can choose good or they can choose bad. Choosing bad can lead to sin.

Grades 4-6

Book: *Loyola Intermediate Reconciliation and Eucharist*

Step 1: Chapter 5, page 23 – Read the story about Matthew. Also read the story in family bible (Matthew 9:9-13). Point out that God looks at our hearts not our actions. He knows our hearts are good but sometimes we make bad choices.

Step 2: Chapter 5, page 24 - We want our students to understand they always have a choice because God gave them Free Will. They can choose good or they can choose bad. Choosing bad can lead to sin.

4. Formed Video

Before clicking the link below, log into your FORMED account or be ready with your userid/password to log in after clicking the link below.

This short 3 minute video talks about how God gave us Free Will. We can choose to do good or we can choose to do bad.

[You are Forgiven: Episode 5](#)

5. Activity

We are going to help our students understand when our choices are sinful. Sometimes we make a choice that isn't good but it isn't a sin, it is an accident or a mistake.

- Get two index cards or two pieces of paper.
- Write "Accident or Mistake" on one of them.
- Write "Sin" on the other one.
- Read the following situations. Have your student hold up the "Accident or Mistake" card if the situation is an accident or a mistake. Have your student hold up the "Sin" card if the situation is a sin.

Situations for all Students:

1. You aren't watching and bump into someone. (Accident or Mistake)
2. You get angry and push someone. (Sin)
3. You take a book that does not belong to you. (Accident or Mistake)
4. You take a book you think is yours. (Sin)
5. You forget to make your bed. (Accident or Mistake)
6. You decide to watch TV instead of obeying your mother and making your bed. (Sin)
7. You are playing a video game your parents have told you not to play. (Sin)
8. Your mom asks you if you are done with your homework. You say yes. Then an hour later you remember you forgot about the math worksheet. You complete it. (Accident or Mistake)
9. You are playing with your brother/sister and then you remember you forgot to feed the dog. You do not stop playing to do what you remembered you forgot to do. Instead, you keep playing. You never do feed the dog. (Sin)
10. You speak badly about another student in your class. (Sin)

Parents – feel free to come up with additional situations on your own.

6. Discussion Question

- Think about the story about Matthew. What did the people see when they looked at Matthew? (a sinner, a tax collector, a dishonest person, etc) What did Jesus see? (a friend, a good person, someone who could be his follower) Do we look at others and see what Jesus sees or see what we want to see (what is on the outside or only the bad choices)?
- What can we do to make more good choices? (stop before we act, think about the choice we want to make, pray, ask others if we aren't sure the choice we want to make is a good one, etc)
- When we sin, what is the Sacrament that we go to to ask God to forgive us? (Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession) Who else should we ask to forgive us? (those we hurt)

7. Story Time

Now, prepare for our next Sanctuary Lesson on January 12. You may want to schedule time to read this story later in the week and then reread it before January 12. Be sure to put it on your calendar or make a note on your frig so you don't forget. Read the bible story below in your Illustrated Children's Bible.

Story Name: *Jesus Baptism and Temptation / Jesus Calls the First Disciples*
Pages: 196-204