

First Grade: Lesson 18

God's Mercy

Lesson Objective:

This lesson builds upon the previous two lessons and helps children explore the notion of sin and God's forgiveness. This lesson should be connected to lesson 2. Catechists are encouraged to remind children that sin separates us from God, but Jesus brings us back to Him.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Discuss respect for parents, teachers and other legitimate authorities.
- Understand that God gives us laws to follow, the Ten Commandments, as well as gives us the freedom to make right choices.
- Discuss that sin is disobeying God.
- Recognize God is merciful and forgives sins.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bibles, pencils, crayons
- Copies: Prodigal Son Coloring Sheet, Prodigal Son Activity Page, Have Mercy on Us Coloring Page

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having a coloring sheet, such as the one linked below:
- [Prodigal Son Coloring Sheet](#)

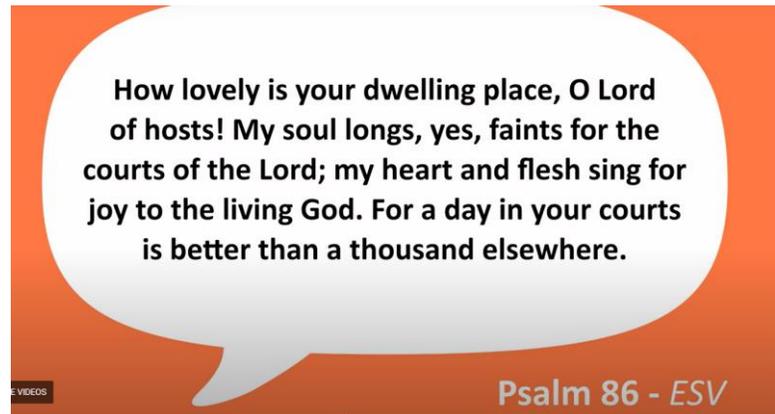
Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic Prayer you have been working on.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 18 Video	<p>This video is .58 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last session, we learned about the effects of leading a good life and choosing to be good and kind. We also learned how sin hurts our relationship with God and others. When we disobey God and sin, when we don't respect our parents and teachers, we can cause other people sadness, and even harm. Our actions really matter!</p> <p>The truth is that we aren't perfect. Even when we are trying our best, we can sin. This is why Jesus died on the cross, to take away our sins. It is through God's great love and mercy that our sins can be forgiven.</p> <p>Today, we will hear the parable of the prodigal son. Then, we will learn more about God's great mercy, and how you can glorify God with your life. Lastly, we will hear from Pope Francis about the topic of mercy.</p>
Parable of the Prodigal Son	<p>This video is 5:53 in length. It is animated.</p> <p>It tells the story of the Prodigal Son.</p> <p>What is the main message of the prodigal son for kids?</p> <p>The story of the prodigal son is a picture of God's love for us as His children. God's love for us does not depend on our faithfulness; it is unconditional. He loved us while we were still sinners. Though we are demanding and do not remain faithful, God is still our faithful and loving Father.</p>
How Can You Glorify God?	<p>This video is 3:09 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Psalm 19 tells us that the heavens above us, the sun, moon, and stars all glorify God. They glorify God without having brains to</p>

think. Instead, they glorify God by being huge, beautiful, and powerful. But what about those of us with brains?

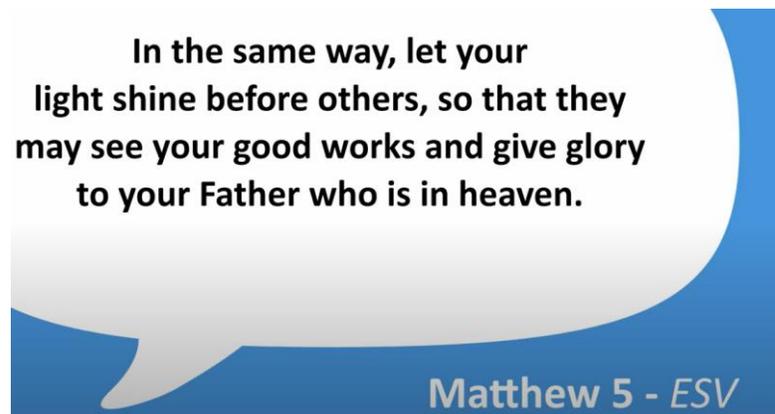
How can you glorify God? The answer is by loving Him and doing what He commands.



This Psalm is teaching us that we glorify God when we love Him.

**For this is the love of God,
that we keep his commandments.**

1 John 5



Loving God and obeying His commandments as King are two ways we can glorify God.

Understanding God's Mercy

This video is 8:43 in length.

Highlights: This is a sketchpad video.

The Bible tells us God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. God's mercy endures forever.

God's mercy is a sign of His love for us. He loves us unconditionally and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven. Because we are human, we sin and make mistakes. Since God is merciful, it doesn't matter what we do, He will never stop loving us. (You may want to [stop the video here for a quick discussion. Consider adding that we do need to go to confession regularly and confess our sins. Remind student they will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation next year!](#))

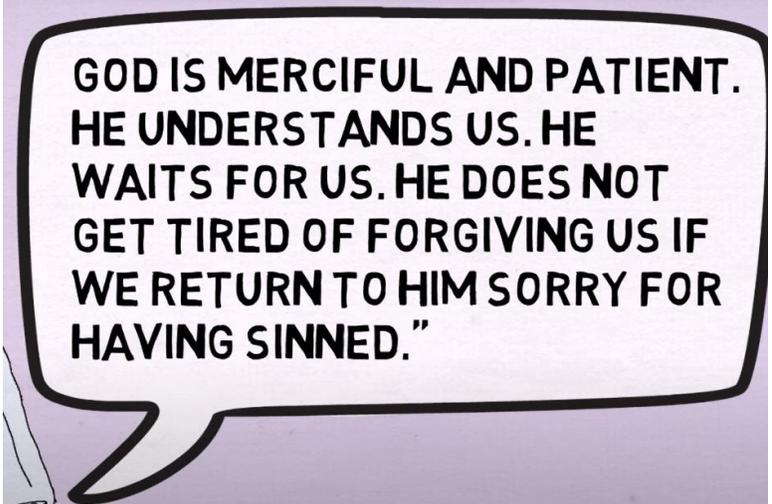
What is sin? Sin separates us from God. It is when we choose to do something wrong that goes against God's will. God continues to call us back to Him. He loves us, even when we stop loving Him.

Because of humanity's sinfulness, we could not enter Heaven. Jesus Christ walked on Earth and taught us about God's will for us and about God's commands. He freely offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus' death opened the gates of heaven.

Because of God's mercy, He always offers us grace to get to Heaven and to help us through difficult times in our lives. But what we do matters. Sin does matter and has eternal consequences with God. All sin rejects God in some way.

The video then reviews examples of sins.

End the video here (since it will pick up again in the next segment).

	<p>Stop and discuss: What did you learn from this video? If students are quiet, ask some prompting questions, such as: What is an example of a sin? Why did Jesus die on the cross for us? How can we show God and Jesus that we love them?</p>
<p>Pope Francis' Message</p>	<p>This video resumes from the previous one at the point of Pope Francis' message about God's Mercy.</p> <p>Highlights:</p>  <p>The video then reviews the Prodigal Son parable. It is up to you if you want to play this video or not, since students watched one earlier.</p>
<p>Prodigal Son Activity</p>	<p>Pass out a copy to each child (they can take it home). Read Luke 15:22 out loud and then answer the question. Have students fill in the answer.</p>
<p>Have Mercy on Us Coloring Page</p>	<p>Students can color this and take it home.</p>
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	<p>Gather around your prayer space and pray the Our Father.</p>