

First Grade: Lesson 2: Jesus Died on the Cross for Me

Lesson Objective:

In catechetical texts, sin is generally discussed in the context of preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. However, this lesson helps children to better understand the consequences of sin and the reason why they need a Savior. The "bad news" of sin prepares them to appreciate the kerygma or "good news" of Jesus. Children should be led to understand that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross atones for their personal sins.

Learning Outcomes: Students will...

- Know that God wants us to be happy with Him forever in heaven
- Recognize that sin separates them from God and one another (CCC 1487, Isa 59:2, Rom 6:23)
- Define sin as saying "no" to God's law in thought, word, deed, or omission
- Recognize that sin separates us from God (CCC 1487, Isa 59:2, Rom 6:23)
- Recognize that Jesus died for their sins so they could go to heaven.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space, crayons, pencils, Bible, Good Deed or Sin worksheet (one for each child), craft stick and smile/frown faces (if you choose to do this activity). I'm Sorry file folder game.

As Students Enter Class:

- Have an activity for students to do while waiting for others to arrive. This can be drawing a picture to show how Jesus is our Good Shepherd, or perhaps a religious coloring sheet. Jesus loves the children coloring sheet is attached.

Beginning of Class:

- Since this is the second class, consider having students tell everyone their name and one thing about themselves (can be something they like, or something kind they did for someone this past week).
- Open all classes with a prayer. Consider a traditional Catholic prayer, such as the Our Father or Hail Mary. Also consider having students be your echo (you say a line and students repeat it back to you). This will help them memorize prayers.

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| Lesson Order | Implementation |
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| <p>Follow the order for each section from LANE Kids.</p> <p>Lesson 2 Video</p> | <p>This is a nice opening video to show to the class (3:02). It references what was learned in lesson one and moves into the meaning of sin.</p> <p>Highlights: Sin separates us from God. When we sin, we say no to God's law, in thought, word, deed, or omission. Romans 6:23 says the wages of sin is death. This is difficult for first graders to understand. One suggestion is to say that sin puts a barrier between us and God. Then Isaiah 59:2 says that sin separates us from God. There is a good analogy used here using a thin and thick door and how the heavy thick door is like our sins. It is important to tell students that our God is an awesome God and gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation that allows our sins to be forgiven. We will learn about that in future lessons.</p> |
| <p>Good Deed or Sin Activity</p> | <p>Pass out a paper to each student and complete it all together.</p> <p>Time permitting, have students act out a few examples of the deeds or sins. This also gets them up a moving. (Suggestion: Save your sheet to use as beginning of class review for Week 3).</p> |
| <p>Bible Song</p> | <p>This is a quick song (.48) that introduces basic facts of the Bible. This is by Christine in Action and we will use her songs throughout the year.</p> |
| <p>Praise the Lord</p> | <p>Another Christine in Action Video/Song (.53). Ask students to stand and do the hand movements that Christine does. After this video, tell students that Jesus died to save us from sin and to open the gates of Heaven for all of us. (This is one of today's learning objectives).</p> |
| <p>Prayer Journal Page</p> | <p>Consider using the same page as Lesson 1 (repeating the activity again this week). Catechist and Aide will circulate around the room, helping students write or draw their prayer ideas. Time permitting, ask a few students to share their prayer ideas.</p> |
| <p>Qualities of a Good Friend</p> | <p>This is a cut and paste sorting activity. However, this will take first graders quite a bit of time to complete.</p> <p>Consider one of these options:</p> |

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| <p>Qualities of a Good Friend</p> | <p>1. Copy and cut out each box ahead of time and do a whole class sorting activity. Write the heading on the board (A Good Friend Should and A Good Friend Should Not), then pass out one or two boxes to each student. Ask students to come up to the board one at a time, you will need to read the words for them, and ask them what column it belongs to. The student can tape it to the board under the correct column.</p> <p>2. Using a craft stick, have students make a smile and frown face and glue it on the craft stick. As you read each quality, have students hold up the smile side for a good friend trait and a frown side for what a good friend should not do.</p> |
| <p>The I'm Sorry Game</p> | <p>See Directions</p> |
| <p>Closing Activity</p> | <p>Ask students some guiding questions to review today's learning objectives. Some suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes or no, does God want us to be happy with him forever in Heaven? • When we sin, are we saying no to God or yes to God? • Who came to Earth and died so that we may live in Heaven with God? |
| <p>Closing Prayer</p> | <p>Gather around your prayer space and end class with a prayer, either a traditional Catholic prayer or a spontaneous prayer of thanks that you create.</p> |

