

## Grade 4: Lesson 2: Jesus Died on the Cross to Forgive our Sins

### Lesson Objective:

In catechetical texts, sin is generally discussed in the context of preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. However, this lesson helps the 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 "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 ...

- Recognize that sin separates them from God and one another (CCC 1487, Isa 59:2, Rom 6:23).
- Identify the broken relationships caused by Original Sin: the human person and God; human beings and nature; between human persons; within one's self.
- Recognize that suffering is the result of the Fall and that suffering can make it difficult for us to see the gifts of God.
- Understand that without Jesus, the consequence of sin is eternal separation from God (Rom 6:23).
- Understand and articulate the "good news" that Jesus died on the cross for their sins so that they can go to heaven (CCC 619 -623, Matt 1:21, Rom 5:8, 1 John 2:2, John 14:6).

### Materials Needed:

- Items for prayer space, pencils, crayons, Bibles for students to share, blank paper or sticky notes (depending on what you choose for opening activity)
- Copies: Severity of Sin game, Journal Page
- Think about stapling several journal pages together to make individual journal books. They can be kept in class until full and then sent home.

### As Students Enter Class:

- Have students answer this question that is written on the board: What is bad about sin? They can write and or draw their answer on a blank piece of paper or write their answer on a sticky note and place it on the board.

### Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to join you around your prayer space and ask someone to choose a traditional Catholic prayer for the class to say together.
- Welcome any new students that may have joined your class today; have students place their name plates in front of them and have any new students write their name on their index card.
- Review either the sticky notes or students' writing/drawing with the class. Tell them that today we will talk about sin and how Jesus saves us from eternal sin.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 2 Video	<p>This video is 3:55 in length.</p> <p><b>Highlights:</b> Today we are talking about sin. We all sin and we need to learn that our sins have consequences. The consequences of sin are why we need a Savior. Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross forgives us of personal sin. We also have the Sacrament of Reconciliation which allows us to confess our sins to a priest and be forgiven. Read Isaiah 59:2 (page 1163): The Bible tells us the consequence of sin is that it separates us from God and others.</p> <p>Read CCC 1849-1850 What does the Catechism of the Catholic Church tell us about sin? Take a few minutes for a class discussion.</p> <p>The next slide views typical sins of 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This is a good slide to show and prompts some good discussion and reflection. Consider passing out a sticky note or index card to each student and ask them to write one or two sins they typically commit. They can fold them up and place them in a basket or bag. While they do that, encourage them to ask Jesus to help them acknowledge their sins and to work hard to not commit them again. <u>Idea:</u> You can also bring this "offering of sins" to your prayer table at the end of class and model a spontaneous prayer thanking Jesus for sacrificing His life for us and to help us acknowledge our sins so we can work hard to not commit them again.</p>
How Serious is the Sin Game?	<p>Two suggestions for playing this game:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Have this cut out and ready to play whole group. On the board make three columns and write: Very Serious, Moderately Serious, and Not Serious. Pass out the cards to students</li> </ol>

	<p>along with some tape. Students can take turns reading the sin and deciding what column it belongs in.</p> <p>2) One game for two children to play as partners. They can cut up the pieces themselves and play. You can call the group back together to discuss and share some answers.</p>
What is Sin Video	<p>This video is 3:39 in length and is very good. It uses scripture and images to explain what sin is and why we shouldn't sin.</p> <p><u>Activity Suggestion:</u> Have students stand or sit in a circle and pass a ball or small stuffed animal around. The student who has the object shares something they learned from the Video. Encourage students to reflect upon sin and ask them why it is important for all of us to take time to think about our sins? What would happen if we didn't reflect and think about our sins and choices?</p>
How Did Jesus Save us on the Cross Video	<p>This video is 3:18 in length and does a great job explaining this somewhat difficult concept. Using a scale and animated graphics, it explains that sin is a lack of love that is remedied with an act of love. Salvation takes place on the cross. The cross is a sign of redemption.</p>
How Does Grace Come to us Video	<p>This video is made by the same person who created the above video. This is another excellent explanation of the question: How do we take part in the fruits of salvation? God's grace comes to us through the sacraments. God works in our souls when we open up to Him through the sacraments.</p>
Intro Into Activities	<p>This video is (4:28). Have you thought about your sins? Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prayer, we can become more accountable for our actions.</p> <p>Consider passing out Bibles so students learn how to find the passages mentioned. Beautiful images accompany these passages. Romans 5:8 (1775)          "God has shown us how much he loves us and it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!"</p> <p>1John2:2 (1932) "And Christ Himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of everyone."</p>

	<p>Stress the important fact that God's mercy is endless.</p> <p>Romans 6:23 – God's free gift is life with Jesus. Sin has consequences but God's mercy is greater.</p> <p>The video ends with three suggestions for students to ponder in their prayer journal. They need to pick one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sketch a piece of art that shows how sin separates us from God.</li> <li>• Jot down some typical sins of 4<sup>th</sup> Graders. Then give students time to pick one and reflect upon it on the journal page.</li> <li>• Reflect on how sin separates us from God and what does the Good News mean to you.</li> </ul>
Review of Lesson Objections Game	<p>Quick review game: Perhaps have a piece of candy ready to give to students who answer questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What is the Good News?</li> <li>2) Fill in the blanks: Sin has _____; but God's _____ is greater.</li> <li>3) Sin is a result of the fall of _____ and _____ in the Garden of _____.</li> <li>4) Ask individual students to share one new thing they learned or something that really stuck with them.</li> </ol>
Closing Prayer	<p>Gather students around your prayer space. If you did the activity where students wrote down a sin and offered it up to God for help; then bring the bag or basket those papers are in and model a spontaneous prayer asking God to forgive the sins contained in this basket and please give us the strength to not commit the sin again. Help us to think about our words and actions before we do them.</p>