

Sixth Grade: Lesson 2: What is Sin and Why Did Jesus Die on the Cross?

Lesson Objective:

In catechetical texts, sin is generally discussed in the context of preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. However, this lesson helps the youth to better understand the consequences of sin and the reason why they need a Savior. Together, the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis and the Scripture passage from Romans 6:23 help them to recognize how sin entered the world and understand God's remedy for sin, Jesus Christ. Youth should be led to understand that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross atones for their personal sins.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify God the Father as the Creator, Jesus as the Messiah and fulfillment of the Old Covenant, and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier, the breath of life and fire of love.
- Discuss the role of the creation narrative and Adam and Eve in salvation history (Gen 1-3).
- Explain how original sin affects all mankind (CCC 402-409). Explain why they need a Savior (CCC 413-421, Rom 5:16-19, 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).
- Define salvation as the forgiveness of sins and restoration of friendship with God by Jesus' death and resurrection (Rom 5:6-11).
- This lesson should also include the recitation of common prayers of the Catholic Church (Sign of the Cross, Mealtime Prayers, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer)].

Materials Needed:

- Prayer Space, Bibles, pencils, crayons, sticky notes, markers and a large piece of paper (if you choose to do this activity), blank paper,
- Copies Needed: Activity Sheets: How Original Sin Affects all Mankind and Put-Downs and Gossip

As Students Enter Class:

- Suggestions: Review of last week by posing this question on the board: Create a T Chart; one column write Guided Meditation and on

the other write Eucharistic Adoration. Have sticky notes available and ask students to write their name and place it under that activity they enjoyed more, meditation or adoration.

- Have some Holy Cards available for students to read and look at. Encourage them to prepare to share something they learned or liked about the Saint they chose.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to the prayer table and ask someone to suggest a traditional Catholic prayer for all of you to recite.
- Introduce yourself and others to any new students who may have joined.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 2 Video	<p>This video is 5:15 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: We can pray in many ways, and in many places. Encourage a discussion on the ways and places we can pray. Perhaps make a class list and invite students to write their answers on a large piece of paper. This paper can be taped to a wall in your room and remain posted.</p> <p>Today we will find out why God sent Jesus into the world. It goes all the way back to the first people, Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve's sin broke all people's relationship with God (original sin). This is why we need a savior. Jesus takes our punishment for this original sin and other sins. Remember you have learned in previous years that sin is saying no to God in: thought, word, deed, and omission. BUT we have Good News!! Jesus gave his life for our sins so we can be happy forever in Heaven.</p> <p>Genesis Ch. 3: Human Disobedience. If you choose to use the video with Carla reading this passage, it also has pictures that accompany the reading. Or, if you would like to read the story, consider having students follow along using a Bible.</p>

	<p>Original sin is called the fall of man. Which means all humanity has lost their relationship with God. At 4:05 minutes into the video there is a great picture that shows what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross. With Jesus, our path to God is restored. Man needed a Savior and God gave us Jesus.</p> <p>Romans 6:23 (sums up our salvation): The wage of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.</p> <p>John 14:6 – Jesus tells us Himself: I am the way, the truth, and the life.</p>
What Are Sins?	<p>This video is 5:17 in length. This video is well done and recommended that you show your students.</p> <p>Highlights: Sin happens when our thoughts, words, or deeds go against the Divine Law. What is the Divine Law: Love of God and Love of Neighbor. When we Love God above everything, and we love our neighbor (Golden Rule) then we are following Divine Law.</p> <p>Mortal or Grave Sins destroy our relationship with God because we are not following Divine Law. Venial sins wound our relationship with God which we can get back on track. However, if we have too many frequent venial sins, it can build into grave sin. Then we have loss of grace, which means loss of supernatural life (eternal life in Heaven). The video then uses a good illustration with a candle's bright flame. When we are in a state of grade, the candle burns brightly. Venial sins will cause the flame to flicker, making it more difficult to see. Mortal or grave sins cause the flame to go out, leaving us in the dark. Since our God is an Awesome God, we have the Sacrament of Confession to help us rekindle or return to a state of grade.</p> <p>Discussion: Encourage students to share their thoughts about the video. What stuck with them?</p>

	Did a concept prompt them to make a connection to something in their own lives?
Movement Break	This is a good time to take a stretch or movement break.
How Did Jesus Die for Our Sake?	<p>This video is made by the same person as the previous one. These are well done and explains our Catholic beliefs well. This video is 3:17 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Many of us think a terrible thing happened when Jesus died on the cross and then boom – the Resurrection happened and we are redeemed. However, salvation takes place ON the cross. The cross itself is the sign of redemption, not the death of Jesus on its own. Imagine a scale that is in balance – everything is proper and just. Then sin tips the scale to be off balance. Remember sin is a lack of something that ought to be there. It is a lack of love for God and for His creation (man). These sins are large and the scale is way off balance. So how do we remedy this? Well, if love is lacking (sin) then we need to remedy that with love. So, we do some good deeds and the scale balances – just a little bit. Human love doesn't seem to weigh enough to balance the scales. It's too weak. We need a larger/more perfect love. Who can do that? Jesus! The love given by Jesus is infinite and is displayed by Jesus' death on the cross. The cross, then, is a sign of God's love and is where the saving power comes from. This is how the mountain of sin of all mankind that separates us from God is overcome. That is how we are delivered from the hopelessness of sin.</p> <p>There is a lot to digest here and great images to help us understand. Consider providing students with some time to talk with one another about this information. If they are not too talkative, give them an opportunity to sketch and label. Provide students with an opportunity to digest and ask questions about this.</p>
Genesis Chapters 2-50	This video is 8:07 in length. It is very well done with graphics that will help students attend to the

	<p>information of this longer, but important Biblical story.</p> <p>Note: You have noticed the learning outcomes for today's lesson are packed. If you are running out of time don't worry. Try saving one or two of the activities to open with the following class.</p> <p>A couple of ideas:</p> <p>If you feel students are getting tired of videos, I urge you to save it for another day. You will want to share this information with your students.</p> <p>Or, if you enjoy sharing stories, please read and prepare your story ahead of time.</p>
What is Grace?	<p>This video is also done by the same maker of the first two. It is 2:46 and explains how the chief sources of grace are the seven sacraments. The sacraments are instituted by Christ for which God works in our souls. It quickly reviews the seven sacraments.</p>
<p>Activity: How original sin affects all of mankind.</p> <p>Activity: Put downs and Gossip</p>	<p>You do not have to show the Intro to Activities. You can explain them to the class.</p> <p>Read the directions to students and work together to complete the activity. Students can write the answers that you have developed as a class.</p> <p>Consider using this as an opening activity for next week's lesson. OR, start it this week and finish it at the beginning of class next week. It encourages students to reflect on everyday actions and how these actions affect sin.</p>
Closing Prayer	<p>Gather around the prayer table and select a prayer to say together.</p>

