

Second Grade: Lesson 10

God's Love and Mercy

Lesson Objective:

Living a holy life is not easy. Sometimes we do things that are against God's commandments. This lesson explores sin and the mercy of God. The parable of the Prodigal Son helps the children understand how miserable we can be when we stray from the Father. In addition, the parable demonstrates the heart of God. Catechists should remind the children that God stands ready to forgive us for anything we've done, but we first must acknowledge that we have done wrong. This lesson lays the foundation for the teaching on conscience and the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Recognize that their behavior affects their relationship with God and with one another.
- Use virtues to describe what it takes to be a friend and have a friend (Jn 15: 13; 1 Jn 3:18; CCC 1829).
- Define sin as choosing to disobey God's law in thought, word, deed or omission (CCC Glossary: Sin).
- Understand that the devil tries to turn us away from God (CCC 381-395, Matt 4:1-11).
- Discuss that we can accept God's mercy and try again when we sin (Luke 15:1-7, 15:11-32).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons,
- Copies needed: Worksheet for Sin, Virtues that Lead us to be Good Friends, Sin Sorting Activity, Self Portrait, and Crossword Puzzle (if you have time for that activity).

As Students Enter Class:

- As students enter the room and are waiting for class to begin, consider having a coloring sheet about God's mercy. One suggestion:

- <https://www.thecatholickid.com/wp-content/uploads/act-of-hope-prayer-coloring-page-cnt-mls.jpg>

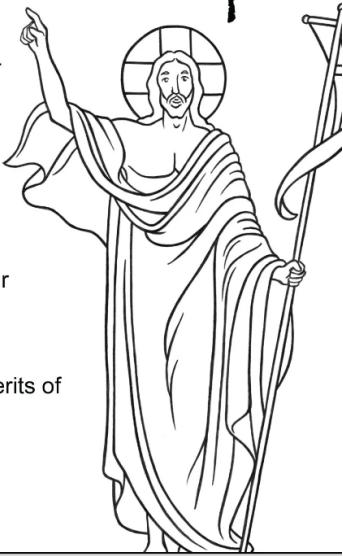
Act of Hope

O my God,
relying on your
infinite mercy
and promises,

I hope to
obtain pardon
of my sins,

the help of your
grace, and life
everlasting,

through the merits of
Jesus Christ,
my Lord and
Redeemer.
Amen.



Act of Hope - © TheCatholicKid.com

- Or have one for the Prodigal Son, which is a parable that is discussed in today's lesson:

The Prodigal Son



Psalm 86:5

*"You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love
to all who call to you."*

The above sheet comes from this resource: [Prodical Son Activities](#)

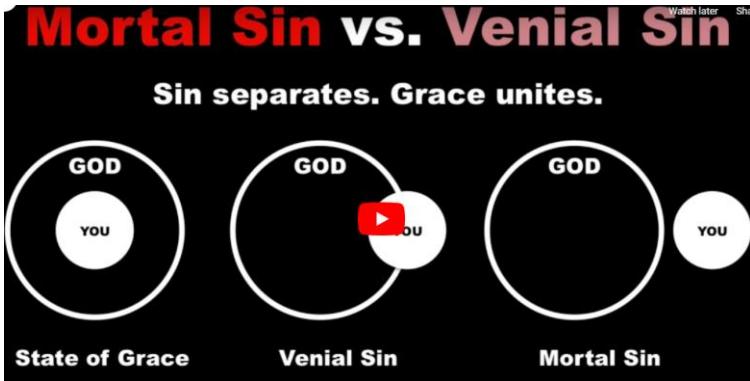
Beginning of Class:

- Choose a student's name from your small basket or bag and ask them to select a traditional Catholic prayer to open class with.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 10 Video	<p>This video is 2:25 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: In our last lesson, we learned about the effects of leading a good life and choosing to be kind and good. We also learned how sin hurts our relationship with God and others.</p> <p>Sin is choosing to disobey God's law in thought, word, deed and omission.</p> <p>The devil tries to turn us away from God. When we root ourselves in God's work, read Sacred Scripture, go to Mass, attend religious education classes, we build our friendship with Jesus and our understanding of God's will. The devil will turn away from us because he cannot tolerate the name of Jesus.</p> <p>Let's read James 4:7-8 and hear what Jesus' says:</p> <p><i>So, submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds.</i></p> <p>QUESTION: How can we build our relationship with God?</p> <p>(Prayer, following the 10 Commandments, going to Mass, receiving our sacraments, attending religious education).</p> <p>Living a holy life is not easy. After all, we are human and we all sin. We do something that doesn't follow the 10 Commandments. This is why Jesus died on the cross, to take away our sins. When we accept God's mercy and try again, then our sins can be forgiven. We have to first acknowledge what our sins are and confess them to a priest. You will do this</p>

	<p>soon, when you receive your First Reconciliation this spring!</p> <p>Today we will hear two parables: The Prodigal Son and the Lost Sheep.</p> <p>These two parables demonstrate the heart of God and how He is always to forgive us.</p>
<p>The Prodigal Son Video</p>	<p>This video is 1:50 in length.</p> <p>Highlights. This video is animated and the pictures will help keep students engaged and following along.</p> <p>Most people follow others rules or try to make their own rules. Rules are important, but sometimes they can be annoying. No one wants to be told what to do all the time. But this doesn't work.</p> <p>What if we follow God's rules? He loves us and wants the best for us.</p> <p>The Prodigal Son parable explains there are two brothers and both were given a sum of money from their father. The younger brother wants to make his own rules so he leaves home, makes bad choices, and sins. This doesn't go well and he struggles to live and survive. He goes home, apologizes to his father and the father welcomes him and throws a party in his honor.</p> <p>The father in this parable, represents God.</p>
<p>Have a discussion about this parable and what it means.</p> <p></p> <p>QUESTION:</p>	<p>Well, the older brother follows the rules, but doesn't really want to. He is angry when the younger brother returns and is forgiven.</p> <p>What is the lesson that Jesus is teaching us?</p>

	<p><i>The Parable explained from the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception:</i></p> <p><i>The Love of God the Father:</i></p> <p><i>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. When we come to repent of our sins, He is willing to forgive us and welcomes us with open arms.</i></p> <p><i>"...I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you." — Jeremiah 31:3 (NRSVCE)</i></p>
The Lost Sheep	<p>This video is 3:00 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Carla reads from Luke 15:1-7 and beautiful pictures accompany the reading.</p> <p>Questions posed: What does the shepherd do when he lost one sheep? Did he leave it behind?</p> <p>Why did the shepherd leave the other 99 sheep to search for the one sheep?</p> <p>Remember that this is a parable. When teaches tells a parable, he is teaching us something. Jesus lived over 2000 years ago and life was very different. People who lived during this time would understand the importance of tending sheep and keeping them all together.</p> <p>The shepherd in the parable is really God and the sheep are all of us, God's people.</p> <p>God doesn't want to lose any of us. He wants us all to stay on His path of truth and goodness. When we wander off this path, God will come find us.</p>

	<p>Question: How do you think it feels to be lost and then found by God?</p>
Worksheet for What is Sin Video	<p>You can pass out the worksheet now since the answers can be found in the video or wait until watching the video and complete this sheet all together, with students writing the answers and following your writing on the board.</p>
What is Sin Video	<p>This video is 2:19 in length.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Mortal Sin vs. Venial Sin</p> <p>Sin separates. Grace unites.</p> <p>State of Grace Venial Sin Mortal Sin</p> </div> <p>This is a sample illustration from the video that helps students understand this topic.</p> <p>There are two different types of sin and it is based on the gravity, or how sever or bad the sin is.</p> <p>Sin is defined as an offense against God. It damages our relationship with Him. Sin separates us from God; but we are also blessed with the gift of grace. Grace unites us back with God.</p> <p>When we are in a state of grace with God, our will aligns with His will. When we turn away from God, we commit sin.</p> <p>Venial Sins – These sins hurt our relationship with God, but allows charity to remain in our hearts, even though it is wounded.</p>

	<p>Mortal Sins – These sins destroy our relationship with God and destroys the charity in our hearts. We are completely separated from God.</p> <p>In order for a sin to be mortal, there are 3 factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The sin must be of grave matter, a very serious act. 2) The sinner must have full knowledge that they are committing a sin. 3) The sinner must have complete consent when committing the sin. <p>How do we restore charity in our hearts and lives?</p> <p>Through grace! Grace units us. Grace is the free, underserved gift from God, given to us in the sacraments. You received grace in the Sacrament of Baptism. You will receive grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist this spring!</p> <p>Grace is also given to us when we pray, study scripture (read the Bible), or any other ways we spend time building our relationship with God.</p> <p>Now is the time to complete the sin worksheet.</p>
Virtues That Lead us to be Good Friends Activity	<p>You will need to read the Bible passages to students. If you would like, pass out Bibles and have students follow along.</p> <p><i>John 15:13 says: No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.</i></p> <p><i>John 3:18 says: Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not</i></p>

	<p><i>believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.</i></p> <p><i>CCC 1829 states: The fruits of charity are joy, peace, and mercy; charity demands beneficence and fraternal correction; it is benevolence; it fosters reciprocity and remains disinterested and generous; it is friendship and communion: Love is itself the fulfillment of all our works. There is the goal; that is why we run: we run toward it, and once we reach it, in it we shall find rest.</i></p> <p>Read the virtue and have students give you a thumbs up for true or thumbs down for false. This can be a silent activity if you need it to be or not.</p>
Intro into the Activities	<p>This video is 1:15 in length.</p> <p>It reviews the two parables and the meanings of both of them. It is a nice transition into the activities.</p> <p>I suggest you do the Sin Sorting Activity first: You can work together and complete as a whole class or in pairs, whichever you prefer.</p> <p>If you work as a whole class, you just one copy, with the sins cut out. Then pass out the sins randomly to each student until all are gone.</p> <p>Working together on a large paper, poster board, or taped on the wall, have each sin read out loud and then discuss as a class if it is mortal or venial sin.</p>
Portrait of Yourself Activity	Draw a picture of yourself, showing your <u>beauty and goodness</u> , just like God made you!
10 Commandments Crossword Puzzle	Time permitting, you can complete this activity. It may be more difficult for this age group.
Closing Thoughts and Prayer	Ask students to share something new they learned or remembered from today's class.

You could incorporate these into your closing prayer using the sentence stem: Thank you for teaching me that ...

Allow several students to share his or her thank you.

