

Third Grade: 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, these outcomes help 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...

- Recognize that sin separates them from God and one another (CCC 1487, Isa 59:2, Rom 6:23).3
- Understand that because of original sin, all people have an inclination to sin (CCC Glossary: Concupiscence).
- Define sin as choosing to disobey God's law in thought, word, deed, or omission (CCC 1849) (CCC 1829).
- Discuss the communal effects of sin. Do Jesus know me and want to be my friend? (Encountering Christ)
- Understand that the consequence of sin could be 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)

Supplies Needed:

- Prayer space, pencils, crayons, copies for today's activities, consider double sided copies for the last two activities, Breaking the Ties of Sin and How Does My Sin Affect Others, a copy of the Act of Contrition for each student if you choose.

As Students Enter Class:

- Have blank paper available and ask students to draw or write what they know or think about sin.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to prayer table and either pray a spontaneous prayer or a traditional Catholic prayer.

- Since this is a second class, consider playing a quick get acquainted game, especially if you have new students join you this week.

| Lesson Order | Implementation |
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| Lesson 1 Video | <p>This video is 3:14 in length and has good visuals to support the material. It begins with a review of last week's objectives.</p> <p>Highlights: Sin separates us from God and others. Sin is saying no to God's law through thought, word, deed, and omission. Jesus gave us rules to live by and we have the 10 Commandments from the Old Testament. We will learn that sin can cause eternal separation from God. Read Romans 6:23; The good news is that Jesus is our Good Shepherd who died on the cross for our sins so we can go to Heaven. Read: Isaiah 59:2; it says because of our sins, he doesn't hear you. It is our sins that separate us from God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church in CC1849 and 1850 says: Sin is an offence against reason, truth, and right conscience. Failure to genuinely love God and neighbor, sin sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from sin. The meaning of the word concupiscence is that we are born with the inclination to sin. We need to work hard and choose to follow Jesus in order to beat sin. We need to choose to be holy. Lastly, our sins have a communal effect – meaning our sins impact other people in our lives.</p> |
| What is Sin Video | <p>This is a video with young children doing the talking. It is fun and accurate. This video explains what sin is and how it affects our lives. When this video is done, consider taking a movement break. Try asking students to move around the room and when you say freeze, they all stop and look at you. Select a student to share something they learned or liked about the What is Sin Video. Do this as many times as you deem appropriate.</p> |
| What is Concupiscence Video | <p>This video is short but explains sin and concupiscence in a way most children will understand. It brings in Adam and Eve and how their sin impacted all of us.</p> |
| Intro to Activities | <p>This video is 1:00 in length. In Romans 5:8 it says, God has shown us how much he still loves us. It was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us. The Good News is that God's love and forgiveness are greater than our sins! Sins can be hard to break, just like bad habits. Do you bite your nails or know someone who does? That is an example of a bad habit. We can get caught in our sins just like a marionette puppet gets caught in its strings.</p> |
| Sin Separates us From God Art Response | <p>Pass out a paper to each student and ask them to draw a picture of how sin separates them from God. Encourage students to share and explain their pictures.</p> |
| Breaking the Ties of Sin Activity | <p>Before passing out this sheet, write the following on the board: The sin I sometimes get stuck in is... solicit answers from students. Then pass out the worksheet and have students choose which sins they want to write down. Stress the Good News that God forgives our sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.</p> |

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| How Does My Sin Affect Others | Students can complete this sheet with you either in writing, or orally. It serves as a good summary activity for today's learning objectives. |
| Act of Contrition Prayer | Read through the Act of Contrition prayer with the students. Help them to recite the prayer and understand what the words mean. Collect the prayers to use again in next week's lesson. |
| Closing Prayer | Consider reciting the Act of Contrition for your closing prayer. Have a copy for each child to read from. Collect these as they will be used in the next lesson. |