

Fourth Grade: Lesson 14
Sin: Turning Away from God

Lesson Objective:

Although lesson 2 explores the consequences of sin, these outcomes revisit sin in more depth. Fictitious scenarios can be used to help children assess the conditions for serious sin.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Understand that the devil is the enemy of God and the enemy of man. He tries to turn us away from God (CCC 381-395; 2850-2854, Rev 12, 1 John 3:8).
- Define mortal sin and venial sin (CCC 1854-1864).
- List and explain the conditions that need to be present for a sin to be serious/mortal (CCC 1857-1860).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons, plain paper,
- Copies: Mortal sin vs. Venial sin sorting activity, Breaking the ties sin reflection sheet

As Students Enter Class:

- Give students a piece of plain paper and have them draw a picture of what sin looks like to them. They can label the picture as well.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to gather around the prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic Prayer.
- Provide some time for students to share their pictures.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 14 video	<p>This video is 3:24 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last session, we learned how God wants us to live by following His commands and guidelines, which are the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes. When we fail to follow these precepts, then we may commit a sin.</p>

Remember from previous lessons that a big consequence of sin is that it separates us from God and one another. It is important to make good and holy choices because our choices affect our relationship with God and each other.

God has an enemy, the devil, and the devil is our enemy too, because he tries to turn us away from God. We don't have to be afraid of the devil because God is more powerful than him.

James 4:7 tells us that the devil is afraid of God.

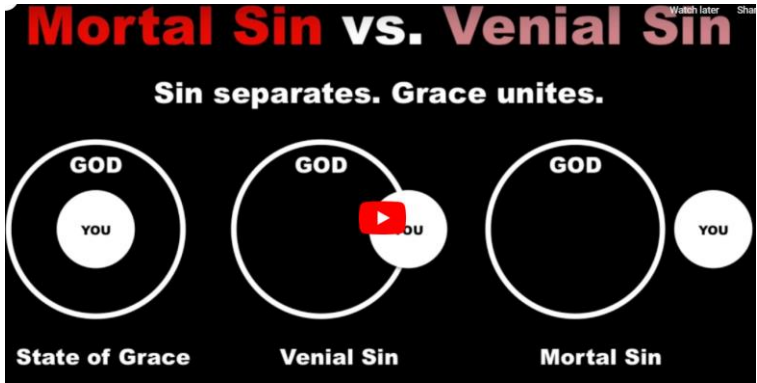
In the next video, you will learn the difference between mortal and venial sin. For a mortal sin to take place, three things need to happen:

- 1) The sin needs to be grave in matter (for example, breaking one of the 10 Commandments)
- 2) The sin is committed with full knowledge (the person knows they are doing something wrong)
- 3) The sin is committed with deliberate consent (on purpose)

Mortal sins cause a loss of sanctifying grace and breaks our relationship with God. Venial sins are less serious in nature and are often committed without full understanding or consent.

Venial sins wound our relationship with God. Mortal sins separate us from God.

The good news is that God has given us a way to return to Him, no matter how grave our sins are. This happens when we go to confession and participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus did this so that we may join Him in Heaven.

<p>What is Sin?</p>	<p>This video is 5:17 in length.</p> <p>This video is 5:16. It explains with illustrations venial and grave sins and how they are different from one another. It is important to note that sin goes against our love of God and our love of neighbors. Grave sin destroys and venial sins hurt.</p> <p>Consider a movement break at this time. Try a learn and move activity. Example: Invite students to stand and form a circle if you have the room; toss a ball or small stuffed animal and ask a student to give an example of a sin. Then discuss if it is venial or mortal. If students are quiet or nonresponsive, then you give an example and ask students if it is a sin or not? Venial or mortal?</p>
<p>Mortal Sin vs. Venial Sin</p>	<p>This video is 2:19 in length.</p>  <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 gravity, or how severe or bad the sin is.</p> <p>Sin is defined as an offense against God. It damages our relationship with Him. Sin</p>

separates us from God; but we are also blessed with the gift of grace. Grace unites us back with God.

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.

Venial Sins – These sins hurt our relationship with God, but allows charity to remain in our hearts, even though it is wounded.

Mortal Sins – These sins destroy our relationship with God and destroys the charity in our hearts. We are completely separated from God.

For a sin to be mortal, there are 3 factors:

- 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.

How do we restore charity in our hearts and lives?

Through grace! Grace unites 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!

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>DISCUSS: Invite your students to ask questions or share their thoughts about the information they learned about sin.</p> <p>It will be helpful to remind students that God knows we all sin, which is why we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God loves us and wants us to live eternally with Him in Heaven.</p>
How Does the Grace of Salvation Come to Us?	<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>
Mortal Vs. Venial Sin Sorting Activity	<p>This could be done whole group. At the top of a poster, tape the two headings. Pass out the cards to students. Each student takes a turn reading their sin card. As a class, determine what category each sin belongs to.</p>
Breaking the Ties	<p>This sheet requires some reflection. Consider playing quiet music if available. Provide time for students to complete.</p> <p>Then come together and discuss: How does God's mercy and forgiveness set us free?</p>
Closing Prayer	<p>Gather around your prayer space and recite the Act of Contrition.</p>