

Fifth Grade: Lesson 2: Jesus is Our Savior and Redeemer

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 kerygma or "good news" of Jesus. Children should be led to understand that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross atones for their personal sins. Catechists are encouraged to review the Nicene Creed to show how the kerygma is present in this statement of belief. (The meaning of KERYGMA is the apostolic proclamation of salvation through Jesus Christ.)

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain how original sin is transmitted and personal sin is a choice (CCC 396-406).
- Recognize that Jesus becoming man reveals the love of the Father. Understand that without Jesus, the consequence of sin is eternal separation from God (Rom 6:23).
- Describe that at the Resurrection we will see as God sees and our bodies will perfectly reveal His love. 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).
- Identify Jesus' name as meaning "God saves" (CCC 430; Luke 1:31 - 33).
- Recite common prayers of the Catholic Church (e.g., prayers of the Mass, Act of Contrition, the Creeds, Mealtime Prayers, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, etc...)

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space, Bibles, crayons, pencils,
- Copies: There are five activities for this lesson; choose the copies you would use (it does not have to be all of them).

As Students Enter Class:

- Have an activity ready for students to settle in and prepare to think about their Faith. A few ideas...

- Have this statement written on the board: Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer. What does this mean? Students can answer using sticky notes and placing them on the board when they are done. Names are not required.
- Bible Scavenger Hunt (see copy)
- Have new students write their name on a large index card folded to make a name plate.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to your prayer space and model a spontaneous prayer of thanksgiving.
- Invite students to share what they are thankful for.

BIBLE SCAVENGER HUNT

Using our classroom Bibles, find the following books in the Bible:

| | Old Testament (OT) New Testament (NT) | Page Number or Answer |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| The Book of Exodus | | |
| The last book in the Old Testament | | |
| What are the names of the people who wrote the 4 Gospels? | | |
| Where can you find the book of Psalms? | | |
| What is the last book in the Bible? | | |

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| Lesson Order | Implementation Ideas |
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| Lesson 2 Video | <p data-bbox="605 306 1057 338">This video is 4:05 in length.</p> <p data-bbox="605 380 1414 604">Highlights: Today you will better understand the consequences of sin and why we need a savior. Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross forgives us of our personal sins. When Jesus became man, it reveals the love of God and helps us to know why we need a savior.</p> <p data-bbox="605 646 1333 720">Remember, the consequence of sin is eternal separation from God and one another.</p> <p data-bbox="605 762 1390 919">Isaiah 59:2 (You can invite students to follow along in their Bibles): "It is because of your sins that He doesn't hear you. It is your sin that separates you from God.</p> <p data-bbox="605 961 935 993">CCC1849 and 1850:</p> <div data-bbox="654 1045 984 1077"> <p>II. THE DEFINITION OF SIN</p> </div> <div data-bbox="654 1098 1382 1245"> <p>1849 Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity. It has been defined as "an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law."¹²¹ 311 1952</p> </div> <div data-bbox="654 1255 1382 1476"> <p>1850 Sin is an offense against God: "Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight."¹²² Sin sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from it. Like the first sin, it is disobedience, a revolt against God through the will to become "like gods,"¹²³ knowing and determining good and evil. Sin is thus "love of oneself even to contempt of God."¹²⁴ 397 In this proud self-exaltation, sin is diametrically opposed to the obedience of Jesus, which achieves our salvation.¹²⁵ 615</p> </div> <p data-bbox="605 1486 1390 1675">The Good News is that because we believe Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, we know that He died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. He did this so that we may join Him someday in Heaven.</p> <p data-bbox="605 1717 1341 1791">Romans 5:8 But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.</p> |

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| | <p>1John2:2: He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world.</p> <p>God makes it very clear that His mercy and forgiveness is endless for those who ask. Jesus is our salvation, which means He forgives our sins and restores us into the right relationship with God. This is done by His death and resurrection.</p> <p>At Mass we pray the Nicene Creed together. This is a proclamation of the Kerygma – the Good News – that God sent his only son Jesus to Earth, where He lived, died, and rose from the dead in order to forgive our sins.</p> <p>Today, make a commitment to Jesus and yourself by praying at least five minutes every day this week. Remember, personal sin is a choice. During today’s class, think about how you can follow Jesus better.</p> |
| What is Sin Video | <p>This video is 3:26 in length. It is well done. A bishop narrates the information about sin and there are real pictures that accompany.</p> <p>Highlights: Sin is the misuse of the powers God has given us. Sin is a refusal to live in relationship with God and others but rather, we choose ourselves, our ego, what we want, over what God wants. When we sin, we are at the center of our thoughts – however, God is to be at the center of our thoughts.</p> <p>There are gradations of sin: mortal and venial. Mortal sins are so grave they sever our relationship with God. Venial sins do not sever your relationship with God.</p> <p>Follow-up Discussion: Offer students to stand if they would like and do an activity that reviews the information from the video in an engaging way. For example: Have all the students’ names written on a piece of paper or craft stick. Pull a stick and that person shares. Think about</p> |

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| | <p>allowing one pass per class where students can skip answering. You can use this strategy throughout all classes or as often as you like. Or... a piece of candy can be used as an incentive.</p> |
| What is Sin Part 2 | <p>This video is longer, 6:41 in length. Fr. Mike Schmitz explains what sins are and how they are not all the same degree. He is engaging and explains it well.</p> <p>Suggestion: Watch this video ahead of time and decide what part(s) you would like to share. Consider providing a sketch and learn follow up activity. Give students a blank piece of paper and while they are listening or after the video, they can sketch what they learned or what stuck with them from the video. Provide a few minutes of sharing time.</p> <p>**You may choose to do one of the activities here: The Art Response showing how sin separates us from Jesus.**</p> |
| Reflection and Intro into the Activities | <p>This video is 2:47 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: The Good News is that Jesus Died on the Cross for the forgiveness of our sins. He did this so we may join him some day in Heaven. Let's see what sacred scripture says. Open your Bible to Romans 5:8 - "But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." 1 John 2:2 - And Christ Himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not only our sins, but the sins of everyone. God makes it very clear that His mercy and forgiveness is endless for those who ask. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross atones for your personal sins. Jesus is our salvation, which means he saves us from our sin.</p> <p>We say the Nicene Creed together at Mass. This Creed is a proclamation of the good news, also known as Kerygma: the good news is that we have salvation through Jesus Christ.</p> |

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| | <p>Select which activities you would like to do in class and send home:</p> <p>1) Art Response – How does sin separate us from God?</p> <p>2) What are some ways a 5th grader might sin? Let's make a list together. Consider writing students' thoughts on the board. Have students copy the list. Then provide some quiet reflecting time. Encourage students to circle or put a check on the sins they struggle with. Tell students that you will all say a prayer asking God to help you with those sins at the end of class.</p> <p>3) Prayer Journal Page – Provide a copy for each student to take home.</p> <p>4) Following Jesus Art Activity – Draw a picture showing why it is important to follow Jesus</p> <p>5) Prayer Journal Pages (choice of 4) - Choose one that you would like your students to work on.</p> |
| Closing Prayer | <p>Invite students to your prayer space and model a spontaneous prayer, asking God to forgive us for the sins we checked off on our page and to help us have a desire to truly avoid committing these sins again. Thank God for sending us our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who, by his cross, death, and resurrection, has set us free.</p> |