

Second Grade Lesson Plans

Lesson 5, Chapter 8: Making Good Choices

Focus: God gives us the freedom to make loving or unloving choices in our lives. God's love there to forgive us when we do not make good choices.

Materials Needed:

- Roll of wide masking tape (in large tub)
- "Accident, Mistake or Sin" handout – 1 per child (in tub)
- Shoe box (catechist provides)
- Wrapping paper (catechist provides)
- Sheet of paper (catechist provides)
- Scissors (in Mouse House on shelf)
- 2 or 3 sharpie markers (in large tub)
- Individual Rite of Reconciliation for Role Play
- "Making Good Choices" craft (in large tub)

Before class begins:

- ✓ Wrap a shoe box like a birthday gift. Wrap the lid separately so it can be removed. Cut a large hole in the bottom of the box. Cut a sheet of paper the same size or bigger than the bottom of the box and place the box on top of the paper on a table to use later.
- ✓ As the children come into the room, give them each a rolled up piece of masking tape with the adhesive side out. Have the children roll the masking tape across various surfaces in the room (to pick up dirt). Bring kids together.

Prayer: Our Father/Act of Contrition

What you say and do:

- ***What's on your tape? Were you surprised to find so much dirt and stuff around here? Sometimes we have hidden dirt in our lives, too. When we do wrong things and don't ask God to forgive us, it's like we build up yucky stuff in our souls. Do you think there is a way to clean it up? Let's find out!*** Have kids write their name on their piece of masking tape and put it away for later time.
- ***Last week we learned about the Ten Commandments. Do you remember why God gives us rules to follow? Do we always follow the Commandments?*** (Of course not. We all make bad choices once in a while.)
- ***How do you know when you have made a bad choice?*** (We all have something called a conscience. A conscience is a gift that helps us know right from wrong. It helps us choose what is good and stay away from things that are wrong.)
- ***What is another word for making unloving choices that hurt ourselves or others?*** (sin) ***I bet you didn't know that there are two kinds of sin! Did anyone know that?***
- ***Serious sins are called mortal sins. Less serious sins are called venial sins. Do you think the disciples ever sinned? Let's read a story about Peter that will answer that question!*** (Read the story, "Peter Denies Jesus" on page 102. Discuss the questions at the bottom of the page and then read "Jesus Forgives" on p. 103.)

- ***Wow. Did you ever think that Jesus' disciples would ever sin? The disciples were people just like us who made bad choices sometimes. The important thing for us to remember is that God always forgives us when we are sorry for our sins.***
- ***By the way, what is the difference between a sin and a mistake? (Do the "Accident, Mistake or Sin" worksheet together as a class.)***
- ***Mistakes are not sins and we don't need to ask for forgiveness. It's important to remember the difference between a mistake and a sin.***
- (Take out the wrapped box.) ***You can see by its decoration that this is a gift. It's a special gift to each of you that only Jesus can give. This is a "for-giving" box that helps remind us that Jesus forgives all our sins and that forgiveness is a gift. What is sin? Can you think of times in your life when you have sinned? Our sins are like dirt that sticks to our soul-kind of the same way the dirt stuck to your roll of tape.***
 (Give children their own rolls of dirty tape. Have the children crumple them up and put them in the "for-giving" box. Put the lid on.)
- ***When we say we're sorry for something we've done and ask God to forgive us, what happens?***(Carefully pick up the box and the paper underneath (to hold in the balls of tape) and walk to the wastebasket. Hold the box above the wastebasket and remove the paper so the balls fall in the wastebasket – you may have to reach in for the sticky ones.
- ***When we ask, God gives us the gift of forgiveness and our sins are all gone! Soon we will be learning about the sacrament of Reconciliation – a time we can***

ask God for forgiveness. The important thing to remember is that God always wants to forgive you. All you have to do is tell him you're sorry for what you've done. What a great gift!

- ***How do you feel about God forgiving the bad things you do? When do you need forgiveness the most? When is it hard to ask for forgiveness? Sometimes we can sin by the things we DON'T do. Can you give me some examples of that?***
- Very soon you will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation. Today we learned that God ALWAYS forgives our sins but it is important that we confess them.
- When we confess our sins, it helps us remember not to do them again. The priest is there to listen and help us but Jesus is also there listening when we say we are sorry.
- The words we hear from the priest actually come from Jesus because the priest is there "In persona Christi". Those are big, Latin words that simply mean Jesus listens and speaks through the priest right to us.
- One of the things you will hear Jesus say is, "I absolve you of your sins." The word "absolve" means to forgive or wipe away. So when you hear those words from Jesus, you know FOR SURE that your sins are gone. That is one reason why it is so important to go to Reconciliation.
- Let's practice what will happen when you go to receive Reconciliation.

(Role play with the Individual Rite of Reconciliation sheet with the kids.)

"Making Good Choices" craft, if time.

Closing Prayer: Hail Mary/Glory Be