

Faith Lesson Plan and Faith Activity

Signs of Grace Session 5- Life in Christ

Grade 2

Doctrinal Content

We are forgiven of sins committed after Baptism through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through sin, we wound our relationship with God, the Church, and ourselves. To be forgiven after causing such wounds one must ask God for forgiveness, trusting in his grace and mercy. Anyone who desires reconciliation with God and his Church must confess to a priest all unconfessed grave matters (mortal) and the confession of unconfessed sins of lesser matter (venial) is strongly recommended by the Church. (CCC 1425-1440; 1472-1480)

Objectives

- God gives us his laws because he wants what is good for us and his laws show us the path of goodness
- Sin is a choice against loving God and neighbor
- Mortal sin breaks our relationship with God; venial sin hurts our relationship with God but does not break it.
- Our conscience needs to be formed according to God's laws
- When we sin, we must repent and ask God for forgiveness

Let Us Pray

Make the sign of the cross.

Say: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for wanting me to be happy. Thank you for giving me your laws to teach me how to live. Thank you for my conscience. Please help me to make good choices. Please help me to follow you always. And when I sin, please help me to repent. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen. (*Student guide pg 61*)

Pray the Act of Contrition
Make the sign of the cross.

Memory Verse Review

Encourage each child to recite from memory the verse from last week. Give a reward when appropriate effort is given to reciting the memory verse.

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15)

New Memory Verse (*Student guide pg 71*)

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Saint of the Day - Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997); Feast Day Sept 5th; Patron of World Youth Day, Missionaries of Charity, and Calcutta (*Student guide pg 71*)

Display the following.



- Mother Teresa was Born in Albania but longed to bring the love of Jesus to the World. She became a missionary sister to Calcutta, India where she taught at a girls' school.
- After some years, she heard Jesus calling her to do more for the poor, the sick, and the dying. In response to this call, she founded the Missionaries of Charity. They were first in Calcutta and then spread across the world sharing the love of Jesus with the unwanted, the unloved, and the uncared for.
- Mother Teresa shared the message of God's love with everyone. Rich or poor, clean, or dirty, Christian or atheist, young or old.
- She encouraged everyone to share the message of God's love by doing something beautiful for God.
- How can you do something beautiful for God?

Say: What makes you feel happy? Is it your best friends? Sports? Your pet? Ice cream? When you are happy it makes people who love you happy, too. God wants us to find true happiness, not only here on earth, but forever with him in Heaven. That's the reason he gives us his fatherly instruction- to show us what to do to be happy and what not to do so we don't get hurt or hurt others. We all make mistakes, and sometimes we don't follow God's instructions. When that happens, God calls us to turn back to him. He always offers us his forgiveness so that we can be happy again.

Let's Watch

Say: God wants us to be happy. He tells us what we need to do so we can be truly happy. But he also gives us the choice of whether we follow his instructions or not, whether we are going to love or not. Let's watch a short video about making choices.

Watch: Morality: Choosing What is Right.

<https://watch.formed.org/signs-of-grace/season:1/videos/you-are-forgiven-ep-5> (2:48)

Ask & Say: (encourage the Children to answer)

What does it mean to be human? *It means that God has given us free will, free choice.*

What does it mean that we have free will? Does it mean we can do whatever we want? *Having free will means that we are able to choose to do what is right and what is wrong. God gave us free will so we could freely choose to love him and others.*

What is virtue? *Virtue is the practice of doing good.*

Why is virtue important? *We have to practice living good and holy lives. Virtue helps us, by God's grace, to be like Jesus. It helps us to show God our love for him.*

What should we do if we choose to sin? *We should always tell God that we are sorry in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God is always ready to forgive us. The Sacrament of Reconciliation shows us in a real way how much God loves us and forgives us, no matter what we have done.*

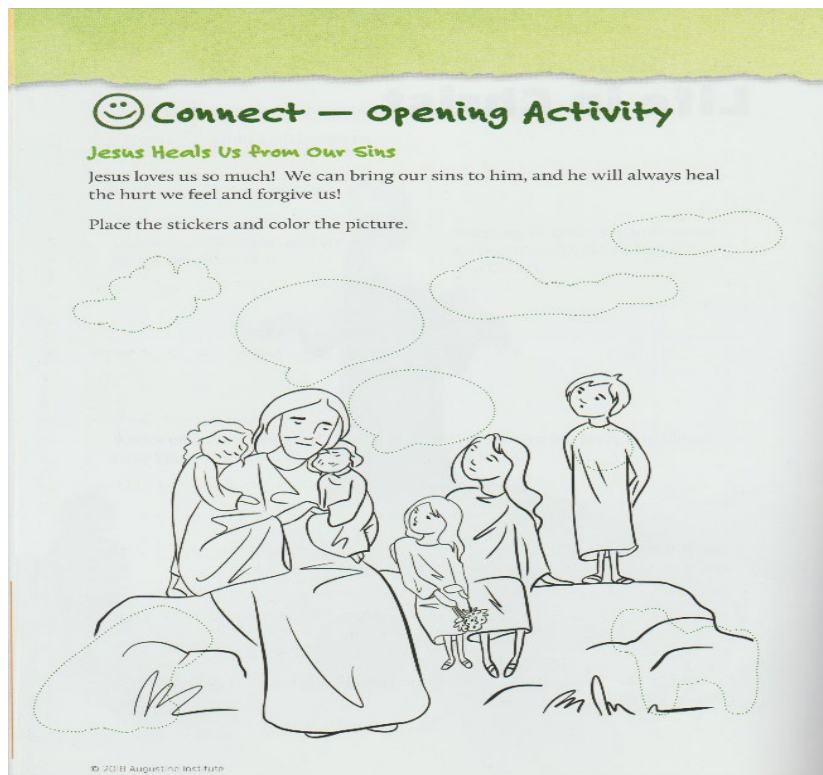
Let's Connect (Student Activity Book Lesson 5)

****Open your Student Activity book to the session 5 connect-opening activity. Place stickers (found on a separate page) in the correct places on the activity page.**

Ask: Who remembers what a venial sin is? What do you remember about mortal sins?

Say: Jesus loves us so much! We can bring our sins to him, and he will always heal the hurt we feel and forgive us.

Display the Following



Let's Read God's Word (Student Guide pg 62-63)

Say: Let's listen to what Jesus teaches his disciples about the kind of life God wants us to live. He also teaches them about some of the blessings God has for his faithful people. These blessings are called the Beatitudes.

Proclaim: "When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:
'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus, they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'" (Mt 5:1-12)

Ask: (Encourage children to answer)

What are some ways God wants us to live our lives? *Bringing peace, being sorry when we sin, praying and working for holiness, showing mercy and compassion to people, being patient when other people are mean to us because we are trying to be good, etc.*

Why do you think God cares about how we live our lives? *God cares about the kind of life we live because he loves us and wants us to be happy. God knows that some choices are good for us and will make us happy, and some choices are bad for us and will hurt us and other people.*

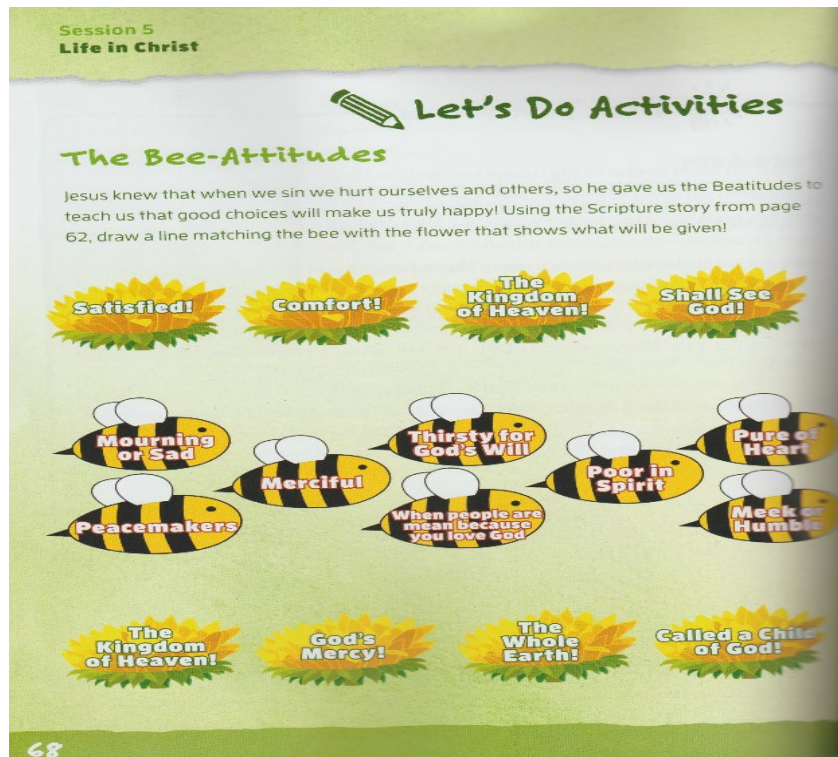
Do all of the Beatitudes sound like your idea of blessing? Why or why not?

The Beatitudes show us God's idea of blessing, not always our idea of blessing. Some of the Beatitudes talk about being sad or feeling weak or having people be mean to us. These things don't sound like blessings from a human point of view- but they are blessings when they happen because we are being faithful to God and we know that God is with us even in these difficult times.

Which Beatitude would you want for yourself?

Let's Do Activities (Student Guide pg 68)

Display & Complete the Following



Let's Learn About Our Faith (Student Guide pg 64-66)

Say: God wants us to be happy. God's ways are all about what is best for us. Even though it's sometimes hard to follow God's laws, listening to God will always bring us true happiness.

When we break God's laws, or when we do not love God or our neighbor, we commit sin. Sin hurts the people around us. It also hurts our relationship with God. And when we sin, it always hurts us.

Ask: Does anyone remember the names of the 2 kinds of sin? (*Venial & Mortal*)

Does anyone remember what the difference is? (*Venial sin damages our relationship with God. Mortal sin completely breaks our relationship with God.*)

Say: The 2 kinds of sin are **MORTAL SIN** and **VENIAL SIN**. The new life of grace that we received in Baptism can be lost by sin, as we saw with Adam and Eve. A mortal sin breaks our relationship with God. When we commit a mortal sin, we no longer have God's life of grace in us and we are spiritually dead.

Even though God has given us his life and friendship in Baptism, we can lose that life of grace by choosing to commit a mortal sin. For mortal sin, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the only ordinary way to repair our relationship with God and the Church. A person who knows that they have committed a mortal sin should go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as possible.

Here is how you know if a sin is mortal or not. 1) It must be a serious sin 2) you must know that it is a very serious sin when you commit it 3) You must choose to commit it of your own free will. If a sin lacks any of these things, then you have not committed a mortal sin.

A venial sin is a lesser sin that hurts our relationship with God, but does not completely break it. A venial sin is not as serious as a mortal sin, but it is still harmful and dangerous. Every sin we commit makes it easier to commit more sins. Because of this we should also confess venial sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

God has given us a special gift to help us make the right choices. Our **CONSCIENCE** helps us to know the difference between right and wrong. We form our conscience by learning about God's ways from the Bible and the Church.

Even when we want to do the right thing, sometimes we still commit sins and need God's forgiveness. We need to turn back to God after we have sinned, this is called **CONVERSION**. We repent of our sins by recognizing that our sins are wrong, by being truly sorry for them, and by deciding not to sin again in the future. This is what we are telling God in the Act of Contrition. Did you know that **CONTRITION** means having "sorrow for sin" and intending not to sin again? This is how we should go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation with contrition and conversion.

Key Words

Mortal Sin: A serious sin that separates us from God and results in the loss of sanctifying grace. We must go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for forgiveness if we have committed mortal sin.

Venial Sin: A lesser sin that harms our relationship with God but does not separate us from God. Venial sins can always be forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but also in other ways, such as an Act of Contrition.

Conscience: A special voice inside us telling us what is right and wrong.

Conversion: Turning back to God after we have sinned.

Contrition: Sorrow for sin; it includes the intention not to sin again.

Let's Live It (*Student Activity Book Lesson 5*)

Display & Complete the Following



Let's Live It

Life in Christ!

Choose the correct answer from the multiple choices. Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided. These letters make up a special word that completes the message from Jesus to each of us.

Jesus tells us, "I will always _____ your sins!"

- _____ God's laws makes us free to really live our lives and find happiness.
E. Breaking F. Following G. Ignoring
- A _____ is when we choose to do what we know is wrong. It hurts us, our relationship with God, and other people.
M. accident N. mistake O. sin
- A _____ sin is a serious sin that breaks our relationship with God, meaning we no longer have God's life of grace in us, and we are spiritually dead.
R. mortal S. venial T. original
- A _____ sin is a lesser sin that hurts our relationship with God but doesn't completely break it.
E. original F. mortal G. venial
- Our conscience is a gift from _____ to help us know right from wrong so that we can do good and avoid evil.
I. God J. teachers K. our parents
- We form our conscience by learning about God's laws through the teachings of _____ that God gave us to guide us.
T. our friends U. the TV V. the Church
- Turning back to God after we have sinned is called conversion, and God will always _____ us!
D. ignore E. forgive F. reject

Say: Open your Student Activity Books so we can complete the work page together.

Read the Paragraph together and fill in the blanks on the board

Do you recall the memory verse?

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in Heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Faith Activity- Avoid sins obstacle course in the Multi-room

“Avoid Sins” Obstacle Course

Materials Needed:

- Painter’s tape
- White paper, or white paper plates
- Yellow, black, and gray paper

Ahead of time, use the painter’s tape to make a large square on the floor at the end of a hallway, a classroom, a gym, or an unused part of a parking lot or playground to represent the confessional, and a large square at the other end of the hallway to represent Heaven. You can also put a line along one side that you don’t want the other children to cross.

Discuss how important the Sacrament of Reconciliation is and how we receive grace each time we receive it, which helps us to avoid sin and temptation.

We are going to play a game to represent how we should always try to avoid temptation and sin and try to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation often. The ultimate goal of our lives is to go to Heaven, and the grace we receive in the sacraments helps us to get there.

Form two groups: “Obstacles” and “Christians.” Give “Christians” each a sheet of white paper (or white paper plate) to symbolize the grace they have from the sacraments, which will help shield them from “temptation and sin.” They will line up next to the confessional—only one child at a time in the confessional, please! Give the “Obstacles” on the “Christian’s” path to Heaven three

sheets of paper: yellow, to represent “temptation,” gray to represent “venial sin,” and black to represent “mortal sin.” They will crumple these pieces of paper into balls. The “Obstacles” will line up a little distance away or along the line at the side and sit down. They must stay seated. The “Christian” will walk quickly from the “confessional” square on the floor to the “Heaven” square—which is the safe zone, while the “Obstacles” throw the “sins and temptation” at them. If they are hit with a yellow “temptation,” they have to slow down. If they are hit with a gray “venial sin,” they have to crawl. And if they are hit with a black “mortal sin,” they have to go to the end of the line and start over in the “Confessional” square. The “Christians” are all allowed to block the “temptations and the sins” with their white paper (or white paper plate), their “sacramental grace.” If the paper hits their head or hands, it doesn’t count. If disputes arise, the teacher may act as the “Conscience” to tell the “Christian” whether or not they were hit by the “sins and temptations.” After each child crosses to the safe zone or gets sent back, the children will need to recollect their paper balls for the next child. After all the “Christians” are safe in “Heaven,” a new game could start and the children could switch roles if they want.