

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 2

Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist

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Our Sunday Visitor

Choose to Do Good

Let Us Pray

Leader: Lord, teach us how to make good choices.

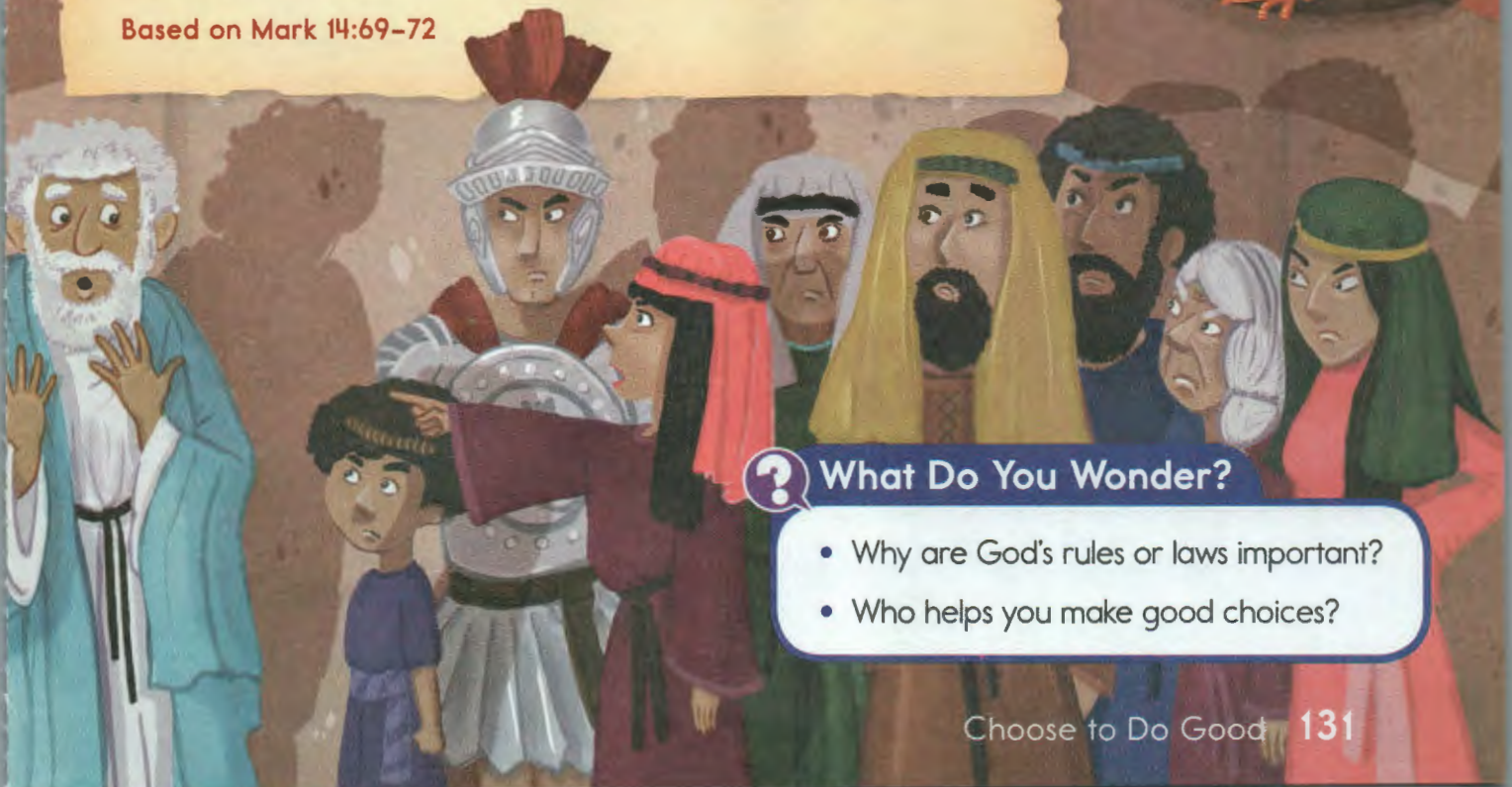
“LORD, teach me the way of your statutes;
I shall keep them with care.” **Psalm 119:33**

All: God, help us to follow your laws, with all our heart. Amen.

God's Word

The servant girl saw Peter and said, “This man is one of them!” “No, I’m not!” Peter replied. Later, some of the people said to Peter, “You certainly are one of them, you’re a Galilean!” Once again Peter denied knowing Jesus. Right away a rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had told him, “Before a rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you don’t know me.” So Peter started crying.

Based on Mark 14:69–72



What Do You Wonder?

- Why are God's rules or laws important?
- Who helps you make good choices?

A Hard Choice

Why are some choices hard to make?

God made us with **free will**. We are free to choose how we act. Sometimes we make bad choices that do not show love. Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, had a hard choice to make.

Catholic Faith Words

free will being able to choose whether to obey God or disobey God. God created us with free will because he wants us to make good choices.

God's Word

Peter Denies Jesus

The night before Jesus died on the Cross, soldiers took Jesus away. Peter followed them to a courtyard. The gatekeeper said to Peter, "You are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

Later, Peter was standing around a fire to keep warm. And someone said to him, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" Peter said, "I am not."

One of the slaves said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" Again, Peter said no.

Based on John 18:17-18, 25-27



Jesus told Peter that he would deny him three times.

Jesus Forgives

Peter did not tell the truth about being Jesus' follower. He did not show his love for Jesus. After Jesus was raised from the dead, he spoke to Peter.

Three times Jesus asked Peter if he loved him. Three times Peter said yes. Jesus believed Peter and asked him to take care of his followers.

Jesus forgave Peter because Peter was sorry for what he had done. Jesus gave us the the Sacrament of Penance so that we could know his forgiveness. If you tell God that you are truly sorry for the wrong you do, he will forgive you.



After his Resurrection, Jesus forgave Peter.



Underline what Jesus did when Peter said he was sorry.



Share Your Faith

Think How can you show you are sorry for something?

Share In a small group, talk about ways you respond to someone who tells you they are really sorry.

One way we receive God's forgiveness is in the Sacrament of Penance.

God Helps You Choose

How do you know right from wrong?

A sin is a person's choice to disobey God on purpose and do what he or she knows is wrong. Accidents and mistakes are not sins.

An accident is something we do not do on purpose. We don't plan accidents or expect them to happen. A mistake is a misunderstanding or an incorrect answer or something we think is right but is not. A sin is a choice to do something we know is wrong. Sin hurts your friendship with God and others.



1. Circle the picture that shows a mistake and put an X over the picture that shows a sin.
2. Discuss what Marita should do next and what Arnie could have done differently.

Marita spilled her milk all over the kitchen counter.



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Arnie teased Rachel for losing the game of freeze tag.

Types of Sin

Some choices lead to serious sins called mortal sins. A **mortal sin** is a serious sin that causes a person's relationship with God to be broken. It is a choice to turn completely away from God's love.

A less serious sin is called a **venial sin**. Venial sins hurt a person's relationship with God but do not completely remove him or her from God's life and love. They still matter, though, because they can lead to more serious sins.

God's love is always greater than sin. His mercy never ends.

Conscience

God helps you choose what is good. He gives you a **conscience**. This gift from God helps you know right from wrong. It is important for us to know God's laws so our conscience can help us make good decisions. The Holy Spirit guides you to listen to your conscience.

You know something is right when it follows God's law. You know it is wrong when it goes against one of the Ten Commandments.

Connect Your Faith

Identify What are some choices children your age make? Choose one and talk about how God's Commandments can help you know what to do.

Catholic Faith Words

mortal sin a serious sin that causes a person's relationship with God to be broken

venial sin a sin that hurts a person's friendship with God, but does not completely break it

conscience an ability given to us by God that helps us make choices about right and wrong

Our Catholic Life

How can you make good choices?

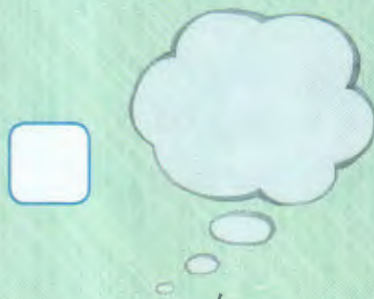
When you have to choose, you can remember what you know about being a follower of Jesus. Knowing the difference between right and wrong is not always easy. You can use your conscience, the ability from God to choose what is good and avoid what is not. Here are some steps to follow:

Steps for Making Good Choices

1. Stop what you are doing.
2. Look to what you have learned about the Commandments.
3. Imagine: How can I act like a follower of Jesus right now?
4. Stop and listen to what your conscience is saying, the gift from God to help you know right from wrong.
5. Pray to the Holy Spirit for help.



Next to each picture, write the number of the step that it shows.



People of Faith

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, 1873–1897

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux lived in France. As a little girl, she sometimes did bad things. She would cry if she didn't get her own way. When her mother died, Thérèse was very sad and decided she would always choose to do what was good. When Thérèse joined the Carmelite convent she said she couldn't do big, important things for God. But she could do little things, like her chores. She offered them to God. She is known as the "Little Flower of Jesus."



October 1

Discuss: What is one little thing you can do for God today?



Learn more about
Saint Thérèse at
aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Plan a Skit With a partner, write a story about making a choice. Then together act it out.

1. What choice does the person have to make?

2. What things should the person think about before making the choice?

3. What will the person do?

4. Why is it important to think before making a choice to do something?

 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Petition

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Our Father, thank you for helping us find the way to life with you and peace with others.

Reader 1: You gave us the Ten Commandments to guide us in our choices.

All: Show us the way, O Lord.

Reader 2: Jesus shows us the way to love and seek forgiveness.

All: Show us the way, O Lord.

Reader 1: The Holy Spirit brings us peace and a forgiving heart.

All: Show us the way, O Lord.

Reader 2: Our family and friends help us choose all that is good.

All: Show us the way, O Lord. Amen.



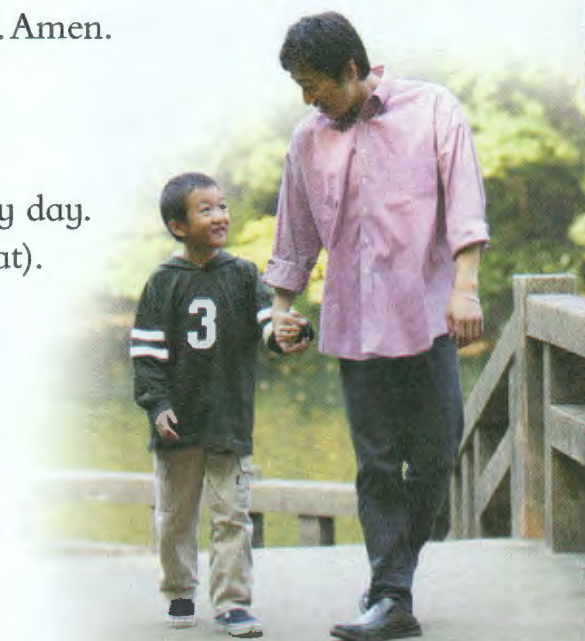
Sing "C-H-O-I-C-E-S"

C-H-O-I-C-E-S.

God gives us choices every day.

In every single way (repeat).

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YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains making good choices, the difference between a sin, a mistake, or an accident, and God's willingness to forgive our sin.

God's Word



Read **Mark 14:69–72** to see how Peter denied knowing Jesus after his arrest.

Catholics Believe

- Conscience is the ability given to us by God that helps us make choices about right and wrong.
- Sin is a free choice to do what you know is wrong.

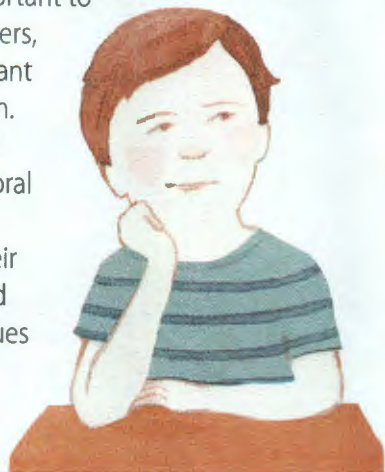
To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1778, 1783–1784 at uscgb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower. She once said she wanted to take an elevator directly to God.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Making Good Choices Children need and want limits and guidance. They get a sense of security from structure. But in a society that is increasingly unwilling to make value judgments, children can sometimes be at a loss to know right from wrong. Knowing the rules and understanding how things work are very important to second-graders. Parents, teachers, and catechists serve as important mentors and examples to them. Don't hesitate to tell your child how you feel about various moral issues and choices he or she may face. Children listen to their parents about these things and often internalize a parent's values even when we don't realize it.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Can you recall a time you received undeserved forgiveness?

That experience leaves us feeling both humbled and grateful. Perhaps that is why we so identify with the people in the Scriptures who experience God's forgiveness. "When Peter asked the number of times a person should forgive, Jesus told him that there should be no limit to forgiving. Jesus forgave Peter his triple denial, showed mercy to the woman taken in adultery, forgave the thief on the cross, and continually witnessed the mercy of God...the Sacrament of Penance is God's gift to us so that any sin committed after Baptism can be forgiven" (*USCCA, p.243*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Talk about the difference between a mistake and a sin.
- Ask your child to share a story from the Bible that talks about forgiveness. What did that story teach them?

LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, help us to do all the "little things" in our lives with love, like Saint Thérèse did. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 8 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

1. Your ____ helps you know right from wrong.
 sin conscience
2. ____ is a free choice to do what you know is wrong.
 An accident A sin
3. A ____ sin breaks a person's relationship with God.
 mortal venial
4. A ____ sin hurts a person's friendship with God, but does not completely break it.
 mortal venial
5. You must be ____ for your sins before you can ask God's forgiveness.
 sorry scared

B Check Understanding The sentences below name the steps for making good choices. Use the numbers 1–5 to put the steps in order.

6. Listen to your conscience.
7. Stop and think.
8. Ask yourself, "What would Jesus tell me to do?"
9. Pray to the Holy Spirit for help.
10. Remember what you have learned about the Commandments.

