

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

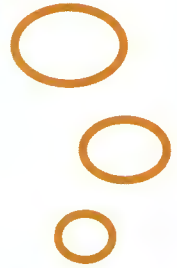
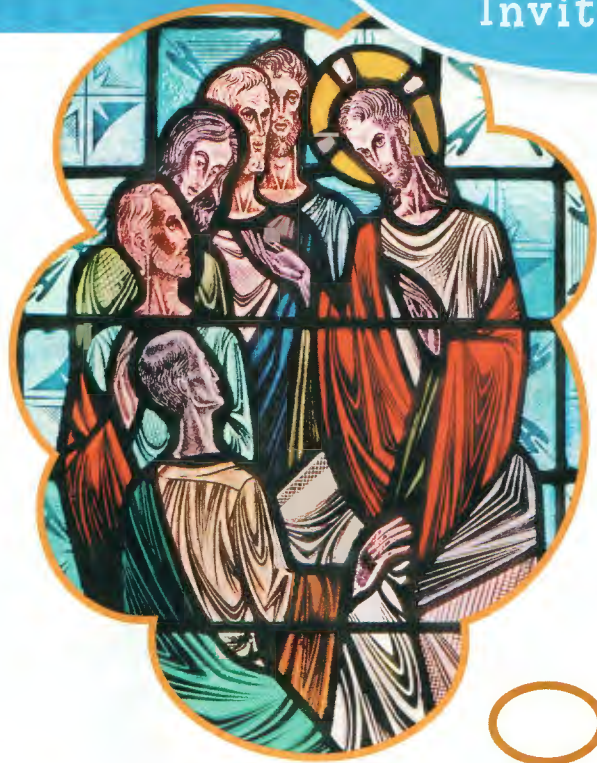
Sin and Forgiveness

Let Us Pray

Leader: God of mercy, thank you for your forgiveness and love.

“Bless the LORD, my soul;
Who pardons all your sins,
and crowns you with mercy and
compassion.” **Psalm 103:2a, 3a, 4b**

All: God of mercy, thank you for your forgiveness and love.
Help me become as compassionate and big-hearted as
you. Amen.



Scripture

Peter approaching [Jesus] asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” **Matthew 18:21–22**

What Do You Wonder?

- Was Jesus serious about forgiving everyone all the time?
- How do you know that Jesus forgives your sins?



Catholic Faith Words

sin an offense against God as well as against reason, truth, and conscience

venial sin a sin that weakens a person's relationship with God but does not destroy it

mortal sin a very serious sin by which someone turns completely away from God

Your Relationship with God

What does Jesus teach about sin and forgiveness?

Sin is an offense against God and disrupts the harmony of his plan for creation. Sin affects your relationship with God and others. Sin can be mortal (serious) or venial (less serious).

A **venial sin** weakens but does not destroy your relationship with God. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a means of healing for those who have fallen into venial sin. Venial sins for which you are not sorry can move you gradually toward a decision to commit mortal sin.

Mortal sin is a deliberate and freely chosen act. It is a very serious sin by which someone completely turns away from God. The conditions of mortal sin are these:

- The matter must be serious.
- The person must know that the action is serious and sinful.
- The person must freely choose to do the sinful action.

The primary reason for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the confession and forgiveness of mortal sins. If left unrepented, mortal sin puts a person in danger of Hell after death.

➔ **How could a venial sin lead to more serious sin?**



God's Mercy

In the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Jesus teaches an important lesson about God's mercy and forgiveness.

Scripture

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

There once was a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. One servant owed him a huge amount. The king ordered the man to be sold, along with his family and possessions, in payment of his debt. Hearing this, the servant begged the king's mercy and the king forgave him his debt.

The forgiven debtor then found a fellow servant who owed him a much smaller amount. He demanded that the other man pay everything he owed. The fellow servant fell to his knees and begged for mercy. Instead of finding mercy, the man was thrown into jail until he paid the debt.

When the king found out about the incident, he said to the forgiven debtor, "I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" Then the king sent the debtor to prison until he paid back what he owed.

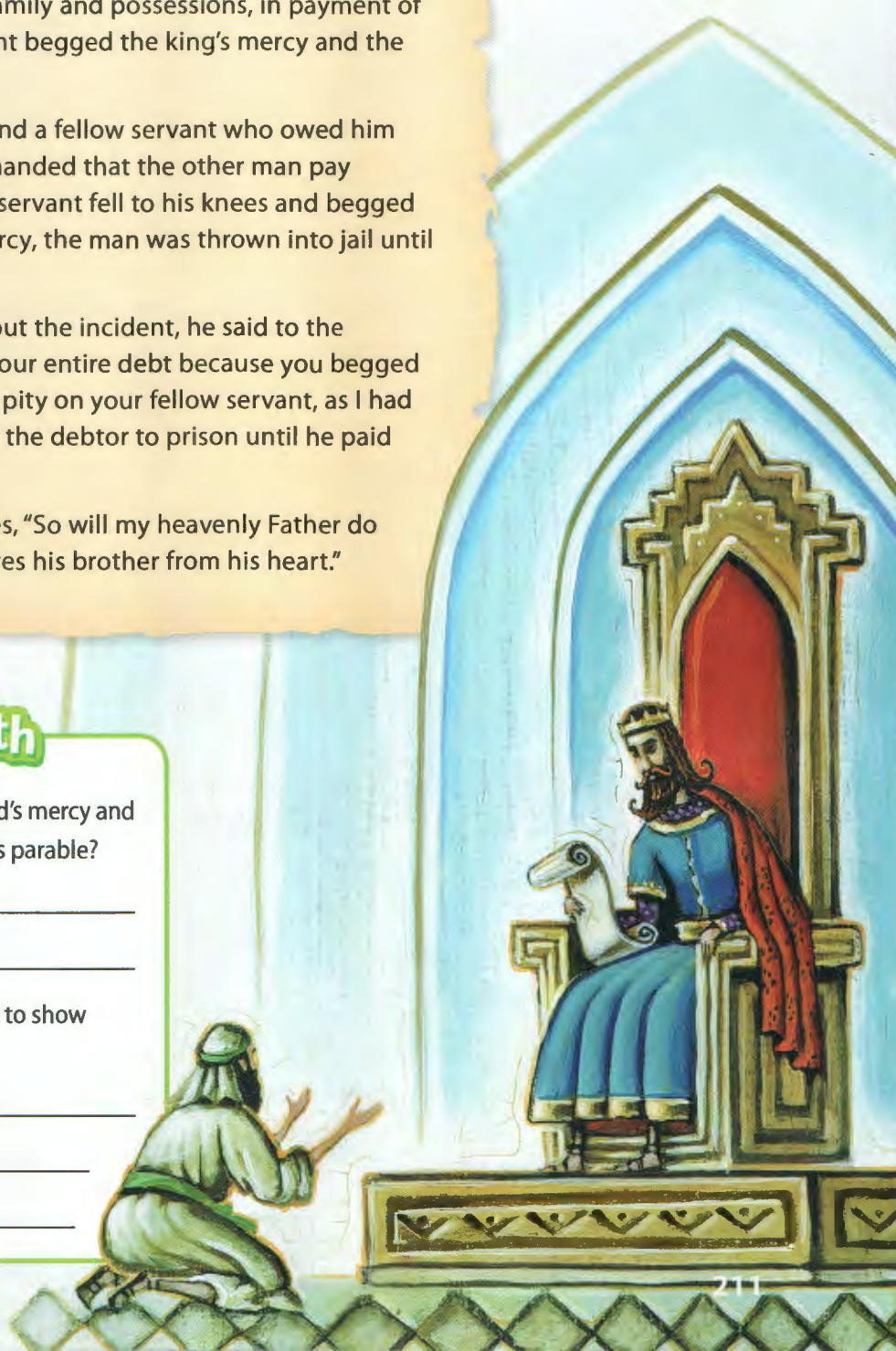
Jesus then said to his disciples, "So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."

Based on Matthew 18:23-35

Share Your Faith

Reflect What lesson about God's mercy and forgiveness did Jesus teach in this parable?

Share With a partner, list ways to show forgiveness to others.





Catholic Faith Words

conscience the God-given ability that helps us judge whether actions are right or wrong. It is important for us to know God's laws so our conscience can help us make good decisions.

sacramental seal the rule that a priest is not to share anything he hears in confession

Making Things Right

How can you inform your conscience?

In your heart God has written an inner law to help you recognize good and evil. And your **conscience** acts as a wise adviser. Your conscience is your free will and right reason, or good sense, working to help you make good choices. You should always obey the certain judgment of an informed conscience.

Your informed conscience is like a fine tool. It is meant to be maintained and used. You maintain it by listening with your mind and heart to the Word of God, the teaching of the Church, the advice of wise people, and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Penance and Reconciliation

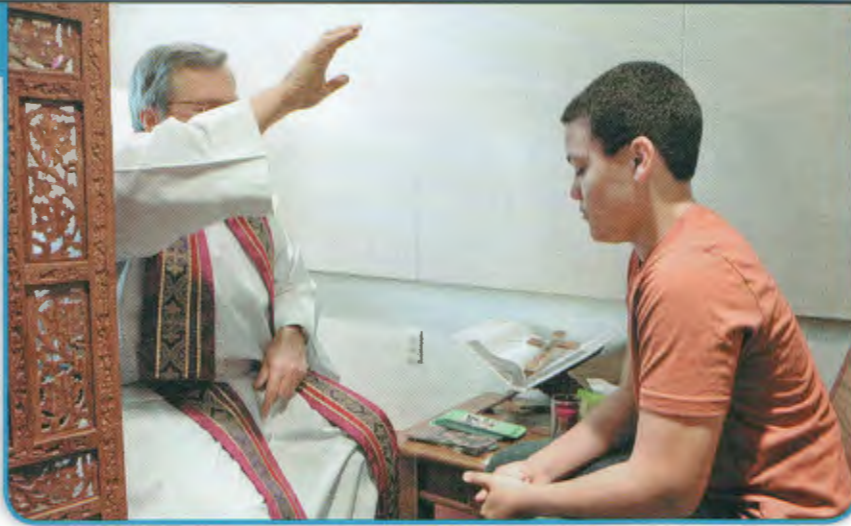
When you sin, the Church provides a way for you to experience God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The Church encourages us to go to confession when we've committed venial sin, but we must receive the Sacrament when in the state of mortal sin.

Celebrating the Sacrament

- Carefully examine your conscience, deciding in what ways you have failed to love God and others.
- Confess any sins you have committed since your last confession and accept a penance from the priest to make up for your sins.
- Pray an Act of Contrition to express your sorrow for sin and your intention to avoid sin.
- Receive absolution from the priest, who grants forgiveness of sin in God's name.

ACT OF CONTRITION
 My God,
 I am sorry for my sins with
 all my heart.
 In choosing to do wrong
 and failing to do good,
 I have sinned against you
 whom I should love above
 all things.
 I firmly intend, with your
 help,
 to do penance,
 to sin no more,
 and to avoid whatever leads
 me to sin.
 Our Savior Jesus Christ
 suffered and died for us.
 In his name, my God, have
 mercy.
 Amen

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After you have confessed, the priest extends his hand and absolves you of sin.

Effects of the Sacrament

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation provides you with many benefits. The effects of the Sacrament include:

- Your full friendship with God is restored or healed.
- You are reconciled with the Church and freed from the threat of Hell.
- You are given peace and strength to do what is right and good.

Any sin confessed in the Sacrament can never be told to anyone by the priest. This is called the **sacramental seal**, or seal of confession.

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Connect Your Faith

Describe Reconciliation Circle the words or phrases that reflect your experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

relief

end of
hurting

God

grace

healing

making
amends

starting
over

friendship

freedom

Peace

Add words or phrases of your own.

Our Catholic Life

How can I keep a clear conscience?

Your conscience is a gift from God that helps you to know the difference between right and wrong. A well-formed conscience helps you to know the will of God and act according to his will. If you continue to go against your conscience, it grows insensitive to God's guidance and direction. On the other hand, when you do your best to form your conscience and follow it, you will enjoy the peace and joy that come from a good conscience.

Informing your conscience helps you make good moral choices. Here are some steps to follow.



Will my choices hurt someone?

Will my choices hurt me?



What do the Beatitudes tell me?



Dad might have some good ideas.



Come, Holy Spirit...



Check off what you are doing now, and draw a star next to something you want to work on this week.

Informing Your Conscience

THINK

Think about choices and results before you act.

Pause to think through your choices before deciding on one.

COMPARE

Compare your choice with teachings of Jesus and the Church.

Call to mind the command to love God and your neighbor with all your heart.

Think of the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the teachings of the Church.

TALK

Talk about your choice with a wise person.

Seek out the advice of someone whose judgment you can trust.

PRAY

Pray to the Holy Spirit for help.

Pray for the Holy Spirit's help so that your choice is the correct one and so that it makes you a more loving person.

People of Faith

February 22

Saint Margaret of Cortona, 1247–1297

As a young girl, Saint Margaret wanted to do whatever she liked, even if it was wrong or sinful. She ran away from home and lived a very bad life for many years. Then one day, one of her closest friends was murdered. This so shocked Saint Margaret that she confessed her sins and immediately changed her life. She lived with the nuns at a convent, although she didn't become a nun, and she worked with the sick and poor. Saint Margaret had a dog that she loved so much that when she died, a statue of her dog was put on her tomb.



Discuss: When you do something wrong, do you tell God that you are sorry?



Learn more about Saint Margaret at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Role-Plays on Conscience Read the following situations, and write how you would respond in each.

1. You find yourself with some friends in a local store. Two of your friends plan to steal something while the store clerk is helping the others. What do you do?

2. During study hall, two classmates start to argue and hit each other out of view of the study hall monitor. You see this happening. What do you do?


Role-play one of the situations in a small group, and act out a conclusion. Discuss how an informed conscience would react in each situation.



 Let Us Pray

The Jesus Prayer

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

 **All:** Sing "You Alone"

You alone are holy,
you alone are Lord.

You alone are worthy to be honored and adored.

Mercy you have given, kindness you have shown.

Love is you alone.

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Place yourself in a position of prayer, and breathe deeply and quietly.

Now combine your focused breathing with an ancient prayer called the Jesus Prayer.

As you breathe in, silently pray, "Lord Jesus Christ."

As you breathe out, silently pray, "Son of God."

As you breathe in, silently pray, "have mercy on me."

As you breathe out, silently pray, "a sinner."

All: God our Father, you do not want to lose anyone to sin.

Help us do good and avoid evil.

If we fail, guide us to your forgiveness

in the Sacrament of Penance
and Reconciliation.

We ask this through Jesus,
your Son, who lives and
reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit now and forever.
Amen.



YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter examines mortal and venial sin and explains the need for an informed conscience and the effects of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Scripture



Read **Matthew 18:21–22** to find out what Jesus has to say about forgiveness.

Catholics Believe

- Your conscience helps you know when you have sinned.
- Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives sins and restores us to his friendship.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1440–1445, 1777–1782, 1849–1850 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week your child learned about Saint Margaret of Cortona, a reformed sinner, who was known for her work with the poor and for loving her dog.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Sin and Forgiveness Most children this age are ready to grow when it comes to taking personal responsibility for their behavior and being accountable to others. One factor that can motivate them is their desire for new freedom and independence. It's important for your child to know that increased freedom will come naturally as he or she shows greater responsibility. Your child's ability to recognize when he or she has wronged someone and to both ask for and receive forgiveness is an important part of this process of maturity.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How important is it to deal with something small before it turns into something bigger?

We understand what that means when it comes to our house or car maintenance. Yet, how often do we apply that understanding to sin? When we give in to temptation and choose to sin it can be the beginning of a pattern that leads us to even more grave sin. As Catholics, we know that "sins are rightly evaluated according to their gravity. The distinction between mortal and venial sin, already evident in Scripture (cf. 1 John 5:16–17), became part of the tradition of the Church. It is corroborated by human experience" (CCC, 1854).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain what Jesus taught about sin and forgiveness.
- Share a time when you struggled to rely on your conscience as your guide but in the end did so.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Margaret, help us always to be willing to confess our sins and ask for God's forgiveness. Amen.



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

Chapter 15 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Deliberate and serious acts by which a person turns away from God are _____.
 mortal sins
 crimes
 venial sins
2. Sins that weaken but do not destroy a person's relationship with God are _____.
 mortal sins
 crimes
 venial sins
3. The God-given ability that helps us judge whether actions are right or wrong is _____.
 natural law
 conscience
 Sacrament
4. A priest keeps secret what he hears in confession because of the _____.
 covenant
 sacramental seal
 anointing
5. Jesus preached this parable about forgiveness: the Parable of the _____.
 Good Shepherd
 Mustard Seed
 Unforgiving Servant

B Check Understanding Name five effects of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

