

Grade 1 - Chapter 15

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Define sin as the choice to disobey God on purpose and do what you know is wrong. It is not an accident or a mistake
- Describe the consequences of sin as hurting your friendship with God and others
- Understand that Jesus wants us to be sorry for our sins and turn to God our forgiving Father

Obeying God

Ask: How do you help your friendship with God grow?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Work with Words

Hold up an index card with the word *sin* on it. Read the definition to the children.

- Tell the children that every time you sin, you disobey God.

Read aloud the last two paragraphs.

★ Have the children underline what hurts their relationship with God.

- Ask: When can it feel hard to obey God?
- Ask: How can you make right choices?
- Reassure the children that God forgives us when we are sorry, ask for forgiveness, and promise to do better.

Being Sorry

Invite the children to listen to a story Jesus told. Ask them to listen carefully to how God wants us to act when we are sorry.

God's Word

Proclaim "The Forgiving Father."

- Ask the children to retell the story in their own words by asking them what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
- Ask: Who asks for forgiveness in the story? ***the younger brother***
- Ask: How does the father react? ***Possible responses: he forgives his son, he throws a party for his son, he hugs his son***
- Explain that when we sin, God wants us to ask for forgiveness like the younger son. When we are sorry and ask for forgiveness, God will always forgive us, just like the father in the story.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- Discuss the first part of the activity together.
- Provide time for the children to share an example with a partner.

Quick Review

Sin is the choice to disobey God. God always forgives people who sin if they are truly sorry.

Discover (2)

Objective

- Realize that God wants us to be close to him and will always forgive us when we say we are sorry

Ask for Forgiveness

Ask: How does God know if you are sorry for not obeying him?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Read aloud the text.

★ Have the children underline what God wants them to do.

Explain to the children that to forgive someone is to let go of our anger about what someone has done.

- Ask: How does it feel when you say, "I'm sorry," and are forgiven?
 - Tell the children that saying "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you" go together like two pieces to a puzzle—they mend a friendship, whether the friendship is between two people or between a person and God.
 - Ask: How does God know if you are sorry for not obeying him?
- Point out the picture.
- Ask the children to tell what they see in the picture.
 - Discuss what might be happening in the picture.

Make Things Better

Read aloud the first paragraph.

- Read aloud the second paragraph. Read the first sentence and omit the word *always*. Ask the children how often they can try harder to make good choices and lead them to the word *always*.
 - Do the same with the second sentence; omit the word *always* and make it a game for them to guess how often God forgives.
 - Read the final sentence, and then ask each child to turn to someone who sits nearby and share the statement.
 - Ask: When have you felt God's love?
- Music Option: Have the children sing, "I'm Sorry," downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity.

- Ask the children to suggest examples of wrong moral choices.
- Have the children work with a partner to complete the activity.
- Invite volunteers to share their drawing.

Quick Review

God is always ready to forgive.

Catechist Tips: Cultural Awareness: Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish people celebrate this special holiday by demonstrating that they are sorry for things they have done.

- They observe a custom called *tashlikh*, or "throwing away your sins."
- Give the children strips of paper, and have them write bad habits they would like to throw away.

Catechist Tips: Share a Video

The children may enjoy watching *Larryboy: The Angry Eyebrows* (DVD/VHS, 30 min., "Big Idea"). This *VeggieTales* cartoon uses gentle humor to convey the importance of asking God's help in overcoming wrong choices.

Catechist Tips: Reaching All Learners—Vision Impaired

Allow children with visual impairments to complete the drawing activity using one of these alternatives:

- Have the children speak their ideas into a tape recorder.
- Invite the children to act out their ideas.

Catechist Tips: God's Forgiveness

Re-read or retell the Scripture story of "The Pharisee and the Tax Collector." Remind the children how the man who was pleasing to God asked God to forgive him for something he had done. Remind them that everyone has a reason to ask for God's forgiveness. Give some examples, and tell the children to close their eyes and be very quiet and think of reasons they can ask for God's forgiveness. (If possible, play some quiet music.) After a short time, tell them to open their eyes. Remind them that just before

they go to bed tonight, they should talk with God, and ask for forgiveness for what they just thought of. Reassure them that they will be forgiven.

Catechist Tips: Keeping Order

In their excitement, children sometimes can become disruptive during games that require spontaneous responses. Instead of allowing the children to call out their answers at will, introduce a “talking stick” or other object that signals that only the person who has the object is permitted to speak.

- Be sure the object gets passed around frequently so that all the children have an opportunity to contribute.

Glossary Activity: Forgiveness

Teach the children how to express their feelings in helpful ways.

- Draw two columns on the board. Label one Sorry and the other Forgive.
- Have the children list phrases they can use to express sorrow and forgiveness.

Additional Activity: Family Ties

Have the children draw a picture of a smiling face or a sunny day to demonstrate their happy feelings when they have been forgiven.

- Send pictures home with a note thanking families for being an example of God’s mercy when they forgive.

Additional Activity: God’s Love

To concretize the children’s understanding that God is ready to forgive, give each child a small paper plate.

- Have the children write along the outer edge: I am sorry. God forgives.
- Have the children cut out the center of the plate and string them into a chain.

Parish Video Connection: The Prodigal Son

As an alternative to the Catechist Edition instruction for *God’s Word* on page 205, you may wish to play this video to help the children process this Scripture story. Consider reading them a section of the Scripture, then playing the corresponding section of this video (first paragraph: 0 to 54 seconds; second paragraph: 55 seconds to 2:20 minutes; third paragraph: 2:21 to 2:38 minutes; last paragraph: 2:29 to 3:34 minutes).

Ask: What does God want us to do when we have sinned? (ask for forgiveness and promise to do better) How many times will God forgive us when we are truly sorry and ask for his forgiveness? (every time, always)

Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/35595649>