

Grade 3 - Chapter 15

Discover

- Catechist Edition Instruction
- Catechist Tips: Human Dignity
- Catechist Tips: Conscience Formation
- Catechist Tips: Stories of Change
- Glossary Activity: Conscience
- Additional Activity: Write
- Additional Activity: If You're Happy
- Additional Activity: Saul's Email
- Parish Video Connection: Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Parish Video Connection: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Recognize conscience as an ability given to us by God that helps us make choices about right and wrong
- Define the Precepts of the Church as some of the minimum requirements given by Church leaders for deepening our relationship with God and the Church

Many Choices

Read aloud the question.

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

Invite two volunteers to read aloud the first two paragraphs.

- Encourage the children to share examples of easy decisions and hard decisions.

Summarize the last paragraph.

- Read aloud the questions and invite the children to respond.

Work with Words

Ask three volunteers to read aloud the words and definitions from the Catholic Faith Words box.

- Distribute three index cards per child.
- Have them write the words on one side of the card and the definitions on the other side.
- Encourage them to use these cards, with others they have created, to prepare for chapter and unit reviews.

The Church Guides Choices

Read aloud the paragraph.

- Draw the graphic organizer from the Quick Tip box on the board or on chart paper. Explain that the Precepts are like road signs that show the way to eternal life with God.

Precepts of the Church

Have two strong readers take turns reading from the chart. The first child will read the Precept; then the other child will read the copy under “How Each Precept Guides You.”

- Go back to your drawing. Have volunteers write some key words from one of the Precepts next to each of the signs.

Activity

Read aloud the directions

- Encourage the children to share their answer with a partner.

Quick Review

Our conscience helps us make choices about right and wrong. The Precepts of the Church also guide us and help deepen our relationship with God and the Church.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Recall that the Holy Spirit and the teachings of the Church help us to make good choices
- Appreciate receiving God's forgiveness and the grace to help us change in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Changing Directions

Ask: How do you overcome making a bad choice?

- Allow the children to share what they would do.

Read aloud the opening paragraph.

God's Word

Select proficient readers to proclaim the parts of Saul, the narrator, and Jesus.

★ Have the children underline what the voice said to Saul.

- Ask the children how Saul changed. **Possible response: He changed from hurting Jesus' followers to becoming one of them.**

• Remind the children that people who make selfish choices can change and make better choices. Jesus appeared to Saul, who changed from an enemy of Jesus' followers to a faithful Christian.

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Read aloud the first paragraph.

- Distinguish between a sin and an accident or a mistake. Remind the children that the choice to sin is

intentional, but that an accident or a mistake is not intentional.

Read aloud the second paragraph and the bullet points.

- Point out that Jesus and the Church have provided the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as a way of repairing the harm that sin does.
- Ask: Why is the Sacrament of Reconciliation important? **Possible responses: It repairs a wrong or helps you change your behavior.**

Work with Words

Have the children create a vocabulary card for the word *sin*.

Activity

Read aloud the directions.

- Allow the children to choose a partner to work with.

Quick Review

The Holy Spirit and the teachings of the Church help us make good choices. When we mess up, we can still receive the grace of God through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Catechist Tips: Human Dignity

Remind the children that the Catholic Church is a universal Church and that one of its basic moral guides is the dignity of the human person.

- One way to follow the Church's fifth precept is by participating in collections of food, clothing, or toys.
- Remind the children that they can and should pray that all lives will be enhanced.

Catechist Tips: Conscience Formation

Each person is responsible for forming his or her conscience and can help others form a good conscience.

- Internalize Christian principles of love, honesty, and fairness.
- When others approach you for advice, or when you must make a choice, apply those principles.

Catechist Tips: Stories of Change

Many children remember better through visual images and sound.

- Encourage the children to watch for stories of change for the better on television and in movies.
- Have them report on what a certain character is like at first and how that character changes by the end of the story.

Glossary Activity: Conscience

Have the children take situations from the Path of Conscience game and turn them into skits.

- Allow time for the children to devise scripts based on the situations.
- Tell the children to create two endings: one that shows a person with a well-formed conscience and one that shows a person with a poorly formed conscience.

Additional Activity: Write

A third-grader is apt to have a wonderful imagination. Tap into this gift by giving each child a chance to use it.

- Tell each child to imagine that he or she is Saul and to write a version of Saul's adventure.

Additional Activity: If You're Happy

Have the children write new lyrics to *If You're Happy and You Know It*.

- Start the verse with "If you do wrong and you know it ..."
- Give examples of endings such as "make amends" or "say you're sorry."
- Allow each child to add a verse.

Additional Activity: Saul's Email

Supplies:

- paper
- pencils

Invite the children to imagine that they are Saul. Guide them in a short reflection.

Close your eyes and imagine that you are Saul. You have been traveling all over trying to find out how many followers of Jesus you can catch and turn in to the authorities. You really do not like the followers of Jesus. You think Jesus was a traitor. You think you are right to turn all these people over. You are thinking about how wonderful you are. (Pause)

All of a sudden you hear a voice. It is the voice of Jesus. He wants to know why you are doing what you are doing. What do you want to say to him? What does he tell you? (Pause)

Distribute pencils and paper and instruct the children to write a message from Saul to his friends explaining what happened.

Parish Video Connection: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Once you've completed the Catechist Edition instruction on page 213, show the children this video. Invite volunteers to share anything new or interesting that they learned from the video.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/QtbpOERgMvk>

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Parish Video Connection: Sacrament of Reconciliation

After you've completed the Catechist Edition instruction on page 213, show the children this video. Invite volunteers to ask any further questions that they may have about this Sacrament. You can answer their questions yourself, or invite a priest to come and answer questions for the group.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/gv0xSo1JnWs>

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