I Disobey the Rules Sometimes

Even when we disobey the rules, God still loves us!

We do commit sins sometimes

Sin hurts us and others

Sin also hurts our relationship to God

Reconciliation heals that for us

How does the Church help us celebrate God’s forgiveness?

➢ At Mass, in the opening words when we say we’re sorry we learn about contrition

➢ Through the sacrament of reconciliation God forgives us and the Church celebrates that with us
Growing up Catholic means we start celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Everyone begins by making the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Jesus, thank you for bringing us all together here today. We love you and want to learn to love you more through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All: We love you Jesus. Thank you for loving us.

Leader: You have given us courage and strength, Jesus. You have given us the Holy Spirit to be with us.

All: We open our hearts to you today.

Please listen to the reading: Matthew 18:21-22.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Please listen to the leader.

Leader: Let us pray together.

Please pause after each line:

All: Oh Jesus,

Thank you for forgiving us every time we sin
Please give us the love in our hearts To forgive our friends and family when they hurt us or make us angry.

Amen.
What Is a Sin?

A sin is choosing to do something we know is wrong or intentionally not doing something we know is right.

Sin hurts our relationship with each other and our relationship with God.

**Free will** – God gives us the freedom to make choices between good and bad things. No one can force us to do what is right: not our parents, and not even God. But God also gives us grace. Grace is the power of the Holy Spirit within us, helping us choose love and good.

Look at these three pictures. Tell a story about how these people could choose to be good and loving — or choose to be bad and mean.

What is Our Conscience?

Our conscience is God’s voice within us, helping us know right from wrong. Sometimes we have to listen very closely to our hearts to hear that voice.

Growing up Catholic means we learn to pay attention to our conscience and follow it. The Church helps us by teaching us God’s rules of love.

In the pictures above, tell how each child’s CONSCIENCE helped them make a decision for good and to be loving.
When we commit sins, we can return to God and say we’re sorry. Like the son in this story, we find that God is always waiting for us to come back. God never stops loving us, no matter what we’ve done.

The Son Who Asked for Forgiveness

Jesus told a story.

There was dad who had two sons.

One of them came to him and asked for his share of his dad’s money.

So the father agreed and gave him half of everything.

Then this son took it all and left.

He wasted the money and did bad things.

He became very poor and pretty soon he was starving,

so he went to work on a pig farm but

even the pigs had more food then he did!

So he thought to himself,

“I’m going home. I’ll say to my dad, ‘I’m sorry for my sins.

I realize I don’t deserve your love but at least let me work for you.’”

So he got on the road and went home.

But his father was hoping he would come back and had been watching for him every day!

When his dad saw the son, he ran out to the road and hugged him,

because he was so glad to see him.

Then the son said what he planned. “I’m sorry for my sins,” he said.

But his father had already forgiven him and threw a big party to welcome him home!

Based on Luke 15:11-24
Connect the dots.
The Penance

What is a “penance” and why does the priest give us one?

- A “penance” is a task given to us by the priest after we confess our sins
- It helps us turn our hearts back to God
- It helps us turn away from sin

Your penance might be an action, a prayer, or some other way to help you change your life and avoid sin in the future.

It might be something like:

- helping someone who is homeless or poor
- praying particular prayers
- giving up something we like
- giving money for people who are hungry

You should perform your penance as soon after your Confession as possible.
In the Act of Contrition, we promise to try our best to love more and sin less, especially the sins we have committed in the recent past. This week, practice making promises. Use the chart below to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sins we might have committed in the past</th>
<th>What will you promise to do in the future?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I fought with my brothers or sisters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not talk to God in prayer today</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I told a lie about someone else</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I played instead of doing my homework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I complained when my mom or dad asked me to do my chores</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I stole a book from someone in school</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tips and Activities for This Week

http://GrowingUpCatholic.com/reconciliation4