

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 19 GOD FORGIVES US

Objectives

- Demonstrate ways to gain forgiveness.
- Explore the steps needed to realize God's forgiveness.
- Discover that asking forgiveness pleases God.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 114

Invite your child to recall a story in which one or more of the characters did something wrong. Ask what these characters felt about their wrongdoings.

Explain that when we do wrong, we need to ask for forgiveness. When we sin, we must ask God to forgive us. Note the chapter title (**God Forgives Us**) and lead your child in the opening **Prayer** on page 114.

Read aloud the story on page 114. Ask: What did Zack do wrong? (He came home late on purpose. He rode his bike through his mother's garden.)

Read the bulleted question aloud, and invite your child to respond. (Your child's responses should show an understanding that when we have done something wrong, we need to admit we have done wrong, be sorry, say we are sorry, and promise to do better.)

Read aloud the **Activity** instructions. With your child, act out endings to the story, with you portraying the parent and your child portraying Zack.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 115–117

Read aloud **Asking Forgiveness** on page 115. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted word. Ask: What did Zack need to do after he disobeyed his mother? (say "I'm sorry," promise to do better, help fix the garden)

Explain to your child the difference between a mistake or accident and a sin. Make sure your child understands that both are wrong choices. Making a mistake means making a wrong choice by accident or because we do not know any better. When we sin, we make a wrong choice on purpose.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe** on page 115. Emphasize that God will always forgive us and be merciful to us, but we must also do something, such as saying we are sorry and making up for our wrongdoing.

Have your child look carefully at the picture of Zack and his mother on this page. Invite him or her to describe what Zack is doing in the picture and why he's doing it. (He is fixing the garden to make up for what he did wrong.)

Read aloud the picture caption. Have your child close his or her eyes and try to feel the warmth and comfort of God's great love, kindness, and forgiveness.

Read aloud **Our Moral Guide** on page 116. Ask: Why is it important to promise to do better? (Help your child see that without the resolution to amend our lives, we would simply keep repeating the same wrong choices. It is important to help your child link his or her "I'm sorry" with a change in attitude and behavior.) Explain that you will read a **Scripture Story** about a man who was sorry for his sins and wanted to do better.

Read aloud the first part of the **Scripture Story: Two Men Who Prayed** found on page 116. Ask: How were the two men different? (One man was proud. He liked people to see him praying. The other man sometimes cheated people. Nobody liked him.) Why do you think the first man prayed in a loud voice? (He wanted everyone to hear him so they would know he was good.)

Point out the man with the upraised hands in the illustration on page 116. Ask: Who is this man? (the one who is proud) Have your child point to the man in the background with folded hands. Ask: Who is this man? (the man who cheated) Which man looks as though he is showing off for other people? (the man who is proud) Which man looks as though he is praying to God with his heart? (the man with folded hands)

Read aloud the rest of the **Scripture Story** on page 117. Talk with your child about what Jesus is teaching us in the story. Ask: Why do you think that Jesus said that the second man's prayer pleased God the most? (Help your child understand that God wants us to examine our lives and look for ways we can be better. The proud man thought he was perfect, and his pride led him away from God. The second man knew he needed God's mercy so he could be a better person. In this way he opened his heart to God.)

Read aloud **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Peter**. Lead your child in praying the prayer to Saint Peter.

Point out the picture of the stained-glass window showing Jesus and Peter. Explain that the bottom picture shows a communal Reconciliation service. The girl is asking the priest to grant God's forgiveness for her sins.

Read the **Landmark** question aloud. Tell your child that he or she will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a year (or whenever the sacrament is scheduled).

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 118

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

Read **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Complete the **Unit Review** on pages 120–121 in the text.

Complete the **Faith Journal** pages 37–38.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 119

Ask your child to explain what he or she thinks might have happened in the two pictures on this page. (Accept all reasonable answers, but guide your child to remember this chapter's lessons on sin and forgiveness when looking at the pictures. Possible answers: The boy said angry words to the woman; then he said he was sorry, and the woman is forgiving him. The two girls had a quarrel and are now making up.)

Read aloud the introductory paragraph, **Walk by God's Light**. Ask: Why is God's love like a light? (It shows us the right way and helps us stay away from sin.)

Read each line of the **Prayer** and invite your child to repeat it after you. After the prayer, hug or kiss your child as a sign of peace and forgiveness.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 56–58.