

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 2 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 18 WE MAKE CHOICES

Objectives

- Evaluate a situation that involves free will.
- Distinguish between venial and mortal sins and mistakes.
- Examine the steps that lead to good moral choices.
- Select good choices for one's own life.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 108–109

Invite your child to tell you about a story that he or she has read in which a character had to make a choice between right and wrong. Tell your child that he or she will always have a choice about how to act. We call that choice free will.

Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 108.

Direct your child's attention to the picture. Ask: What important choice do you think this boy will have to make?

Read aloud the story of Robert on page 108. Then read the bulleted question, encouraging your child to think carefully before answering. Discuss the answer he or she gives. Then have your child do the **Activity** on page 108.

Read **Choosing What Is Right** on page 109. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the word *moral*. Ask: How did Robert act in a way that was responsible? (He returned the money that did not belong to him.) What were the results of Robert's good choice? (The mother got her money back; Robert won the approval of others, was at peace with himself, and grew closer to God; Robert's mother could be proud of Robert's choice.)

Have your child compare the two photographs on these pages and point out the one showing the right moral choice. Ask: How do you think the young mother felt when Robert returned the money? (Possible answers: glad, surprised, thankful that Robert was so honest.) How did Robert's responsible action help him? (He earned the thanks and approval of others and grew in God's love.)

Explain to your child that to be responsible means to make good choices and follow through on our promises. Give the following examples: We are acting in a responsible way when we do our chores every day, when we take good care of our pets, and when we do our best in school. Help your child recognize the difference between making moral and nonmoral choices by asking them to label these examples: choosing what to wear to school tomorrow (**nonmoral**); doing my homework each night this week (**moral**); obeying the older members of my family (**moral**); eating healthy meals and exercising regularly (**moral**).

Read aloud the **Catholics Believe** on page 109. Have your child do the suggested **Activity** or make up one of your own.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 110–111

Read or summarize **Choosing What Is Wrong** on page 110. Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the difference between *venial* and *mortal* sins. Make sure your child understands the difference between a mistake and a sin. Only when we deliberately do something we know is wrong do we sin.

Reread the last paragraph. Emphasize that God is always waiting for us to return to him when we know we have sinned and are sorry.

Read **Our Moral Guide**. Stress that while your child may never commit a mortal sin in his or her entire lifetime, it is important that all Catholics understand the difference between venial and mortal sins. Then read the question and discuss the answer with your child.

Have your child study the picture, making sure that he or she recognizes that the boy is stealing something from a store. Ask your child to answer the caption question. (The child chose to steal. Stealing is a sin. It is a sin because the boy knows it is wrong to steal and yet he chose to do it anyway.)

Read aloud the first paragraph of the **Stepping Stones: Making Good Choices** on page 111. Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to explain the word *conscience*. Together read aloud the steps for making moral choices.

To help your child practice making a choice give him or her the following situation: You want to watch a special television show tonight, but you didn't do your homework after school as you were told to do. You could lie to your family and tell them your homework is finished, or you could do your homework and miss the show.

Walk your child through each step listed on the page. Pause after each step to allow time to practice that step. Read aloud **Where Will This Lead Me?**

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 112

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.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 35–36.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 113

Ask your child to whom he or she can pray for help in making good moral choices. (God; the Persons of the Trinity—Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit)

Ask your child to describe the painting of Jesus with the young children in the upper left corner of the page. Point out that with outstretched arms, Jesus looks down on the children and gives them a blessing. Have your child point out the picture of today's children. Explain that Jesus is a friend of these children, too.

Read or summarize **Spirit of God, Lead Us!** Have your child tell how Jesus has set an example in his or her own life. Remind your child that we are all God's children and that Jesus is always there for us when we make our moral choices.

Invite your child to picture Jesus blessing him or her as you read the **Prayer** aloud. Begin and end the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 53–55.