

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 4 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 17: FAILURE TO LOVE

Objectives

- Analyze a situation that calls for a moral decision.
- Define sin as “missing the mark.”
- Distinguish between temptation and sin.
- Examine some steps for handling peer pressure.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experiences), pages 126–127

Ask your child to think about times he or she felt happy, angry, fearful, or guilty. Ask: Why do we sometimes have these feelings? Tell your child that making good choices is often not easy, but God is always ready to help us. Read the chapter title **Failure to Love**; then pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 126.

Read aloud the story about Libby. Ask: What feelings do you think Libby is feeling? Why? (Possible answers: guilt, fear, doubt; because she wants to look good in front of her friends, but she knows that breaking a window is wrong.) Invite discussion of the caption question and the bulleted question. Encourage your child to answer honestly, acknowledging that peer pressure sometimes seems overwhelming. Explain that he or she will explore this issue more in the chapter.

Read aloud **The Choice** on page 127. Explain that all humans except Jesus and Mary are born with the inclination to want those things that lead us away from a loving relationship with God. Remind your child that this inclination is the effect of original sin. Ask: In the story what does Libby want that could cause her to be led away from a loving friendship with God? (She wants the approval of her friends.)

Emphasize that when we sin we harm others as well as ourselves, even when we can't see the effects of our sin. Ask: How does the story about Libby show us that this is true? (If Libby throws the rock she will not only hurt Mrs. Santos's feelings, but Libby will also fail to be the best person she can be.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 128–131

Ask your child if he or she has ever thought, “I wish I could undo what I did.” Explain that we often experience regret when we make wrong choices. Read **Missing the Mark** on page 128 and the first two paragraphs on page 129. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for clarification of the highlighted terms. Help clarify for your child the meaning of the italicized words *sanctifying* and *omission*. Explain that God’s life at work in us makes us holy; it sanctifies us—*sanctifying grace*. Sanctifying grace leads us to act out of love. Help your child identify attitudes that lead to sins of *omission* by citing responses such as “But I didn’t do it!” or “It wasn’t any of my business.”

Use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help your child understand the difference between *mortal* and *venial* sin. Reassure your child that he or she cannot commit sins by mistake. Your child has to want to do something and have knowledge that it is wrong and he or she has to understand the choice that was made. All people are responsible for learning how to make good choices.

Read **Catholics Believe** on page 128 and remind your child that with freedom comes responsibility: Our choices must take into account the common good as well as our own needs.

Have your child speculate about what the boy in the photograph is thinking. Invite responses to the caption question. (because selfishness is a failure to love)

Read **Social Sin** on page 129 and make sure your child understands the terms *injustice*, *social sin*, and *discrimination*. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for help.

Ask your child to read aloud the definition of *discrimination* from a dictionary. Write *racism*, *ageism*, and *sexism* on a piece of paper, and have a brief discussion with your child about what group of people is discriminated against in each *-ism*. Ask: Why is discrimination wrong? (It shows disrespect for people; it ignores the dignity and worth every person is given by the Creator; it limits people’s rights.)

Read the **Scripture Signpost** and have your child answer the question. (Possible answers: fear, peer pressure, laziness.) Help your child come to the understanding that these “reasons” are really excuses; nothing should keep us from doing what is right.

Read **Temptation and Peer Pressure** on page 130. Name some temptations that young people might face. (Possible responses: the temptations to disobey parents, cheat in school, write graffiti on a wall, tell lies about others.)

In discussing peer pressure, point out that humans are social beings. We enjoy fitting in with others and getting the praise and approval of those we respect. Have your child think back to the story of Libby; then ask: In the story, whose approval does Libby want? (the other girls') If she refuses to give in to peer pressure, how do you think that might affect the other girls? (Answers will vary, but point out to your child the power of a good example; it may cause at least one of the others to rethink her decision.)

Read the **Landmark** caption. Ask: Why do you think the story of Jesus' temptation is important for us to hear? (It gives us hope that we, too, can resist temptation with God's help.)

Read aloud **Stepping Stones: Handling Peer Pressure** on page 131 and discuss each item. Remind your child that we often do things at the urging of our friends. Point out that such peer pressure can be either negative or positive. Ask your child to give examples of each. (positive—encouraging teammates to win a game; negative—daring someone to use drugs)

To discuss **Where Will This Lead Me?** point out that we make moral choices throughout our lives.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 132

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. (Check your parish bulletin for the times Reconciliation is offered each week. Parish Penance Services are often held in Advent and Lent.)

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

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 33–34.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Celebration), page 133

Remind your child that no one is perfect. We all fail to love in some way, but God loves us and is always waiting to give us another chance.

Draw your child's attention to the pictures on page 133. Explain that the inset photograph is of Mrs. Santos and Libby from the opening story. Ask: How do the pictures illustrate what you've learned in this chapter? (The picture of Libby and Mrs. Santos planting flowers together reminds us that we should forgive each other as well as make up for our sins; the cross reminds us that Jesus died for our sins and wants to forgive us when we are sorry.)

Read the directions under **Hear Our Prayer**, and then pray the closing litany. Before ending the **Prayer** include in the litany any petitions or intercessions you or your child might have.