

Making Moral Decisions

Engage: Page 173

- ▶ Read aloud the session title. Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read aloud Matthew 6:19–21. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond, *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Ask your child what he or she would do with the money from winning a game show. (Answers will vary.) Say: ***It's natural to dream of winning a fortune or discovering a lost treasure, but Jesus tells us we need to pay attention to what is truly valuable.*** Invite your child to read aloud the paragraphs on page 173. Ask: ***What are examples of heavenly treasures?*** (Accept reasonable responses.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer while your child prays silently. Allow a few moments for your child to reflect, then conclude by praying *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 174–175

- ▶ Invite your child to recall a familiar folk tale or fable, such as “The Tortoise and the Hare.” Say: ***Stories can help us learn important lessons about life. Jesus often used stories in his teaching. The passage we are about to read is a parable, or a story that teaches a lesson.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage on page 174. Ask: ***What do you think the phrase “storms of life” means?*** (difficult times) Then read aloud the rest of the section. Explain that having a firm foundation on Jesus’ teachings can help us through difficult times in our lives.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Ask: ***What is the conscience?*** (an inner voice that helps us know God’s Law and guides our choices) Say: ***With the help of our conscience and by thinking about Jesus’ teachings, we can make good moral choices. The Holy Spirit helps and guides us.***
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 175. Read aloud the third paragraph and the five steps that follow. Explain that God’s law comprises Scripture, such as the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, and the teachings of the Church. Brainstorm a list of people whom your child can ask for advice if he or she is faced with a difficult decision. Ask: ***How can knowing that Jesus is with us make a difference?*** (It gives us confidence that Jesus will help us.)

Art Print: Page 176

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online an image of Saint Francis of Assisi.
- ▶ Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail. Say: ***Saint Francis’s example shows us that caring for others is one of the foundations of a moral life.***

- ▶ Invite your child to turn to page 176. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Saint Francis of Assisi. Ask: ***How can we follow Saint Francis's example in our own lives?*** (dedicate our lives to God, help those who are poor, care about animals, appreciate nature)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity instructions. Give your child time to complete the activity and discuss his or her response.
- ▶ Explain that Saint Francis was inspired by nature. Provide your child with art supplies and encourage him or her to make a collage that shows what nature means to him or her. Display the artwork in your home.

Reflect: Pages 177–178

- ▶ Encourage your child to grow quiet and to turn his or her attention to God. Say: ***Let's take this time to talk with Jesus and ask him for guidance in making good moral choices.***
- ▶ Read aloud God Helps Us Make Choices on page 177. Then slowly pray aloud the prayer, including brief reflective pauses after each sentence. Say: ***When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask God our Father to help us overcome temptation so that we can make good choices. Let's conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together.*** Invite your child to pray aloud the Lord's Prayer with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and activity directions on page 178. Discuss each situation together using the five steps from page 175 as a guide, then give your child time to write his or her answers.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***According to this proverb, the wicked—those who make bad moral choices—will not be able to cope with the challenges of life. Those who make good moral choices will be able to stand strong during hard times.***

Respond: Pages 179–180

- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the Faith Summary on page 179. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus and give your child a moment to reflect.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and give your child time to complete the activity. Discuss his or her answers.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays along silently. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ As a family, read and discuss With My Family on page 180, then make plans to complete the activity. Pray aloud the prayer together. Say: ***Let's remember that when we have to make hard decisions about right or wrong in our daily lives, Jesus is with us. Let's keep him at the center of our lives.***