



Jesus Makes a Choice

Engage: Page 143

- ▶ Help your child make a list of everything he or she did in the last 24 hours. **Ask:** *How did you live in union with God? In what ways did you overlook chances to be with God, or did you turn away from him?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the text in the box on page 143. Have your child describe how he or she decides to spend free time. **Ask:** *How do you think temptation to make a bad decision and the betrayal of one's true identity relate to the session title?* (Jesus had a human nature and he faced temptations, but he remained faithful to his identity.)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Pray aloud the Sign of the Cross.

Explore: Pages 144–145

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are some activities that you prefer to do with someone else? Why?* **Say:** *Sometimes being alone frightens us. Friends often bring us comfort, joy, and help.* Read aloud the article title Jesus' Night of Sorrow on page 144.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud page 144. Read aloud the definitions of *Agony in the Garden* and *social sin* in the Glossary. **Ask:** *For what did Jesus pray to his Father?* (to take away what was about to happen to him) *What happened when Jesus asked the disciples to keep watch while he prayed?* (They fell asleep three different times.) *Why is it hard to stand by someone in hard times?* (Possible answers: fear, despair, grief, exhaustion) **Say:** *We, too, are called to be awake and aware in our lives, even when we are tempted to turn away from difficult tasks.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section *Thy Will Be Done* on page 145. **Ask:** *Why might it be difficult for people to admit that they do not want to face up to something difficult?* (Possible answer: fear that it indicates defeat or a lack of confidence or strength) **Say:** *God does not promise that everything in your life will be easy, but he invites you to turn to him with confidence for his help.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the section *God Is with Us*. Remind him or her that God is ready to help if only we trust in God's will. **Say:** *Jesus' victory is ours to share if we stay faithful to him.*
- ▶ Read aloud the directions in the *Are You Awake?* activity. Remind your child that human suffering may affect an individual or an entire group. Share examples of human suffering in the world and ways to respond to it.
- ▶ Read aloud the *Sacred Art* feature. **Ask:** *Which emotions do you think the artist is trying to portray? How does the painting make you feel?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 146–147

- ▶ **Ask:** *If you could watch only one TV show, which would it be?* **Say:** *Many of the choices we make are easy. Other choices are not easy because they involve serious issues or present conflicts with our belief system.*
- ▶ Read aloud the article title *Making Moral Choices* on page 146. Take turns reading aloud the first two paragraphs. Ask your child to read aloud the definition of *moral choice* in the Glossary. Take turns reading aloud the section *Two Schools of Thought*.



Say: *Moral choices are complex. But the Church helps us recognize different shades of moral right and wrong.*

- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. Read aloud the definition of *conscience* in the Glossary. Point out that trusting an informed conscience requires a thoughtful response that may be contrary to popular attitudes.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Letter to the Corinthians at the bottom of page 146 and Knowing How to Choose on page 147. Explain that the criteria for a moral choice is that people are free to choose and take responsibility for the choice. **Ask:** *What are the three dimensions in determining the morality of an act?* (the act chosen, the intention behind the act, and the circumstances behind the act) Discuss the meaning behind each dimension in relation to the problem Paul was addressing with the Christians of Corinth. Emphasize the role that an informed conscience plays in moral choices. Discuss the meaning of Paul's letter to the Corinthians.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. Discuss a moral choice that Saint Katharine Drexel made. Discuss current social situations that require people to take a moral stand.
- ▶ Bring the article discussion to a close. **Ask:** *What is one moral decision you have made or still need to make? What do you need to consider when you make your decision? Who can help you make your decision?* (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Read aloud the title Acting in Good Conscience on page 148. Ask your child to read aloud the introductory paragraphs. Together suggest reasons why prayer is an effective tool to use when trying to make a moral decision.
- ▶ Pray together Taking Responsibility. Divide the parts between you and your child and pray each part slowly and reverently. Pause briefly for meditation following each bulleted question.
- ▶ Look at page 149 and read aloud the introductory text of Where Do I Fit In? Invite your child to describe a time when he or she acted courageously. **Say:** *Sometimes an act of courage is public or acknowledged as heroic. Most times, though, an act of courage is small and quiet and goes unnoticed.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the article What Does Courage Look Like? **Ask:** *How did God answer the author's prayer?* (by giving him the strength not to give in to his fear and "the pack") **Say:** *The author's choice wasn't outwardly courageous. But it put the author on a different life path than his friend Francisco, who allowed fear to win.*
- ▶ Read aloud the True to Yourself activity. Ask your child to complete it.

Respond: Page 150

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions in What's What? and answer the questions.
- ▶ Review the terms you learned in this session in Say What?
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Point out that your child will probably turn to different people or resources in different circumstances. Encourage him or her to consider who or what would best be able to help with the matter of conscience. **Ask:** *Who will have your best interests at heart? Who will tell you the truth?* Point out that turning to the best resource might mean getting some challenging things to think about.
- ▶ Invite your child to access a 3-Minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.