

I. Forming a conscience

The following stories provide an opportunity for you and your child to talk about what sin is and how it differs from a mistake or an accident. Even though mistakes and accidents can cause great damage and lots of tears, they are not sins. In order for something to be a sin we must make a choice to do (or not do) it. Part of forming a conscience is realizing that we have choices and that we need to look at where each of these choices will lead us. Help them in considering other options that the children in these stories might have chosen.

- ❑ Amy is helping set the table for dinner with grandma. As she carries the special plates grandma gave the family the cat runs in front of her and she trips, breaking all 6 plates.
- ❑ While mom and Amy are sweeping up the broken dishes, John, Amy's brother, was busy climbing up on the kitchen counter to reach the cookie jar that is on top of the refrigerator. They were put there because he had been told no more snacks until after dinner. As he reaches he knocks over an old glass and it breaks.
- ❑ Christine was watching TV when her older sister came into the room and turned the channel. Christine uses the remote and changes it back. Her sister stands in front of the TV and switches stations once more. She yells something about Christine having been watching for too long. Christine tosses her shoe at her sister and a fight breaks out.
- ❑ Bob is out playing baseball in the yard next door. His parents have told him not to hit the ball there because its too close to the neighbor's house. Bob doesn't hit the ball. He pitches it to a friend and the ball crashes through the neighbor's window.
- ❑ Mary had homework in Math and Reading. After soccer practice she sat down to do her homework. After finishing her math she discovers that she has the wrong reading book and can't finish her homework.

IV. Questions for First Confession Interview

1. What is the Great Commandment or Law of Love? Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.
2. How do we show our love for God? We show we love God when we pray, say His name with love, and celebrate His day, Sunday.
3. How do we show our love for others? We show our love for others when we are obedient, kind, pure, honest and truthful.
4. What is Sin? Sin a choice we make that hurts our friendships with God and with others.
5. Are mistakes or accidents sins? No they are not sins because we did not choose to do them.
6. How can we show our love for God after we sin? We can show our love for God after we sin by saying we are sorry and making up our minds not to sin again.
7. Who helps guide us to make good choices and follow God? The Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices and to follow God.
8. What are the Ten Commandments? The Ten Commandments were given to Moses and show us how to live as his children.
9. An Act of Contrition such as the following:
My God, I am sorry for my sins. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God have mercy. Amen.
10. How often will God forgive us? God will always forgive us if we are sorry for our sins.
11. Who forgives our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Jesus forgives our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
12. What is our conscience? Our conscience is the inner voice that helps each of us to know what God wants us to do.
13. What does it mean to "examine our conscience"? We examine our conscience by thinking about we have said or done that may have hurt our friendship with God or others.

our confession. In fact it should be done daily as we offer our evening prayers as a way to reflect on the day. *How do or can we in our family stop and think about the hurtful actions we do?*

2. **Confession** We tell the priest our sins. We admit what we have done that was wrong. *How do or can we in our family admit our own role in the messes that happen in family? An important rule to remember is “No Buts Allowed”, we need to focus on our actions, not others.*

3. **Penance** The priest asks us to pray for God’s graces to help turn away from this sin, and/or gives us some action to do to help us overcome this sin or repair the damage it caused. *How do or can we in our family act to make up for the wrongs they do?*

4. **Contrition** We say a prayer expressing our sorrow for our sins. There is one of the many Acts of Contrition listed in question #9 of the interview section. It is important to say we are sorry for what we have done. *How do we express our sorrow to one another in our family?*

5. **Absolution** The priest blesses us and offers us God’s peace and forgiveness as we celebrate the result of this sacrament. We are RECONCILED, brought back together, with our God. *How do we show that we have forgiven each other in our family?*

II. The Ten Commandments

The commandments give us a set of clear guide posts to live by. Take some time to discuss with your child what each of these commandments mean to a second grader. Write one or two ways to obey and to break each commandment.

Love God with all your heart

1. I am the Lord, your God; you shall not have other gods before me.

Obey

Break

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

Obey

Break

3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day.

Obey

Break

Love your neighbor as yourself.

4. Honor your father and your mother.
Obey

Break

5. You shall not kill.
Obey

Break

6. You shall not commit adultery.
Obey

Break

7. You shall not steal.
Obey

Break

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
Obey

Break

9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
Obey

Break

10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
Obey

Break

III. Five Steps in Celebrating Reconciliation

Consider ways that as a family we can or do follow these steps when situations arise at home.

1. Examining our Conscience This step stands by itself, like our thumb. We stop and think about how we are doing in following the Lord. Where have I failed to love God, my neighbor, and myself? In what ways have I not lived up to the Ten Commandments? This can be done at any time or place prior to our

Preparing for Confession

14. Be able to explain what the Ten Commandments mean for a Second Grader.
15. What are the five steps in Confession? The five steps are:
 1. Examining our conscience,
 2. Confessing our sins,
 3. Receiving a penance,
 4. Contrition--saying we are sorry,
 5. Absolution

Child's Name _____

Teacher _____

Closing Prayer

Parents:

We, the _____ family, promise to help _____ prepare to celebrate First Confession. We promise to help _____ learn to make loving choices.

All:

We promise not to hold grudges when someone makes an unloving choice but rather to show him/her how s/he could have made a better choice. We promise to forgive each other when we do unloving things and we promise to try to learn from our mistakes and do better in the future. We promise this together through Jesus Christ, the unseen member of our family. Amen.

