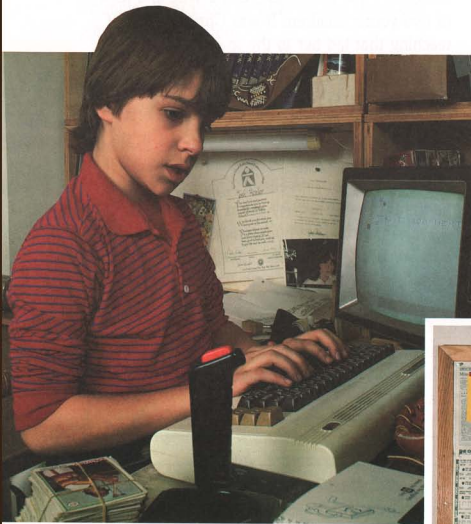




CONTENTS

1 God Calls Us to Use Our Gifts	2
2 God Calls Us to Make Choices	10
3 Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him	18
4 Jesus Calls Us to Change Our Hearts	26
5 Jesus Calls Us to Forgive One Another	34
6 Jesus Calls Us to Ask Forgiveness	42
7 The Church Calls Us to Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation	50
8 The Spirit of Jesus Helps Us Share Our Gifts	58
Remember	62
Communal Celebration	72

2 God Calls Us to Make Choices





We make choices every day.

When you were a little child, your parents had to decide many things for you. They often told you what to do because you were not old enough to make some decisions on your own.

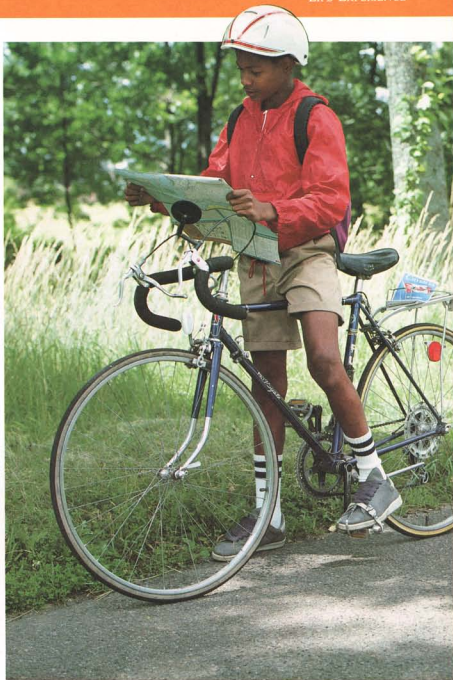
1. Some of these decisions were

Now that you are older, you can decide many things for yourself.

2. Some of these decisions are

Your brothers and sisters, your grandparents, your teachers, and many other people help you every day to make choices.

3. Some of these people are







God calls us to choose what is good.

Made in God's Image

God says to us,
 "I have made you a little like myself.
 I have given you a mind for thinking
 and a heart for loving.

I have also given you a free will
 for making choices.
 I have given you these gifts because I love you.

I want you to choose freely.
 I want you to be able to decide what to do
 and what not to do.

If you choose what is good,
 you will receive my joy and peace."

Based on Sirach 17:1-11





We can make responsible decisions.

Our thinking minds and loving hearts enable us to make responsible choices. Our power to judge whether something is good or bad is called our **conscience**. When we choose to respond to the needs of others, Jesus promises us his joy and his peace.

1. Some decisions I can make at home to help my parents are

2. Some decisions I can make at school to help my teachers and classmates are



3. Some decisions I can make on the playground to make our games more pleasant are

4. Some decisions I can make in my neighborhood to help make it a better place to live are

God,
 you call me to choose freely what is right
 and good. Give me the strength of your
 Spirit to help me make right choices. For this
 I say, "Thank you, Lord."
 Amen.





Many saints have shown us how to answer God's call.

The Story of Francis

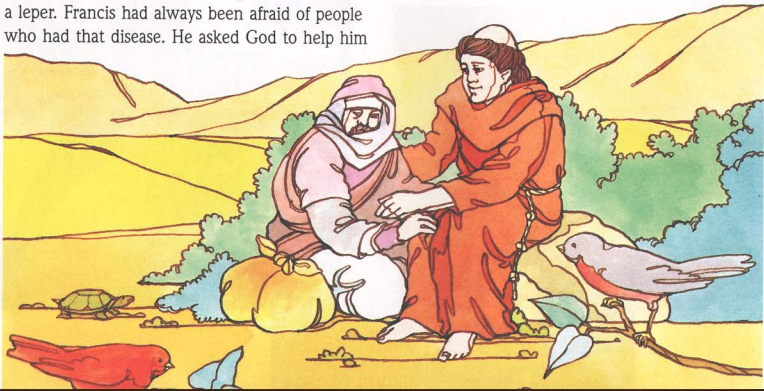
A long time ago, in the little town of Assisi, Italy, there lived a boy whose name was Giovanni Francesco Bernardone. His father was a very rich cloth merchant. He saw to it that Francis, as he was called, had everything he needed: a good home, money, and a good school. Francis also had many talents. He made friends easily. He could sing very well. He could write beautiful poems.

One day, Francis met a stranger. The man was a leper. Francis had always been afraid of people who had that disease. He asked God to help him

understand what he should do. After Francis prayed, he no longer felt afraid. He knew that God was calling him to help that man and all people in need of help.

Francis was soon joined by many followers. Together they rebuilt the Church of San Damiano. A few years later, Clare and some other women also took up the same life of joy and poverty that Francis and his friends were following.

Today we know Francis of Assisi as Saint Francis. He is a saint because he freely chose to answer God's call and let the Spirit of God do great things through him.



This is a prayer that the Christian community often prays. Add to the prayer some of the needs you see around you and some ways you can respond in love.

The Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace.

Where there is hatred,
let me sow love.

Where there is injury,
let me give pardon.

Where there is despair,
let me spread hope.

Where there is darkness,
let me shine light.

Where there is sadness,
let me bring joy.

Where there is _____

let me _____

Where there is _____

let me _____

Where there is _____

let me _____
