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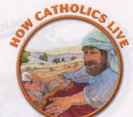


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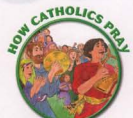


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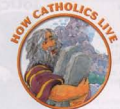


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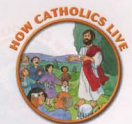


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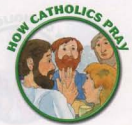


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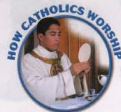


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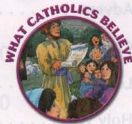
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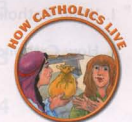


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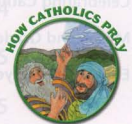


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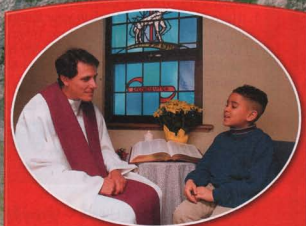
# We Ask God's Forgiveness

UNIT

2

**G**od is always ready to forgive us when we sin. God calls us to be sorry for the wrongs we have done. He wants us to forgive others who have wronged us.

*Rejoice with me because  
I have found my lost sheep.*  
Luke 15:6



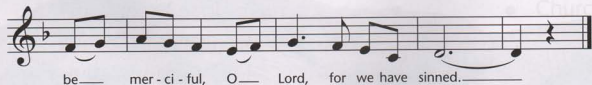
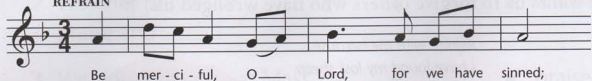
God is like a shepherd who is happy to find his lost sheep. God rejoices when we are sorry for our sins.

# Psalm 51: Be Merciful, O Lord

Psalm 51

Music by Marty Haugen

## REFRAIN



## VERSE

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness,  
in your compassion, blot out my offense.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt and my sorrow,  
and cleanse me from all of my sin.  
*Refrain*
2. My offenses, truly I know them,  
and my sins are always before me;  
against you alone have I sinned, O Lord,  
what is evil in your sight I have done.  
*Refrain*
3. Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
put your steadfast spirit in my soul.  
Cast me not away from your presence, O Lord,  
and take not your spirit from me.  
*Refrain*
4. Give back to me the joy of your salvation,  
let your willing spirit bear me up  
and I shall teach your way to the ones who have wandered,  
and bring them all home to your side.  
*Refrain*

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# Take Home



## We Can Choose What Is Good

Saint Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican priest and great theologian, proclaimed that humans always tended toward the good. But how do we figure out what the good is? It may feel good to finish the last of a box of candy, but others in our family might not see it as good. We work to form a good conscience to help us identify what is good and then try to conform our behavior to our conscience.

Being Catholic helps us understand that God gives us free will, and yet he is always ready to forgive us when we choose to sin.

### ACTIVITY

**Pick-Up Sticks** Did you ever play pick-up sticks? If so, you know that the sticks fall and you have to pick them up moving only the stick you are taking away. Play pick-up sticks with your child. Discuss how the game is like making moral choices, because you need to choose carefully in order to succeed.

## WEEKLY PLANNER

### On Sunday

During the Penitential Rite at Mass, reflect on the choices you made during the week. Thank God for his guidance.

### On the Web

[blestarewe.com](http://blestarewe.com)



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

### Saint of the Week



**Saint Peter of Saint Joseph Betancur**  
(1619–1667)

Peter lived as a shepherd in the Canary Islands. At age 31 he went to the New World to serve the people of Guatemala. He took vows as a Third Order Franciscan and opened hospitals, schools, and chapels in Guatemala City.

**Patron Saint of:** Guatemala  
**Feast Day:** April 18



**A Prayer for the Week**

Lord, thank you for giving us the freedom to choose. Help us to use this gift to make right choices. Help us to be caring like Saint Peter of Saint Joseph Betancur. Amen.

# Getting ready for Chapter 5

## Take Home



### ✚ Scripture Background

#### In the Time of Jesus

**Inheritance** Israelite tradition held that the eldest son would inherit the property and holdings of the father.

The primary aim was to preserve the territory within each clan. Further legislation also established the right of the firstborn to inherit twice as much as his brothers. In the Parable of the Forgiving Father, the younger son has already taken his share. So when the elder son is told that all that the father has is his, it literally means everything.

You can read this parable in Luke 15:11–32.



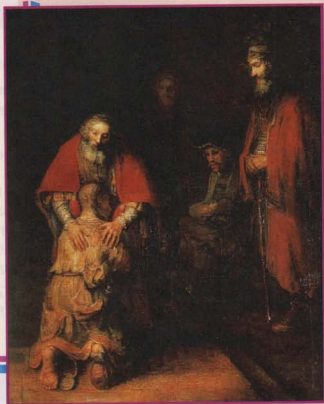
## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION

### in Art

#### Return of the Prodigal Son

The Rembrandt painting titled *Return of the Prodigal Son* depicts the story Jesus told of the young man who left his family and squandered his fortune. Thinking he would be better off as a servant on his father's farm than living as he was—poor, hungry, and alone—he returned home. As this painting shows, his father welcomed him back as a son, not as a servant.

Henri Nouwen based his book *The Return of the Prodigal Son* on Rembrandt's painting.



# 5 We Can Choose What Is Good



Love the LORD, your God, and obey his word.

Based on Deuteronomy 30:20

## Share

We make many choices every day. Some choices are easy, but some are hard. Some are right, but others are wrong.

Draw a happy face for each good choice below.

Draw a sad face for each bad choice.



1. Tom does not share with his friends.



2. Juanita tells her dad the truth.



3. Wes obeys his mom and turns off the TV.



4. Mary takes a dollar that is not hers.

How do we know what is right and wrong?





# Hear & Believe

## ✚ Scripture The Forgiving Father

Once there was a man who had two sons. The younger son said, "I know you plan to give me money when I am older. May I have it now?" So his father gave him the money.

The son moved far away. Soon, he had spent every cent! He was hungry and had no place to live.

The son was sorry for the wrong choices he had made. He had wasted the money and hurt his father. The son made up his mind to go home. He would ask his father to forgive him.

While the son was still far from home, his father saw him. He ran to greet his son. "I'm sorry," the son said, but his father had already forgiven him. The man hugged his son. Then he gave his son a big "welcome home" party.

Based on Luke 15:11–24



## Knowing Right from Wrong

God lets us choose what to do. We call this **free will**. The boy in the story knew he had done wrong. His **conscience** told him so. Our conscience tells us what is right or wrong.

### Faith Words conscience

Our conscience is our ability to know right from wrong.

**Activity** Put the Scripture story in order. Write the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the boxes.

- ☐ The son moved far away from home.
- ☐ The father gave money to his son.
- ☐ They had a "welcome home" party.
- ☐ The father forgave his son.
- ☐ The son was sorry for his wrong choices.
- ☐ The son returned home.



What can you do if you make a wrong choice?



# Hear & Believe

## † Saul Changes His Life

Saul did not like the followers of Jesus. Saul made life hard for them. He arrested Jesus' followers and put them in prison.

One day, Saul saw the Risen Jesus in a vision. "Why are you hurting me?" Jesus asked. Saul's conscience began to bother him. He saw that he was acting wrongly. He felt very sorry for harming the followers of Jesus.

"What should I do now?" Saul asked. Jesus told him to start over, to stop acting in bad ways. He told him to make good choices.

On that day Saul decided to change his life. Instead of hurting people, he helped them. Saul was baptized and became a good follower of Jesus. People now called him Paul. Paul began to tell everyone about Jesus Christ.

Based on Acts 9:1–20



## Our Church Teaches

We **sin** when we choose to do hurtful things on purpose. When we sin, we hurt our friendship with God and with other people. God wants us to be sorry for our sins. God loves us very much. When we sin, he is ready to show us mercy. God is ready to forgive us.

### We Believe

God gives everybody a conscience.  
God wants us to choose good and stay away from what is evil.

**Activity** Complete the sentences using these words.

conscience

sin

good

Saul's \_\_\_\_\_

told him he had done wrong.

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a wrong choice that hurts our friendship with God and with other people.

God wants us to choose \_\_\_\_\_ and stay away from evil.

### Faith Words

sin

To sin is to choose to do hurtful things on purpose. Sin is disobeying God.

How can we practice making good choices?

# Respond

## Saint Paula Frassinetti



Paula was born in Italy in 1809. When she was nine years old, her mother died. Paula had to help take care of her four brothers. She could have gotten angry and been mean to them. But she loved them. She took good care of them.

Because of her household chores Paula was unable to go to school. Her brothers shared with her what they learned in school. Paula made the choice to be cheerful. She went to Mass daily and prayed while she worked.

When Paula grew up she opened a school for poor girls. She later founded a religious order to educate poor children.

Today we honor her as Saint Paula. Her feast day is June 11.



What good choice did Saint Paula make?



## Activity

We can practice choosing to do what is right every day.

Unscramble the letters to complete the sentence for each picture.



t h g i f

Joey chooses not to

\_\_\_\_\_ i \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_.



r h a s e

Tonya is happy to

\_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_ r \_\_\_\_\_.



t r t u h

Lily decides to tell the

\_\_\_\_\_ t \_\_\_\_\_ t \_\_\_\_\_.

How can we  
thank God  
for the gift  
of free will?





## Prayer Celebration

### A Prayer of Action

Doing good actions is a type of prayer.  
When we act in good ways, we praise God.  
We thank God for the gift of free will.

Celebrate making good choices.  
Pray this prayer together.

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift  
of free will.

Help us use this gift  
to choose what is good.

Help us to (add own action).

Amen.



**A Circle the words that best complete the sentences.**

1. God gives us a \_\_\_\_\_ to help us know right from wrong.

conscience      free choice      sin

2. When we do hurtful things on purpose, we \_\_\_\_\_.

forgive      love      sin

3. God lets us choose what to do.

We call this \_\_\_\_\_.

conscience      free will      sin

4. God wants us to be \_\_\_\_\_

for our sins.

angry      happy      sorry

**B Draw a line to connect the parts of each sentence.**

1. The son who left home knew ● ● disobeying God.

2. Before the son said,  
"I'm sorry," ● ● he had done wrong.

3. Sin is ● ● his father had forgiven him.

**C** Write the correct words on each line.

forgive Paula praise prayer Saul

1. Choosing to do good actions is a kind of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. When we act in good ways, we \_\_\_\_\_ God.

3. God is always ready to \_\_\_\_\_ us.

4. After he was baptized, \_\_\_\_\_  
became a follower of Jesus.

4. Saint \_\_\_\_\_ chose to take good care  
of her brothers.

**D** Write about a good choice you can make to show  
your love for God.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_