



Together in Jesus

Find the heart-shaped
sticker.
Place it here.

The Trouble With Three Friends

"My cousin Nick is coming for two weeks," Damian said to his best friend, Matt.

Damian was using Matt's road-grader. He pushed it around the huge figure-eight-shaped road he and Matt had made in their sandbox. The sandbox sat in Damian's backyard between his house and Matt's. Each friend had built a big castle in one loop of the figure eight.

"When is your cousin coming?" asked Matt. Matt was hauling rocks up to his castle with Damian's truck.

"Sunday," said Damian. "And I have to take him along all the time."

"But next week we have swimming and day camp and puppets at the library," said Matt.

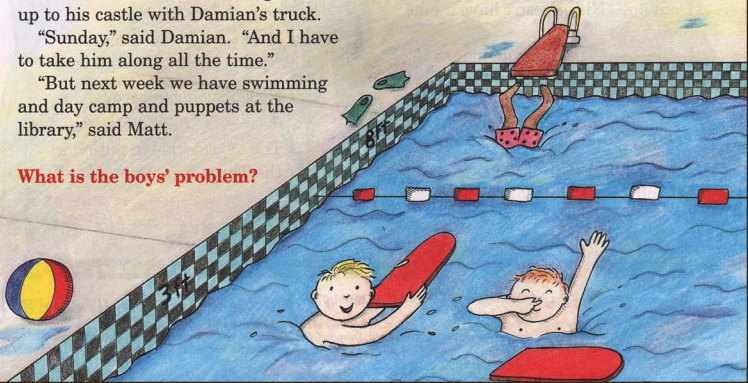
What is the boys' problem?

On Monday Damian chose his cousin Nick as a buddy at swimming. He stayed in the shallow end of the pool with him.

"Maybe I'll learn to swim this week," Nick said to Damian. "I learned to float today."

Once Matt waved and Damian swam to the deep end to see him. They counted to three, dived in, and raced to the rope in the middle of the pool.

**Which actions include Nick?
What actions leave Nick out?**





On Wednesday the boys saw the puppet stage set up when they walked into the library.

"What's behind the curtain?" asked Nick.

"Nothing," said Damian. "We make puppets to put on plays."

"We're going to do Jack and the Beanstalk," said Matt. "We've been planning all summer. I'm going to be the giant. Fee, fi, fo, fum."

"And I'm Jack," said Damian.

"Who can I be?" said Nick.

Damian looked at Matt. Matt looked at Damian. "There's Jack's mother and the goose," said Damian. "You could be both of them."

What do you think will happen on Wednesday?

On Tuesday the day camp group went to the science museum. The three boys climbed on the city bus. Nick found an aisle seat. Matt and Damian found seats across from each other in the row behind him.

"I know what we can do when we get home," said Matt in a low voice, so Nick couldn't hear.

"What?" said Damian. He saw Nick turn his head away and look out the bus window.

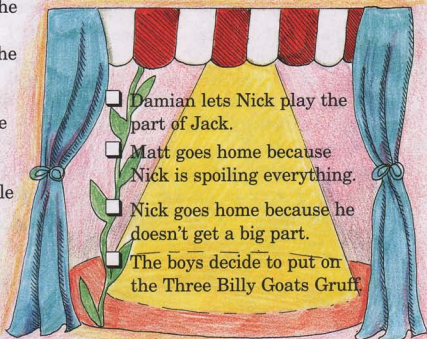
"We can take our dirt bikes to the big ditch."

"But that's a two thing," said Damian. "Nick doesn't have a bike here."

Matt shrugged his shoulders. "Guess there's not much to do while he's here."

Which actions include Nick?

Which leave Nick out?



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Where appropriate, this text reflects the language of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*.

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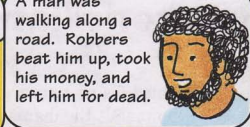
How Does Jesus Ask Us to Treat People?

Who am I supposed to love?

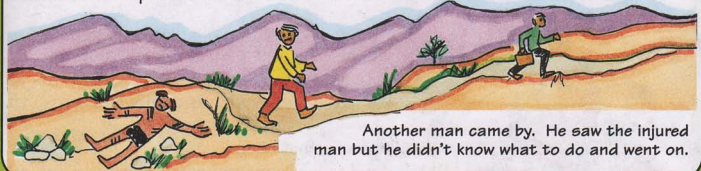
Love God with your whole heart and your neighbor as yourself.

Who is my neighbor?

A man was walking along a road. Robbers beat him up, took his money, and left him for dead.



A man came hurrying along the road. He saw the injured man but did not have time to help and went on.



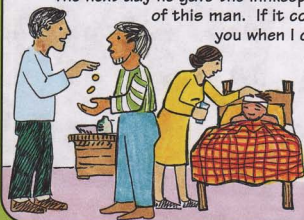
Another man came by. He saw the injured man but he didn't know what to do and went on.

A third man came down the road. He saw the injured man, stopped, and bandaged his wounds.

He took the injured man to an inn and cared for him.



The next day he gave the innkeeper money. "Take care of this man. If it costs more, I will repay you when I come back."



Find the sticker of Jesus' face. Put it here.

Who shows love for the man who was robbed?

Who treats him as a neighbor?

Based on Luke 10:29-37

I Prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation



The Bible tells us a story about the first man and woman. God commands the man and the woman not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But they disobey God. We call this Original Sin. This story of the first man and woman tells us about ourselves. We are born with Original Sin, which separates us from God.

We are purified from Original Sin when we receive the Sacrament of Baptism. But, even after Baptism, we are still free.

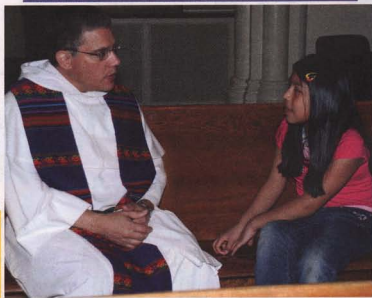


We can obey, and we can disobey.
We can help others. We can hurt and harm others.
We have to learn what is good and what is evil.

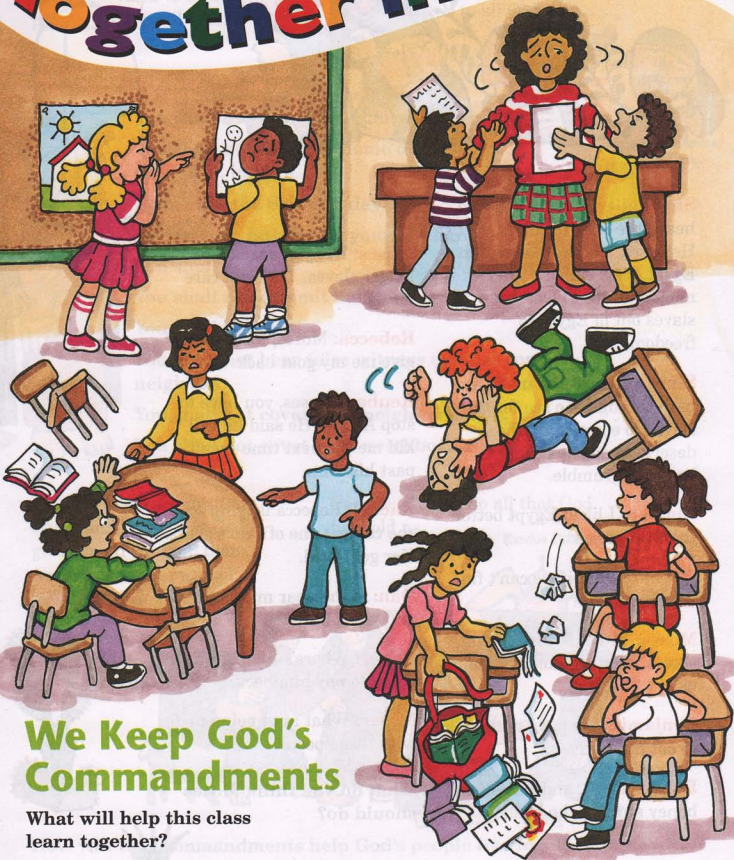
Jesus teaches us to love God
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Sometimes we fail. We sin.
We do mean, unloving actions.

Our Church has a sacrament for asking and receiving forgiveness. This is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Sacrament also has the names Penance and Confession.

We tell a priest we are sorry
for our unloving actions.
God forgives our unloving actions
when we are sorry.
God's love for us is a gift
to help us grow holy as he is.
Our Church calls this gift
sanctifying grace.



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We Keep God's Commandments

What will help this class learn together?



Together in Jesus

Listen to the problems that children in Jesus' time are having. When have you had problems like these?

I have had it with my sister. She says stuff that is mine belongs to her. She always says she is sorry when she gets caught. Today she took my sandals and got them wet. I'm never forgiving her again. Would you?


- ☐ No.
- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ Maybe if she did something nice.

My parents are going to the Temple to thank God because my baby brother was born. Who likes brothers and sisters? Today my little sister spilled milk on my good robe and then laughed. I hit her. Now I have to say I'm sorry or stay home from the Temple. What do you think I should do?

- ☐ Stay home. No one will bother you.
- ☐ Tell your sister you are sorry.
- ☐ Go to the Temple and pretend nothing happened.

**We Can
Act Like
Jesus**





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Jesus Teaches Us to Forgive



Jesus: The younger brother took his money and went to a far-off land. He bought new clothes and a fancy house. He made friends by inviting people to big parties. Soon his money was gone. Then crops failed in this country. Soon the younger son had no house, no clothes, and no food. His new friends forgot all about him. The only job he could find was taking care of pigs.

Younger Son: I'm so hungry. I could eat this pig food.

Jesus: But no one gave him any.

Storyteller: One day some teachers complained to Jesus.

Teacher: Jesus, you make friends with people who don't keep God's Commandments. These people are sinners.

Jesus: Let me tell you a story. Once there was a man who had two sons. The older son worked with his father, but the younger son wanted to leave home and have some fun.

Younger Son: Please give me the money I will inherit. I want to go away and live my own life.





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Jesus Gives Us the Holy Spirit

Storyteller 1: Most of Jesus' followers ran away when he was arrested and then put to death.

Storyteller 2: Three days later they gathered together to pray. They still felt afraid, so they locked the doors.

**Why do
Jesus' followers
feel afraid?**

Storyteller 1: Suddenly Jesus came and stood in the room with them.

Jesus: Peace be with you.

Storyteller 2: Jesus showed his friends the nail marks in his hands. And the spear mark in his side.

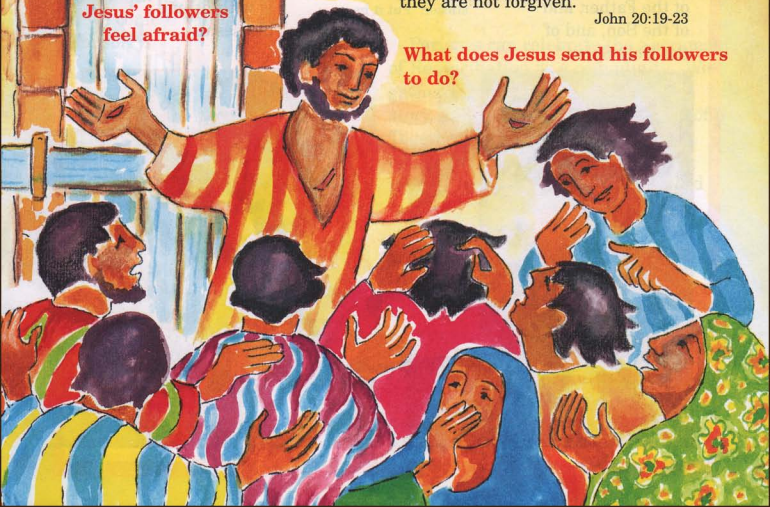
Jesus: Peace be with you. My Father sent me to you. Now I am sending you to all people.

Storyteller 1: Jesus breathed on his followers.

Jesus: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive people's sins, they are not forgiven.

John 20:19-23

What does Jesus send his followers to do?





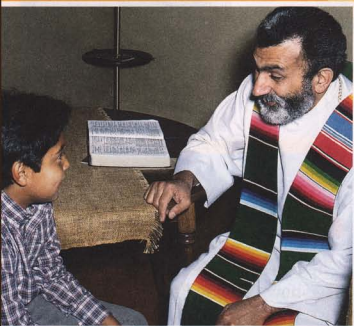
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I Prepare for First Reconciliation

All of us fail to love and respect each other sometimes. All of us fail to keep the Commandments sometimes. God promises us forgiveness when we confess our sins and say I'm sorry.



Parishes can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a community. We gather together, listen to the Gospel story, and remember all Jesus asks of us. Together we confess our unloving actions. We each also tell them to a priest. We ask God to forgive us and help us grow more like Jesus.



We can also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as individuals whenever we need to. We talk with our priest in a special Reconciliation room. We talk face to face or with a screen between us. We tell the priest our sins. We express our sorrow for our sins. We ask God to forgive us.



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Q "What can my child understand about sin and reconciliation?"

A The Church prepares and welcomes children to First Penance and First Communion when

they reach the age of reason. The Church teaches that at this age children can tell right from wrong and commit serious sin. Primary children are beginning to understand cause and effect, to be able to foresee and weigh the consequences of their actions, and to accept responsibility for their actions.

Primary children are at just the right age to open themselves to what Jesus asks of his followers in the Sermon on the Mount—turn the other cheek, don't go to church angry, go the extra mile. They are at the right age to begin learning the Commandments that make us God's people.

The Ten Commandments put us in relationship with God, who leads and loves us and who deserves our worship and thanks. The Commandments call us to become people who respect each other's lives, reputations, marriages, and property.

Together in Jesus stresses not only Jesus' call to holiness and God's Commandments but God's forgiving love and Jesus' gift of the Holy

Spirit which calls us to become a community of forgiving peacemakers. This program explores six themes which help young Catholics recognize that as members of the Church:

- We belong to a loving community (Lesson 1);
- We belong to a community that keeps God's Ten Commandments (Lesson 2);
- We belong to a community that acts as Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount (Lesson 3);

Questions Parents Ask About First Reconciliation

by Joan Mitchell, CSJ

- God is forgiving like the father of the prodigal son and calls us to be forgiving people (Lesson 4);
- Jesus on the first Easter evening gives his followers the power of the Spirit so that they can forgive people's sins (Lesson 5);
- We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lesson 6).

Q "What is my part in preparing my child for First Reconciliation?"

A

Both the family and the parish have important roles in preparing children for First Reconciliation. Parishes expect parents to do all they can to connect their child's understanding of following Jesus' teachings with keeping family rules.

For example, children need to understand that doing their chores is a way of keeping the Fourth Commandment to honor parents. Not going to bed angry is a family rule that flows from Jesus' teaching in his Sermon on the Mount about not going to the Temple to worship without first making up with an angry friend.

Parents can also help their children by modeling a willingness to say I'm sorry. They can acknowledge when they are wrong or misread a situation among their children. They can help their children develop practical peacemaking skills at home. Parents can also help their children learn the Act of Contrition and the Our Father.

Together in Jesus

FIRST RECONCILIATION FAMILY FOCUS POSTER

Lesson 1: I Belong to a Loving Community

Let's show love in our home. This week, put a check mark in a heart whenever you do one of these loving deeds.



I shared.



I used kind words with others in my family.



I offered to help someone.



I did my chores without complaining.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Lesson 2: We Keep God's Commandments

God gave us important rules called the Ten Commandments. I should obey God's Commandments in school, in my neighborhood, and in my home.

1. Do I try to love God with my whole heart?
2. Do I use God's name only for praying and not for swearing in anger or for fun?
3. Do I worship God at Mass on Sunday?



Lesson 4: Jesus Teaches Us to Forgive

We all need to be forgiven when we do something wrong. Do you know how to ask forgiveness? Put a check in the box by the words that show us how to ask for forgiveness.

☐ I'm sorry I rode your bike without asking you. I won't do it again.

☐ Here's your old bike. It's no fun to ride anyway.

☐ I knocked you down because you cheated to win the game.

☐ I shouldn't have knocked you down when your team won the game. I won't do it again.

☐ I told Melissa you don't like her. I made it up. I'm sorry.

☐ You never said you like Melissa, so I told her you don't like her.

I WON'T DO IT AGAIN

Lesson 5: Jesus Gives Us the Holy Spirit

How do we show we forgive others? Tell about your favorite way to show forgiveness at home.