

# **Activity Booklet**

*Catholic Connections for Middle Schoolers,  
Second Edition*

**Gloria Shahin**



saint mary's press

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The quotation by Jean Vanier on the chapter 42A activity handout, "Live It!" (Document #: TX003728), is from "An Interview with Jean Vanier," program 4321, Chicago Sunday Evening Club website, at [www.csec.org/index.php/archives/23-member-archives/332-jean-vanier-program-4321](http://www.csec.org/index.php/archives/23-member-archives/332-jean-vanier-program-4321).

The quotation by Pope Paul VI on the chapter 45B activity handout, "A Social Justice Crossword" (Document #: TX003735), is from "Message of His Holiness Pope Paul VI for the Celebration of the Day of Peace," at [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/paul\\_vi/messages/peace/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_mes\\_19711208\\_v-world-day-for-peace\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/messages/peace/documents/hf_p-vi_mes_19711208_v-world-day-for-peace_en.html). Copyright © Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

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# Introduction

Welcome to the *Activity Booklet* for *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers, Second Edition!*

As the revised edition of *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers (CCH)* has been expanded, and new chapters on Sacred Scripture added throughout, so we have revised and expanded the *Activity Booklet* to include hands-on and creative activities to accompany the fifty chapters of the revised *CCH*.

In this *Activity Booklet*, you will find two activities to supplement each chapter in the *CCH*. How can these activities be used to support the chapter concepts, both within and outside of the classroom? Here are some possibilities:

- **As in-class supplements to the chapter.** Some activities lend themselves to independent and individual thought on the part of students; other activities lend themselves to cooperative learning in pairs or in groups. An activity sheet can be used as an assessment at the beginning of the lesson (What do students know about this topic?), as a change of pace within the lesson, or as a review at the end of the lesson. If used as a beginning assessment, you may direct the students, at the end of the lesson, to go back to the activity sheet to correct their errors, and thus show them that they have learned something!
- **As informal in-class quizzes.** In this way, the activity functions as a check of the students' understanding.
- **As take-home activities to be shared with the family.** The activity thus provides a link to the religious education program.

We hope that these activity sheets will spark your own creativity as you use them to accompany *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers, Second Edition*. Blessings on your ministry!

The Editors at Saint Mary's Press

# Revelation

Thoughtfully and reflectively respond to the following questions.

Think about the events of a typical day for you—your classes in school, sports or other activities you participate in, and time with family and friends. How do you experience the presence of God in your day?

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Look at the picture on page 16 in the handbook. This is one depiction of God's role in the creation of the universe. Describe how your own artistic depiction of Creation would look. What elements would you include to convey God's power?

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Choose one of the elements you selected, and explain how it conveys God's power.

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# Scripture and Tradition

Complete the following sentences, and then find each answer in the word search below. Words can appear in any direction.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Catholic Church is a summary of the central teachings of our Tradition.
2. The part of the Mass in which we hear readings about what God has done for our salvation is the Liturgy of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ is another name for Sacred Scripture.
4. The Bible's authors were guided by the \_\_\_\_\_ to record without error what God wants us to know for our salvation.
5. At the Council of Trent, the bishops made clear that both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are necessary for our salvation.
6. The Bible contains the forty-six books of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the twenty-seven books of the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. God's Revelation is complete in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In \_\_\_\_\_, we are called to be prophets by sharing God's Word with others in our words and actions.

T M B H Y O Q U E C M N B F M  
 L I Y A P L Z R Z C E D I T S  
 Y R R E P D U M M W A I B R I  
 G D E I Y T I M T W A R L X H  
 H U R D P E I E Z S A B E W C  
 N P O I T S S S Z C P J F J E  
 J Q R W H T Y Y M Y A Z Y A T  
 T C Y P A A U L Q U X R W Y A  
 S I X M Y M V M O G R E A F C  
 G M E D V E P A Y H L C V D H  
 I N Y H L N M F V Z K X U P N  
 T V I W D T P U A P X A X J Q  
 C C O T S I R H C S U S E J P  
 M R Z P C O J C B N E O I C N  
 D T R A D I T I O N L Y N S S



# The Stages of Salvation

God's Word in the Bible gradually revealed his plan for our salvation. List the stages below as given in chapter 2 in the handbook. Then answer the question for each. Your answers will provide a summary of each stage.

Stage 1: \_\_\_\_\_

*How does this stage begin and end?*

\_\_\_\_\_

Stage 2: \_\_\_\_\_

*What did God make with the Chosen People through Abraham and Sarah?*

\_\_\_\_\_

Stage 3: \_\_\_\_\_

*What important rules did God give his people after they escaped from Egypt?*

\_\_\_\_\_

Stage 4: \_\_\_\_\_

*What do we call the land the Israelites entered? How did God rule the people?*

\_\_\_\_\_

Stage 5: \_\_\_\_\_

*What did the Israelites want from God? How did God encourage the people to follow the covenant?*

\_\_\_\_\_

Stage 6: \_\_\_\_\_

*What happened to the kingdoms of Israel and Judah? After their return, what were the Chosen People hoping for?*

\_\_\_\_\_

Stage 7: \_\_\_\_\_

*When the time was right, what did God do?*

\_\_\_\_\_

Stage 8: \_\_\_\_\_

*When did this stage begin? How does it continue today? Why are we part of this stage?*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# God's Love and Mercy

From the time of Creation, God has been at work in the lives of his people, offering them help and guidance in remaining faithful to him. What are some examples of how God has helped you to remain faithful to his laws and his will?

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Who in your life is a source of guidance for you to live as God wants?

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God is merciful and forgiving, and gives us second chances even when we fail to follow his will. How does knowing this give you comfort and strength?

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God chose a rainbow as a sign of the promise he made to the Israelites. Describe why a rainbow is an appropriate symbol for God's promise to his people.

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# Who Is God?

Thoughtfully and reflectively respond to the following.

In the Gospels, Jesus sometimes called on God as Abba, or Father. He taught us to address God in the same way. What are some characteristics of God that help you to relate to him as a loving father or parent?

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In your own words, write a short prayer to God as your loving Father, asking him for blessings or thanking him for his loving care.

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In teaching his disciples about salvation and how we can spend eternity in Heaven with God, Jesus said to his disciples, "Everything is possible for God" (Mark 10:27). How does this statement give you hope not only in thinking about your own salvation but also in living your everyday life?

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# God the Father

How is your relationship with God like a relationship between a child and a parent?

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What steps can you take to grow closer to God?

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How can you be an example to others of God's love?

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## Church History

The Old Testament writers pictured God as a warrior who protected his people when they were good. However, Scripture and Tradition tell us that God is a loving and forgiving Father.

Describe at least two examples from Scripture that show God's love for us.

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Describe at least two examples from the world today that make visible God's loving and forgiving nature.

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## Live It!

Each of us belongs to many communities. The first is our family. We also belong to our classroom and school community, our parish, our neighborhood, and so on. Choose two communities to which you belong, and describe specific actions you can take to contribute to each community's well-being and harmony.

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## People of Faith

Despite the hardships he experienced in Ireland as a captive, Saint Patrick later freely chose to return there to preach the Gospel. Why might Saint Patrick have felt a desire to return to Ireland to teach about God?

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Describe a situation in which you might teach others about God, through your words or your example, despite difficulties.

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# Exploring the Old Testament

Write the number of the Old Testament book next to its description.

- |                                |       |  |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|
| 1. The Pentateuch              | _____ | The history of the Chosen People after the Exodus.                               |
| 2. The Historical Books        | _____ | The writings of important people called to speak for God.                        |
| 3. The Wisdom and Poetry Books | _____ | The first five books of the Bible, called the <i>Torah</i> by the Jewish people. |
| 4. The Prophets                | _____ | Books of teachings, songs of praise, all containing passages of poetry.          |

Bonus! Name the first five books of the Bible:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

## God Speaks through the Prophets

What three failures of the Chosen People did the prophets address?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

What three messages of hope did the prophets proclaim?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Our Roots in the Old Testament

Name five examples of our Jewish roots in the Mass today. The first example has been done for you!

1. Our day for worship and rest, Sunday, has its roots in the Jewish Sabbath.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

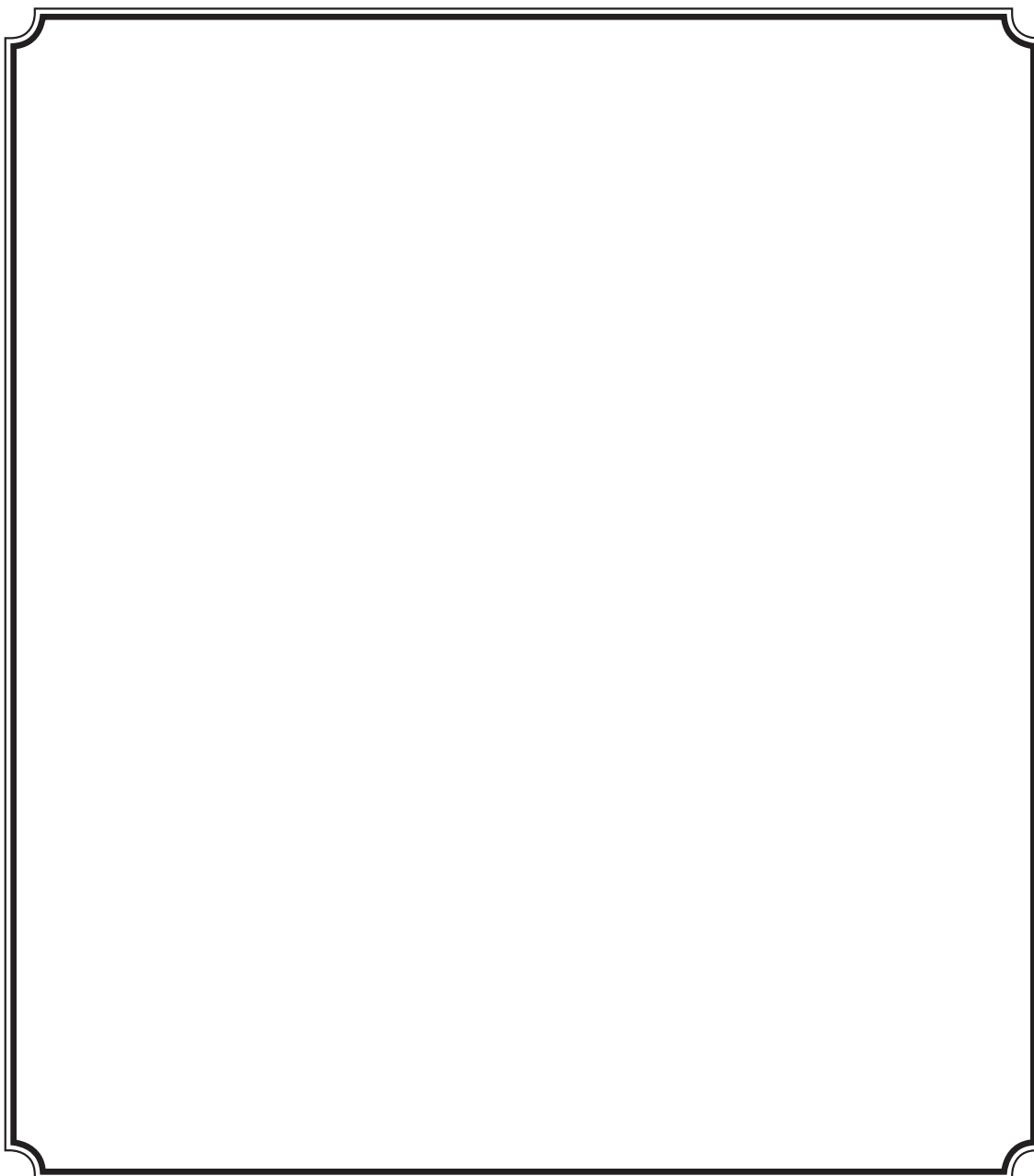


# The Book of Psalms

The Book of Psalms is one of the poetic books of the Bible. There are 150 psalms. They express every human mood—sadness and joy, exultation and near-despair. The psalms show us that we can be completely honest with God, for he knows us through and through!

Look through the Book of Psalms and find one that appeals to you. Illustrate it below. Here are some suggestions:

- Psalm 23 (The Lord Our Shepherd)
- Psalm 104 (In Praise of the Creator)
- Psalm 139 (God's Complete Knowledge and Care)
- Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord!)



## God Creates the World

Read the first account of Creation in Genesis 1:1–31. Then, in the space below, write a newspaper article summarizing the account. Include an illustration to accompany your article, and be sure to give the article a headline.



# A Creation Story Scramble

Unscramble the words and write them in the boxes. Then use the unscrambled words to complete the sentences below. Finally, take the letters in the circles and unscramble them to solve the final message below.

HEFRAT	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
REETH	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
NELAG	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
LYRFOGI	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
NIS	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
RACTERO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
GEOSNSOD	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
DENE	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Although we associate Creation most closely with God the \_\_\_\_\_,  
 it is important to recall that it is the work of all \_\_\_\_\_ Persons of the Trinity.  
 The word \_\_\_\_\_ comes from a Greek word meaning “messenger.”  
 Angels \_\_\_\_\_ God and watch over each of us every moment of our lives.  
 One reason that explains the existence of evil in the world is human \_\_\_\_\_.  
 When we pray the Nicene Creed at Mass, we acknowledge God as the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
 all that is visible and all that is invisible.  
 God wants all people to share in his wisdom and \_\_\_\_\_ and live in union with  
 him.  
 Adam and Eve, our first parents, rejected God’s love in the Garden of \_\_\_\_\_.

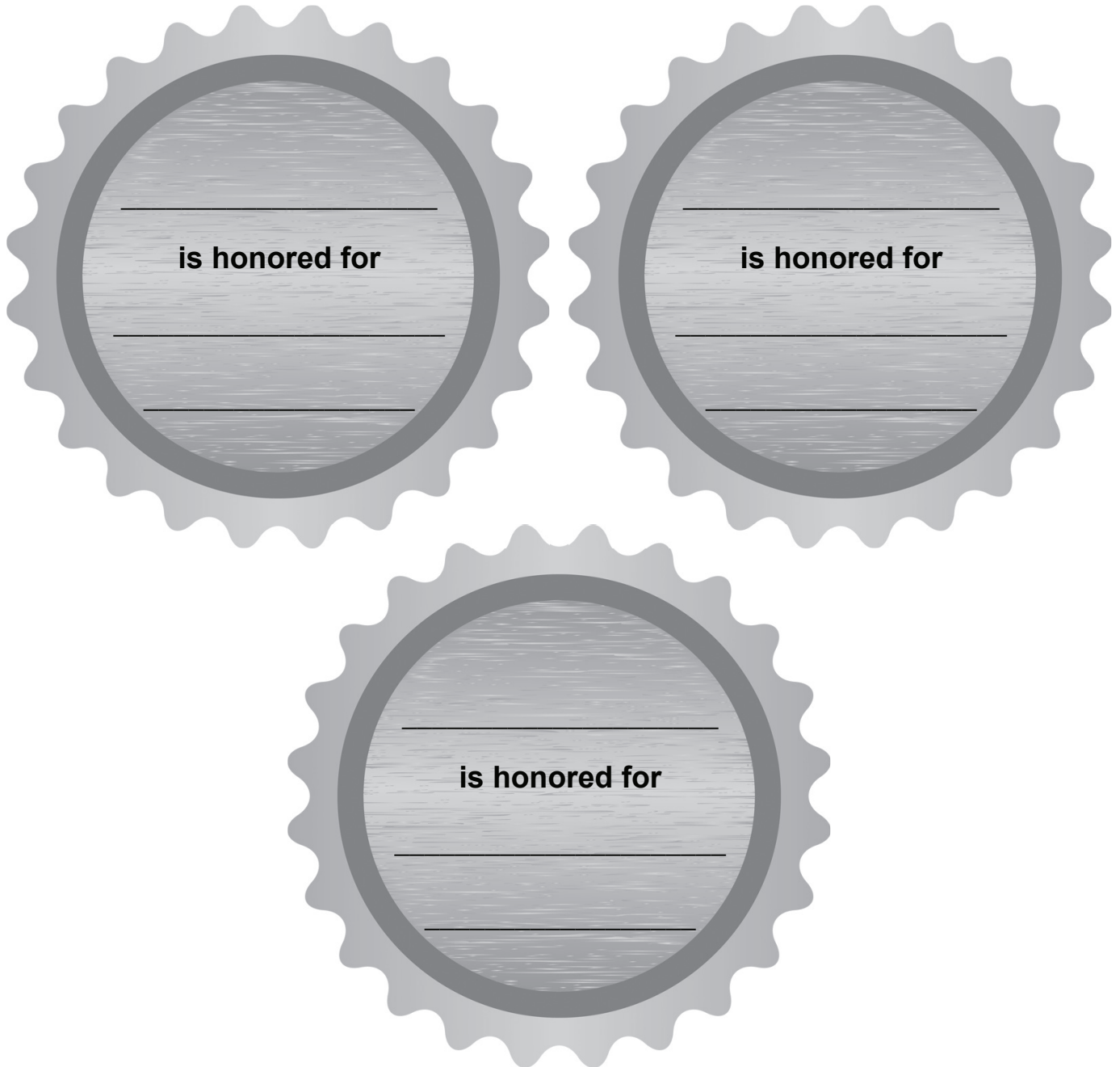
**The Book of Genesis proclaims that God created the**

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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## Called to Serve

As part of one human family, created by God, we are all called to care for and love one another. Some people live that call in exceptional ways. In the space below, design two medals recognizing people you know or have heard about who have made a difference in the world by their actions. Then award the third medal to yourself. In that space, write your name and describe an action you aspire to that will help make the world a better place.



The image shows three gear-shaped medals arranged in a triangular pattern. Each medal has a circular center with a dark grey border and a lighter grey interior. Inside each circle, there are three horizontal lines. The middle line of each circle contains the text "is honored for".





# Created in God's Image

Every human being is made in the image of God. This means that we must strive to treat others with God's love, and that we must see God's image in all people. Reflectively read the prayer at the top of page 86 in the handbook and tell in your own words what it says about how we are to treat others.

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## Resisting Temptation

Because of Original Sin, we are weakened in our ability to resist temptation. What are some common temptations a young person your age might face?

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What are some things you can do to grow stronger in resisting temptation and avoiding sin?

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