

# Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 8

## Catechist Background

### Doctrinal Content

- Jesus is the Light of the World, who offers eternal life to those who accept God's grace and follow Jesus, our model of holiness in faith. (CCC, 458, 459)
- Justification is the forgiveness of sins and the return to the goodness for which humans were first created. (CCC, 1987-1995)
- Baptism offers us a share in the Divine Life, to live in "right" relationship with God because of the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. We respond to the life that Jesus offers by doing what is just and right. (CCC, 1226, 1227, 1778)
- Conversion is a continual turning away from sin and the things that keep us from growing in God's love. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is an experience of conversion. (CCC, 1426-1429)

## Catechist Background

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."— Luke 4:18-19

**Reflect** How does having a personal relationship with Jesus change the way you live your life?

Having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is essential for the Christian life. We encounter Christ in all of the Sacraments, and are joined more closely to him in each. However, it is in our weekly participation in the Eucharist that we really spend time with Christ and get to know him in unique ways.

Christ is made present to us in four distinct ways during Mass. One way is the sacred assembly itself, for we are the Mystical Body of Christ. Second, Jesus (the true Word of God) is present in the words of Sacred Scripture, and in all that he has to tell us about himself and ourselves as his followers. Third, we experience the presence of Jesus in the person of the priest, the ordained representative of Christ and the servant of the People of God. Finally, and most importantly, following the consecration, Jesus is fully present in the Eucharist, Body and Blood, soul and divinity, under the appearances of bread and wine.

Even outside of Mass, these four manifestations of Christ's presence form the foundation for a personal relationship with him. We come to know him by living in community with other believers, by reading the Bible, through the actions of his ministers, both ordained and lay, and in the Eucharist in which we are nourished by

Christ so that others may find him in us as well.

**Reflect** How has the Eucharist been for you a source of intimacy with Jesus and with other people?

### **Catechist's Prayer**

Jesus, I desire to share your friendship with those I teach so that they may come to know you and love you as I do. Help me to communicate your loving presence in all that I do. Amen.

## **Sharing the Message**

### **How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics**

Eighth-graders have a high sensitivity to hypocrisy in others. They don't like to see people believing or professing one thing, but doing another. However, they tend to do this quite a bit themselves. Emphasize the importance of living out that which we believe and coming back to Jesus in a spirit of repentance when we recognize we have sinned.

### **Teaching Tip**

Jesus is our lifeline for virtuous, joyful living. Facilitate a discussion about the challenges of maintaining a healthy connection with Christ in today's world. What are some of the things that can cut us off from Christ? How can we recognize these dangers? What can we do to stay connected with him?

### **Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders**

Younger adolescents grapple with impulse control. For many of them, their behavior is largely governed by how they feel at any given moment, and it may change several times in one day.

- Eighth-graders need to learn the connection between personal values and behavior. They need to have consistent moral behavior modeled for them.
- Young people need to see that you are authentic and that your faith in Jesus guides your life.

## **Chapter Connections**

### **Tasks of Catechesis**

Helping children grow in a faith that is "known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer" (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Promote Knowledge of the Faith
- Moral Formation

**NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition****Knowledge of the Faith**

- Objectives: To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church; to know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful

**Moral Formation**

- Objective: To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching

**Catholic Faith Literacy**

conversion, forgiveness, Sacrament of Penance, Pope Saint John Paul II

**Catholic Social Teaching**

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, pages 334–335; or Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, pages 340–341.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo on page 152. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 152, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 8 for the prayer on page 153.

**Music Option**

► Use one or more of the following songs to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.

- "Christ Is Lord," Live, Page 153
- "Jesus Christ Is Lord," Live, Page 153

# Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 8

## Invite Page 143

### Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

### ♥Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space. Have them make the Sign of the Cross. Invite a volunteer to take the role of Leader, praying the first lines as well as the Psalm verse. Lead the rest of the group in the response.

Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats. Explain that having Jesus Christ as a part of our lives makes a difference; we can make life-giving choices to bring the light of Christ into the world and to continue Christ's mission.

*Say:* Jesus understands us and knows our needs. Let's listen to some words from the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

### † Scripture

Guide children through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

### Have you ever thought...

*Say:* Jesus is the Vine, the Bread of Life, and the Light of the World who offers eternal life to those who believe.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

## Discover (1) Pages 146-147

### Objectives

- Describe what the Gospels tell us about Jesus' love for us
- Express ways to live out the teachings of Jesus

## **The Promise of Life**

Direct the young people to silently read the first paragraph.

- Discuss some of the ways we can get to know Jesus. Read the sentence introducing the Scripture passage.

## **† Scripture**

Have a volunteer proclaim Ephesians 5:8–9. Ask a volunteer to read aloud the remaining text on Pope Saint John Paul II.

- Arrange the youth into small groups to discuss ways to live as “children of the light.”
- Have a volunteer write some of the ideas the groups come up with on the board or on chart paper.

## **Jesus’ I Am Statements**

\* Invite the group to study the chart and write in ways they can live by Jesus’ teaching. Organize the descriptions of Jesus’ relationship with us into four categories: Jesus as the Vine to our branches, Jesus as the Good Shepherd, Jesus as the Bread of Life, and Jesus as Light of the World.

- Label spaces of the room according to the four categories.
- Ask the youth to move to the space labeled by the image they find most appealing.
- *Say:* I’m going to describe some groups to you. Raise your hand if you think the group would most identify with your image of Jesus: hungry children, people who have been separated from their family or friends, people who have experienced a natural disaster, someone who has an unhealthy addiction.
- Invite each group to come up with another category of people who might be drawn to their image of Jesus and share it with the group.

## **Activity**

Organize the youth into smaller groups and have them complete the activity.

## **Quick Review**

Jesus loves and understands us; he knows our needs, and wants to live in friendship with us now and forever. When we live by Jesus’ teachings, we honor him.

## **Discover (2) Pages 148-149**

### **Objective**

- Examine justification as the forgiveness of sins and the return to the goodness for which humans were first created
- Discover that Baptism helps us live in “right” relationship with God because of the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit

### **Teaching Activity: “Right” and “Just”**

Youth will watch a video clip from the film *Toy Story 2* to see how Jesus renews us and helps us to live in “right” relationship with God. Participants will also create a path made of stones that describe how we live our lives when we have been “justified” by Jesus.

### **Before the Lesson**

#### **Materials Needed:**

✦ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** to watch the *Toy Story 2* video clip and download the Justification Stones and Catholic Faith Words pages  
tape sticky notes and markers

### **Preparation**

- Cut out the six stones from the Justification Stones pages.
- Cue up the video for *Toy Story 2*.

*Toy Story 2* Video Link: [http://youtu.be/Y7lq3qVbP\\_8](http://youtu.be/Y7lq3qVbP_8)

### **Activity Directions**

Post the Catholic Faith Words pages on the board for reference during the activity.

*Say:* If Jesus is the Light of the World, the Bread of Life, and the Vine, who are we?

Allow a moment for the youth to share their responses with the group.

*Say:* We are his followers who sometimes stumble in darkness. More than that, we are God’s People who are in need of his mercy and grace. Jesus offers us life.

*Say:* We have learned the truth of the story of creation and Original Sin. God created human beings and we were “good,” but we chose to live outside of God’s plan for us. We chose sin and the consequence of that sin made the world disordered and made us broken. God’s plan to make things right without taking away our free will was truly a gift of life. I want you to watch this part of the movie *Toy Story 2*. How are all human beings like Woody in this clip?

Play the video clip. When it has ended ask the question again and allow a moment for the youth to share their responses.

*Say:* The clip shows that Woody, like human kind, was once perfect—but now he is broken and in need of repair. The repairman, like Jesus, tenderly does all that is necessary to make Woody new again. Jesus, the Son of God, made it possible for us to be “just” and “right” again by becoming human, dying, and rising to new life. The word *justify* means “to demonstrate or prove to be just or right,” and “to declare free of blame or to absolve.”

Review the terms *Justification* and *eternal life* and ask a volunteer to read the definitions from the board.

*Say:* Jesus, like the repairman, makes it possible for us to be “right” again. Justification was earned for us by the Passion of Jesus and is given to us when we are baptized. The difference between Woody and us is that we have to accept Jesus’ gift. We must participate. We can’t let Jesus does all the work.

Ask the young people to stand and form a line. Give the first stone to the first person in the line and ask him or her to read what is on the stone. Have them lay the first stone on the floor when they are done reading. Ask the next participant in line to do the same and place the second stone behind the first one. Repeat until all of the stones are on the floor in a path. When path is completed have each participant walk the path while reading the stones as they walk. You may want to play soft instrumental music as they walk. As they finish return to their seats in silence. If you have a large number of participants you may want to prepare another path in a separate area in order to save time.

*Say:* As we grow, we become *righteous* when we...

Point out the Catholic Faith Word *righteous* and read aloud the definition.

*Say:* When we are baptized, we are joined to the righteousness of Christ who justifies us. We are righteous when we live as disciples of the Lord and act in accordance with his will by striving to be free from guilt and sin. We can achieve eternal happiness if we follow Jesus and continue to live in God’s friendship. The Holy Spirit inspires us and moves us to live as Jesus’ followers. He lives within us and influences us to live “right” and “just” lives.

## **Discover (3) Pages 150-151**

### **Objectives**

- Discuss the role of conversion in spiritual renewal in discipleship
- Explore how the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is an experience of conversion • Ask: What is conversion?
- Have a volunteer list the responses on the board or on chart paper.

### **Making a Change**

Point out that conversion is not usually a one-time event. It can begin quickly as with Saint Paul who was knocked down when Jesus spoke to him. More often it begins slowly and takes time. God invites us to be closer to him, and when we allow the ongoing conversion of our hearts, we grow in his love. Summarize the opening paragraphs, focusing on the examples of conversion listed in the bullet points.

- Point out that keeping our hearts open to conversion means inviting the Holy Spirit to help us recognize the things that keep us from growing in God's love.

Ask the youth to read through the three paragraphs on conversion and create three questions that they would ask someone about the material contained in the reading.

### **Conversion in Action**

Summarize the information in this section.

- Explain that once we recognize our sin, a change of heart requires that we are sorry, that we reject past sins, and that we try to avoid sin in the future.

Point out the photo and ask the group to describe what is happening and how it relates to the text on this page.

### **Activity**

Read aloud the activity instructions.

- Have the young people work independently to complete it. • Remind them that they will not be required to share if they want to write a personal story.

### **In Summary**

Have volunteers read aloud the opening sentence and each of the three summary points.

- Close by asking the youth to think of ways they can be renewed by their faith in Jesus.

### **Extend the Lesson**

Use **Activity Master 8: Change of Heart** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

## **Live Pages 152-153**

### **Objectives**

- Review ways to strengthen a relationship with God
- Explore the faith life of Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo
- Offer the Reflection on Jesus prayer

### **Our Catholic Life**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the paragraph.

- Have the youth quietly reflect on the question.

### **People of Faith**

Explain to the youth that Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo's conversion led her to help others.



- Share with the group information from the People of Faith paragraph and the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to reflect on Jesus as the Vine, the Bread of Life, and the Light of the World.

Here are some additional details about Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo to assist you in presenting this section:

- Victoria Rasoamanarivo founded the Catholic Action movement in Madagascar.
- Madagascar, at that time, was a kingdom made up of many tribes.
- They all spoke different languages and had a wide variety of • religious customs. Victoria continued her spiritual work among the Malagasy people until her death in 1894.

### **Activity**

Review the directions on page 152.

- Allow time for the youth to complete the activity. • Invite volunteers to share advice on ways to recognize sinfulness and make good decisions.

### **Reflection on Jesus**

♥ Assign a leader and two readers. Divide the group into two sides.

- Invite Sides 1 and 2 to stand on either side of the prayer table.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.
- *Conclude the prayer with the following words:* Jesus, bless us and help us to believe that in you, we will find true joy and peace. Amen.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "Christ Is Lord," downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com). Alternate Music Option: "Jesus Christ Is Lord"

### **Chapter Review**

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

# Chapter 8 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
<b>Invite, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Life in Christ</b> Page 143	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ <b>Psalm 23:1</b> Pray the opening prayer.</li> <li>📖 <b>Luke 4:18–19</b> Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection.</li> <li>• Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Discover, 45 minutes</b>		
<b>The Promise of Life</b> Pages 146–147 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe what the Gospels tell us about Jesus' love for us</li> <li>• Express ways to live out the teachings of Jesus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about ways we can be “children of the light.”</li> <li>📖 Read <b>Ephesians 5:8–9</b>.</li> <li>★ Write one way to follow Jesus' teachings the way he described.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Write questions for Pope Saint John Paul II about the “culture of death” and “culture of life.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
<b>Made Just and Right</b> Pages 148–149 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine justification as the forgiveness of sins and the return to the goodness for which humans were first created</li> <li>• Discover that Baptism helps us live in “right” relationship with God because of the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teaching Activity</b> Youth will watch a video clip that helps show how we are renewed and helped to live in “right” relationship with God; they will then create a path made of stones that describes how we live our lives when we have been “justified” by Jesus.</li> </ul>	📺 <i>Toy Story 2</i> Video Clip, Justification Stones, Catholic Faith Words
<b>Making a Change</b> Pages 150–151 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the role of conversion in spiritual renewal in discipleship</li> <li>• Explore how the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is an experience of conversion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss conversion as an ongoing process that includes turning away from evil and changing our lives.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Recount stories of personal conversion.</li> <li>• <b>Activity Master</b> Change of Heart</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper 📄 Activity Master 8
<b>Live, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Our Catholic Life</b> Page 152	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>People of Faith</b> Learn about Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Young people will reflect on how they have grown and matured in decision making.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
<b>Reflection on Jesus</b> Page 153	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select two readers; arrange Side 1 and Side 2.</li> <li>• Follow the order of prayer.</li> </ul>	📺 “Christ Is Lord”

## CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

justification, eternal life, righteous, conversion

## ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 154

📄 [aliveinchrist.osv.com](https://www.aliveinchrist.osv.com) Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Student Reviews, eAssessments

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Change of Heart

Look through newspapers and magazines (print or online versions) to find a story of conversion. Attach the article you chose to this paper and answer the following questions about the story.

What change of heart did the person experience? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What prompted the conversion? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In what way did the person turn from sin? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How has the person's life changed since the conversion? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the impact of the conversion on other people? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Think about a time when you experienced conversion. What was the change like? What impact did the change have on your family and friends?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Match each description in Column A with the correct name or term in Column B.

## Column A

- \_\_\_ 1. The Bread of Life
- \_\_\_ 2. To demonstrate or prove to be just or right
- \_\_\_ 3. Joins us to the righteousness of God who justifies us
- \_\_\_ 4. Challenged Catholics to create a “culture of life”
- \_\_\_ 5. A special season to focus on what could make our lives more just

## Column B

- a. justify
- b. Lent
- c. Pope Saint John Paul II
- d. Jesus
- e. Baptism

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

6. \_\_\_ is the forgiveness of sins and return to goodness for which humans were first created.

- a. Justification                      c. Original Sin
- b. Holiness                          d. Righteousness

7. To live in accordance with God’s will free from guilt or sin is called \_\_\_.

- a. conversion                      c. righteousness
- b. justification                    d. Original Sin

8. Turning away from sin and the things that keep us from God is known as \_\_\_.

- a. holiness                          c. Original Sin
- b. Eucharist                        d. conversion

9. \_\_\_ moves and inspires us to live right and just lives.

- a. Eternal life                      c. Praying
- b. Mercy                            d. The Holy Spirit

Write a response to the statement on the lines below.

10. Give three examples of how we can follow Jesus and live lives that are more just and right.

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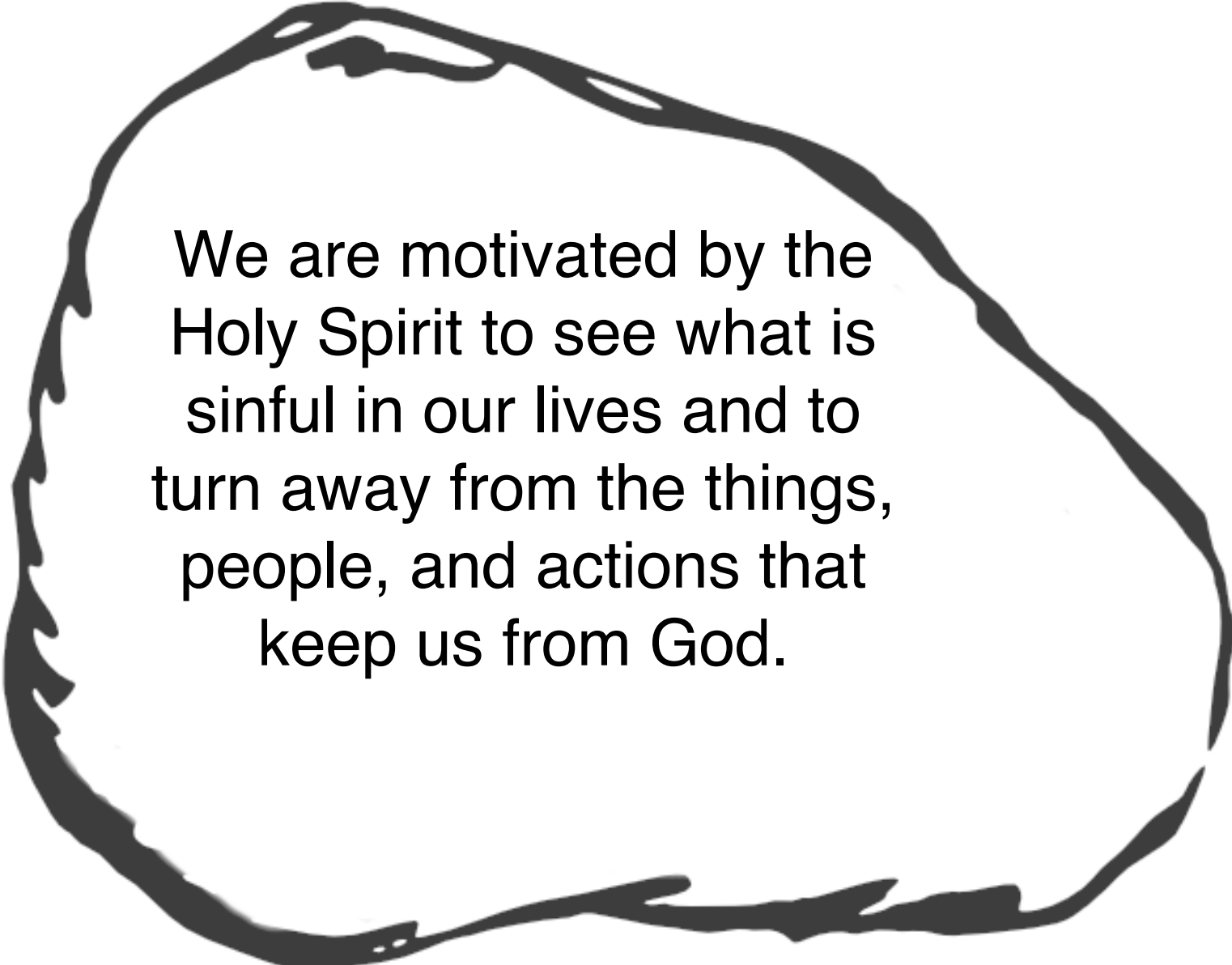
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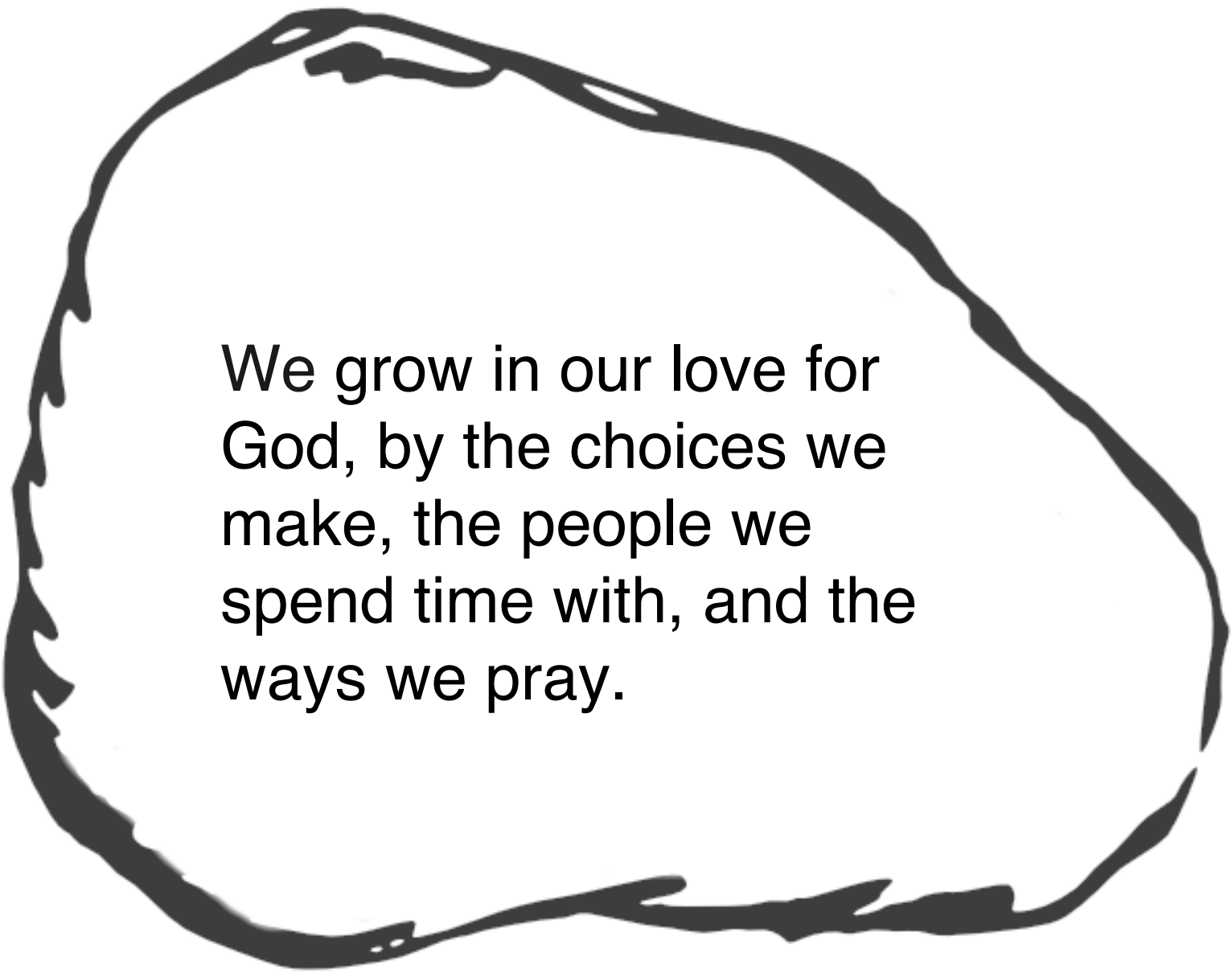
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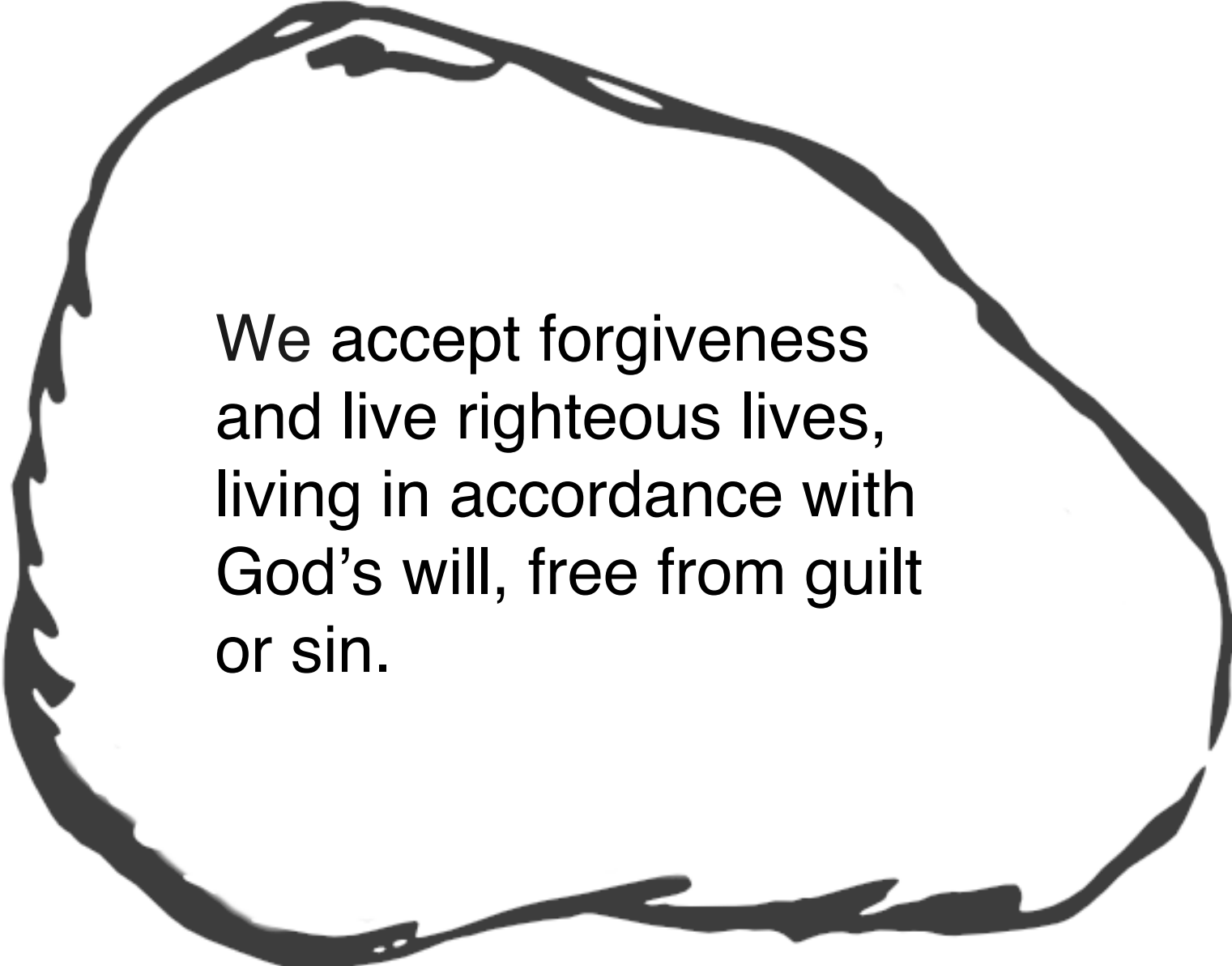
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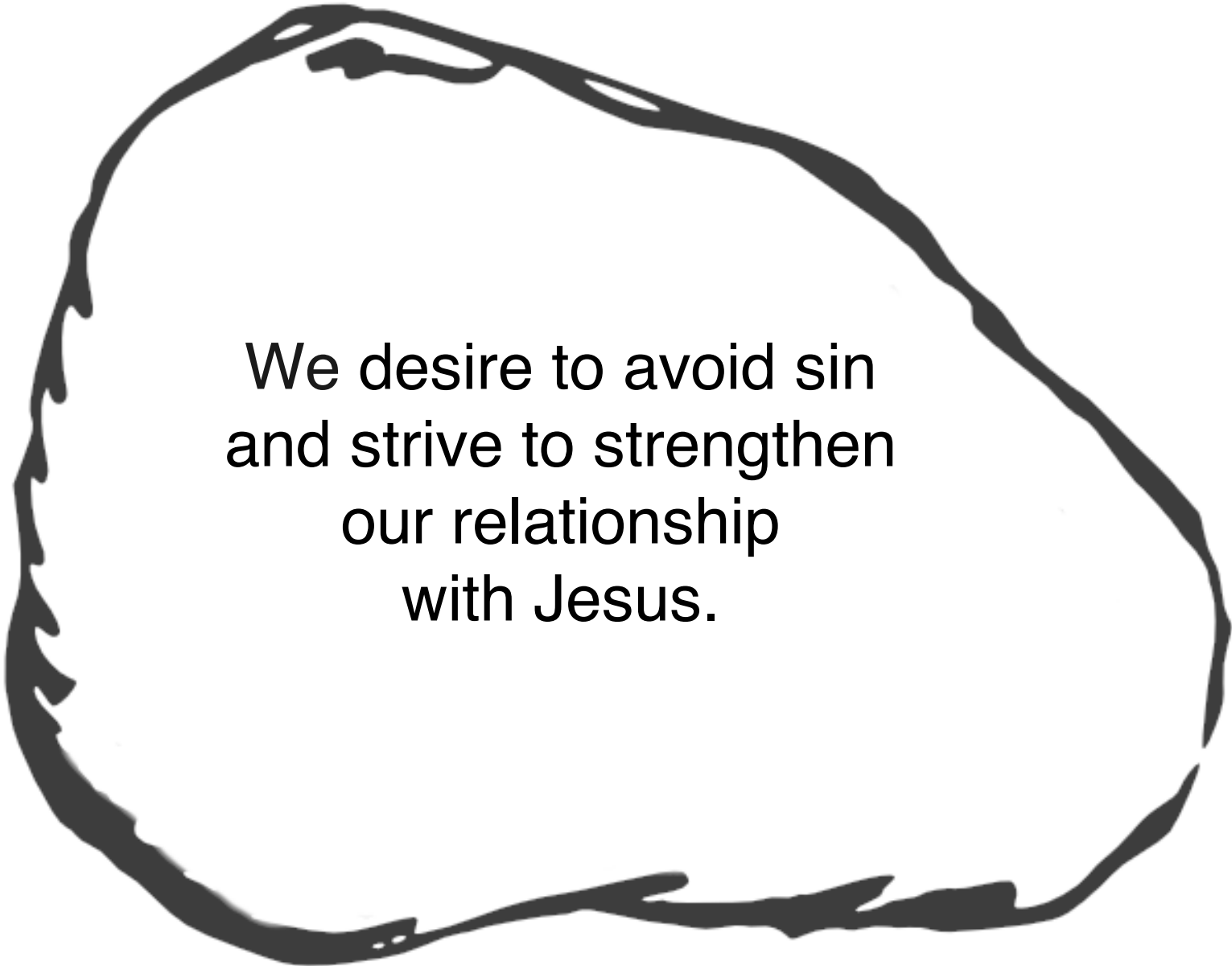
We are motivated by the  
Holy Spirit to see what is  
sinful in our lives and to  
turn away from the things,  
people, and actions that  
keep us from God.



We grow in our love for  
God, by the choices we  
make, the people we  
spend time with, and the  
ways we pray.

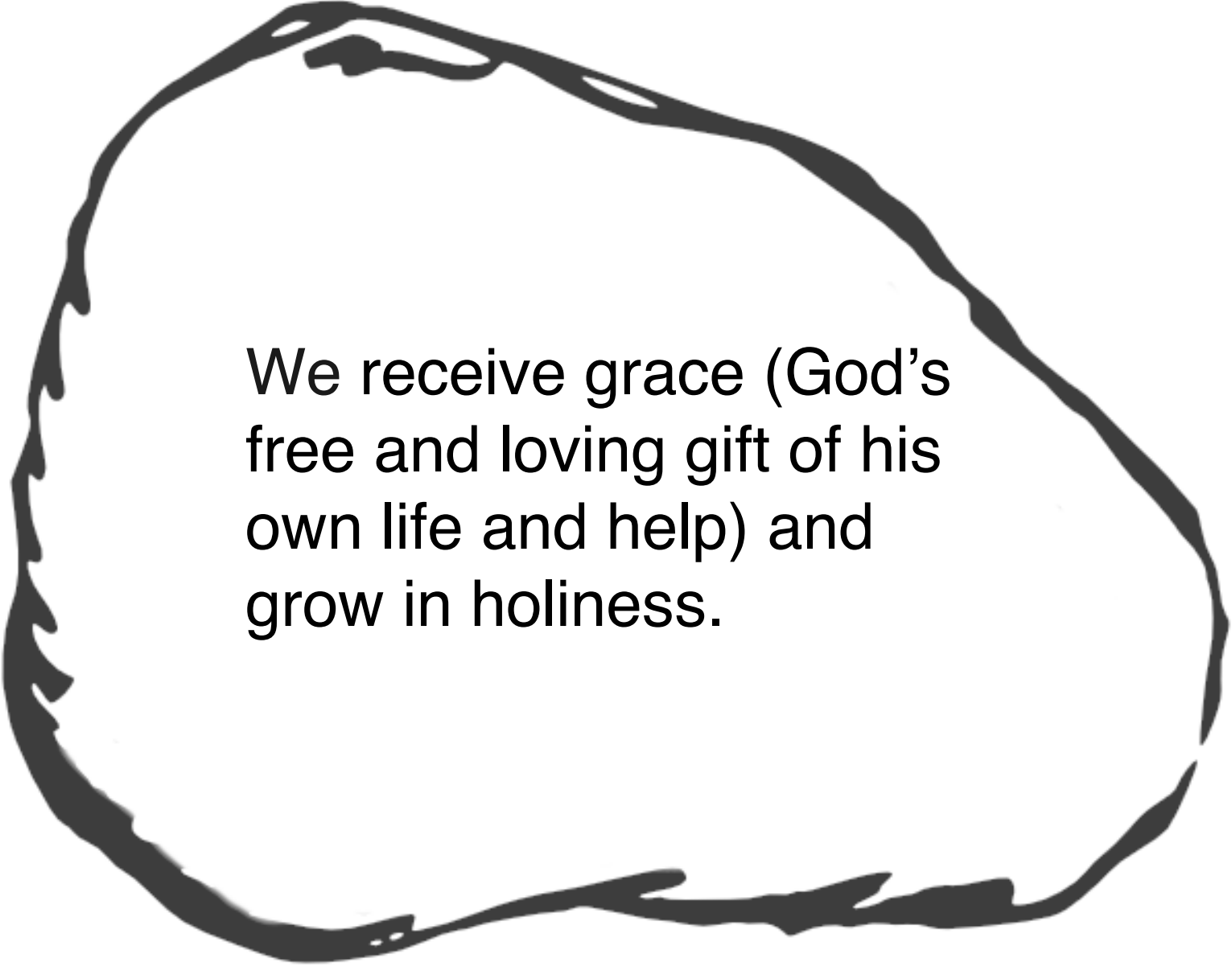


We accept forgiveness  
and live righteous lives,  
living in accordance with  
God's will, free from guilt  
or sin.



We desire to avoid sin  
and strive to strengthen  
our relationship  
with Jesus.





We receive grace (God's  
free and loving gift of his  
own life and help) and  
grow in holiness.



We are replenished and  
made like new.

# Catholic Faith Words

**justification** the forgiveness of sins and the return to the goodness for which humans were first created.

# Catholic Faith Words

**eternal life** life forever with God for all who die in his friendship.

# Catholic Faith Words

**righteous** to act in accordance to God's will,  
being in his friendship, free from guilt or sin.