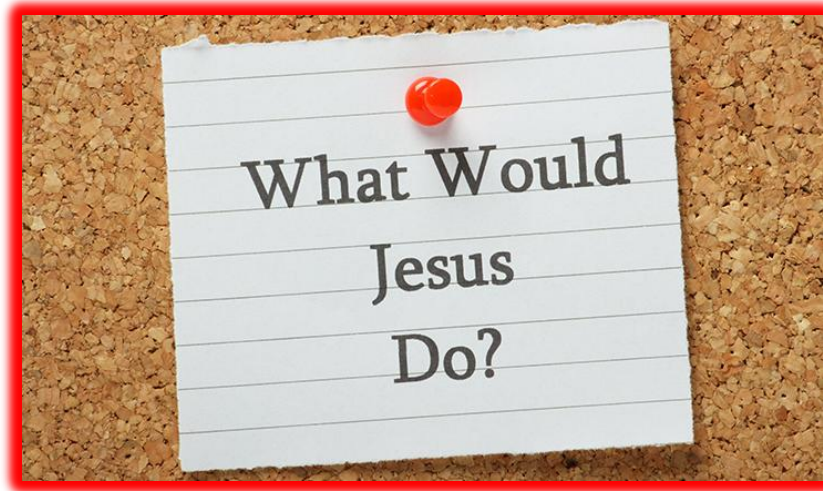


St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)
Week 13 Lesson Plan
(Home Study Version)



Unit 3 – How does Jesus Christ teach us to live a moral life?

EQ #2: *Why and how does Jesus Christ want me to make good choices?*

PARENT CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- Establish a dedicated time and comfortable learning space for your family discovery session.
- Create a [Prayer Table](#) (or check out [How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)) in a dedicated place in your home.
- Prepare your adult heart and mind by watching one of the following videos ahead of this lesson:
[BISHOP BARRON ON CONSCIENCE & MORALITY](#) or [DO I HAVE A GOOD CONSCIENCE?](#)
Also, if time permits, please review either [HELP YOUR CHILDREN MAKE WISE CHOICES](#) or [MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND CATHOLIC CONSCIENCE FORMATION](#)

Keep in mind that the basis of all Catholic morality is the understanding and belief that every human being is created equally, in the image and likeness of God, i.e., in order to reflect His love in this world (Genesis 1:27). As a child of God, each of us is born with an inherent human dignity that cannot be removed or denied – all human life is sacred and should be treated as such. This is the foundation of God's commands to love not only others, but also ourselves, and forms the basis of all [Catholic Social Teaching](#). There is a personal responsibility in knowing and understanding the moral teachings of the Church.

In his Apostolic Exhortation called [THE JOY OF LOVE](#) (*Amoris Laetitia*) released on April 8, 2016, **Pope Francis** addresses the pastoral care of families given the reality of the world in which we live. For an account of our challenges as parents in the raising of our

children and their appropriate conscience formation, you are invited to read Chapter Seven – *Towards a Better Education of Children* (found on pages 197-219). This is a beautiful discussion of those responsibilities and practical suggestions on how to achieve those important goals. You may also want to review the St. Laurence Parish [FORMING INTENTIONAL FAMILIES](#) booklet which also provides relevant advice and recommendations.

Important Quote:

“Conscience *discovers* moral truth; it does not create it. It applies universal truths rather than manufactures them. It measures my choices; it does not automatically justify my choices. While we must sincerely follow our conscience, sincerity alone does not guarantee an objectively correct judgment. One can be completely sincere yet profoundly mistaken. In other words, conscience alone is not infallible. It might make you sure, but it won’t necessarily make you right.” *Father Tom Knoblach*

- Reflect upon a favorite Scriptural passage about making choices that you would like to share with your children, and explain why the passage is important to you. Or, you might like to consider any one of the following:

[GENESIS 3: 1-13](#), [MATTHEW 6:33](#), [LUKE 10: 25-37](#), [JOHN 15: 9-14](#), [ACTS 9: 1-10](#),
[JAMES 1:5](#), [1 JOHN 5:3](#)

Supplies you may want to have on hand before beginning the Lesson:

- A Catholic family or children’s Bible (go to [USCCB](#) for approved Bible translations)
- An electronic device with reliable internet access
- Sticky notes
- Art/craft or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils
- (Optional): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson



OPENING PRAYER

Begin your discovery session today with your child or children in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask your children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and then recite a favorite prayer, choose one of the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#) or sing the [GREATEST COMMANDMENT SONG](#) together as a family. Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).

ENGAGE

(Mental warm-up)

Say, “Last time, we spoke about God’s Rules and Commandments, particularly the *Great Commandment* of Love. Do you remember that? Today, we will talk about how we can follow this Commandment each and every day when we have to make choices, which can be difficult sometimes. Let’s listen to one of my favorite passages from the Bible about making choices ... *(Read your favorite passage from the Bible about God’s commands and explain WHY it is important to you or your favorite passage)* ... Guess what? Jesus always helps us do the right thing.”

EXPLORE

(Pre-assessment of faith concepts)

Ask/Discuss, “What can you tell me about making good choices?”

- ❖ As your child or children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your discovery space. (For younger children, you may act as the ‘scribe’). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what your child or children already know or don’t know. This will be helpful as you move along through today’s lesson.
- ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion above, use some of the following prompts: What is a rule? What are some of God’s rules that Jesus taught us about? Why are these rules so important - i.e., why did God give them to us? How do we choose between what is right or what is wrong? Who helps us make those decisions? Who were Adam and Eve? What did they do? What is original sin? How does sin affect our relationship with God? What is a conscience? What is empathy? How does God expect us to treat others? Can you think of any examples that Jesus taught us on how we should treat others? *Plus, any others you can think of...*

EQ “Essential Question”

(This question serves as a cognitive bookend for your child or children – i.e. it is the targeted “so what” or “take-away” of the lesson being presented that your child should be able to articulate at the end of your session today).

Share and post a physical representation of the lesson’s EQ in your study space:

Why and how does Jesus Christ want me to make good choices?

EXPLAIN (Either guided with your assistance or working independently, have your child or children review their relevant grade-level material – listed below - and complete the workbook activities. ***Empower older children by allowing them to mentor younger siblings:***

Kinder: ***Call to Faith, Chapter 13 (You Show Love) and Chapter 15, pgs. 126-128 (Forgive Others)***

Grade 1: ***Alive in Christ, Chapter 14 (Making Choices)***

Grade 2: ***Alive in Christ, Chapter 8 (Choose to Do Good)***

Grade 3: ***Alive in Christ, Chapter 15 (Help with Choices)***

Grade 4: ***Alive in Christ, Chapter 6 (Making Good Choices)***

Grade 5: ***Alive in Christ, Chapter 13 (Evil in the World)***

EXTEND

(As a family, gather back together and have each child share, in turn, what they learned about making good choices. Together as a family, come up with a list of *at least three new things* that you learned, were surprised by or think others should know about how Jesus and the

Holy Spirit helps us to always do the right thing. Then, *extend the lesson together by completing at least one of the activities* provided below).

Lower Elementary (PREK-2):

- **Video:**
 - [WWJD SONG](#), [WWJD FOR KIDS](#), or [THE GOLDEN RULE SONG FOR CATHOLIC KIDS](#)
 - Watch the clip from the *Veggie Tales* video, *Are You My Neighbor?* At [VEGGIE TALES: ARE YOU MY NEIGHBOR?](#) (10:05), and then discuss the questions at [GOOD SAMARITAN LESSON PLAN](#) under the MOVIES section (scroll about half way down the webpage). The *entire Veggie Tales video* can be found at [ARE YOU MY NEIGHBOR?](#)
 - Watch and listen to the [YOUR MAGNIFICENT CHOOSER: TEACHNG KIDS TO MAKE GODLY CHOICES](#) book read-along
- **Crafts/Activities:**
 - Make the [WWJD MOBILE](#), one of the [SEEK WISDOM CRAFTS](#) , the [GOOD SAMARITAN DONKEY](#) or the [I CAN BE A GOOD SAMARITAN](#) craft
 - Complete either the [GOOD OR BAD CHOICES](#) or [HAND IT TO GOD](#) (Page 10) worksheet
 - Play either the [WISE OR NOT WISE](#) or [WWJD BIBLE](#) game

Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5):

- **Video:**
 - [THE CHOICE IS YOURS](#)
 - [GOD'S STORY: THE GOOD SAMARITAN](#)
- **Crafts/Activities:**
 - Make the [WWJD MOBILE](#) or complete the [WHICH COMMANDMENT?](#) worksheet
 - Play the [WWJD BIBLE GAME](#)
 - Present the [HOLY SPIRIT OBJECT LESSON](#) or complete either *THE RIGHT GUIDE* or *THE BEST GUIDE* activity on [THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT FOR KIDS](#) lesson plan page
 - Discuss the questions and complete one of the activities on either Page 2 or Page 4 of the [BIBLICAL DECISION MAKING](#) lesson

EVALUATE/REFLECT

Restate today's Essential Question (EQ) – *Why and how does Jesus Christ want me to make good choices?*

Summarize what's been learned during this lesson, emphasizing those concepts which may have been missed or misunderstood in the EXPLORE step above.

- **Say**, “We learned last week when we studied the *Ten Commandments* and the *Beatitudes* that God expects us to love Him and also to love others. (Remember *THE Greatest Commandment of LOVE?*) God gives us these commands or rules so that we will stay safe and be happy. These rules also guide our daily choices so that we can remain good and pure. We show love for God and others through our actions and words. By reflecting on God's commands, we can make good (or *moral*) choices each and every day. *Moral*

choices are marked by love of God, love of self and love for others – it's when we choose what's right over what's wrong. When we are reverent towards God and kind to others, we show them *respect*. When making daily decisions, we must keep this idea of *respect* in mind.

People find it hard to always make good choices. This is nothing new. It is part of being human. In fact, we read about this in the Bible with the story of Adam and Eve in the *Book of Genesis*. As we know, God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful paradise, a garden called Eden. There they had everything that they could possibly need for a good life and to allow them to live happily with God. There was only one rule which God asked them to obey (do you remember what that was?). When Adam and Eve made a bad choice, disobeying God's only command, this caused them to be sent away from the Garden of Eden. In choosing to disobey God's command (or law), Adam and Eve committed a *sin*, breaking the First Commandment which should have placed God first in their lives. Instead of admitting their disobedience and asking God for forgiveness, Adam and Eve hid from God and became separated from Him.

As we see in the story of Adam and Eve, God gives us human beings the gift of reason and the ability to freely choose to follow His commands or to turn our backs on Him. God will never force Himself upon us. This freedom to choose between right or wrong is called *free will*. While our decisions on some things can be insignificant, sometimes we make choices that impact or affect others in our lives as well as our relationship with God. These are called *consequences*. The consequence of Adam and Eve's bad choice to disobey God is called *Original Sin*. Thankfully, in the *Sacrament of Baptism*, the effect of Original Sin which we inherit from Adam and Eve is washed away in our own lives. However, because of Adam and Eve's sin, we too will sometimes sin and hurt our friendship with Jesus...but God always forgives! If we make a bad choice and ask for forgiveness with a sincere and contrite heart, God will always forgive us. Catholics receive God's forgiveness by celebrating the healing *Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Penance)*.

God gives people gifts (of *grace*) to prepare them to make good choices. *Grace* is a gift of God's life and love that will help us make good decisions. It's a gift that God provides, even when we don't ask for it, and is always there with us. With the help of the Holy Spirit and through the power of God's grace, we are able to do the right thing when we are asked to make difficult decisions. Reflecting upon and following God's rules will help guide us to know right from wrong. This is how we develop a good *conscience*. A *conscience* is an inner voice that nudges us to remember/reflect on God's commands about doing good and avoiding evil and helps us to judge the morality of our own actions. A conscience needs to be *formed*. A well-formed conscience helps people exercise their free will to make good moral choices; this is a gift from God by knowing God's expectations of us.

When making decisions, we must remember Jesus' Parable of the *Good Samaritan* (Luke 10: 25-37). As we place ourselves in others' shoes and express *empathy* for what they are experiencing or feeling, they become the neighbor who is affected by our actions and choices. When confronted with difficult choices, always remember:

- **STOP... to think**
- **REMEMBER... God's commands** (i.e. the Ten Commandments, the Commandment of Love and the Beatitudes)
- **IMAGINE ... what would Jesus do (WWJD)**

- **LISTEN...to your conscience (inner voice)**
- **PRAY...to the Holy Spirit for guidance**

God wants us to make good choices and not bad choices. When we choose to do what is right and avoid doing what is wrong in a given situation, we grow closer to God. In providing us with good moral examples of how to act and behave, Jesus guides our choices bringing us ever closer to God. The Holy Spirit will always help us to do the right thing when we are asked to make difficult decisions. When we try our best to act as Jesus would act (WWJD?), we show our love for God and his commands, ourselves and our neighbors as reflected in the Great Commandment. With the help of the Holy Spirit we make moral decisions in keeping with the teachings of Jesus and the Catholic faith.

- **Say**, “Think back to the passage that I read from the Bible at the beginning of our lesson today. What did it tell us about making choices and how do you know?” (*Discuss together, affirming appropriate answers and reinforcing lesson teaching points*)
- **Separately reflect on these questions: *How do we know and determine the difference between right and wrong? Think about a time that you did something right and also a time that you did something wrong. How did each of these acts make you feel – i.e. were they different? Why do you think that Jesus helps us live a moral life? What does he desire for each of us?*** (*After some reflection time, turn and share your answers with another family member*).

CLOSING PRAYER

Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask your children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and recite a favorite prayer, choose one from the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#), sing the [REVOLUTIONARY SONG](#) by Josh Wilson, or ask your children to offer up their [INTERCESSORY INTENTIONS](#). Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).



BONUS (optional)

- **What We Pray:** (Note that this is the same option that was also available for *Week 13*)
An *examination of conscience* is a prayerful way to reflect on our actions in light of our Catholic Christian faith. It helps us to identify sins, patterns of sin, or ways in which we are falling short of who God is calling us to be. Once we recognize our sins, or what leads us to sin, we can better ask God for forgiveness and healing. Even if we are not yet old enough to celebrate the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*, developing the habit of a *daily* examination of conscience (perhaps at bedtime along with your prayers) is a beautiful way to guide our words and actions. It can also be an opportunity for us to ask for God’s forgiveness daily in our hearts and make a new commitment to do better. This allows us to be more self-aware and intentional about our choices and actions.

One useful way to make an *examination of conscience* is to consider the *Ten Commandments* and how we perhaps have fallen short on God’s rules which instruct us love not only Him, but also love others.

Use the [EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE FOR KIDS](#) as a guide to begin this daily practice in your life. Then, write your own prayer to the Holy Spirit asking for God's grace to follow His commands, memorize the [ACT OF CONTRITION](#), or use the prayer below to ask for help with your choices.

All you blessed Angels and Saints of God, pray for me, a sinner, that I may repent from my sinful ways and that I may be forever united with you. Amen.

- ***Saint of the Week:*** *Saint Thomas More* was the chancellor of England from 1529-1532 during the reign of King Henry VIII. He was a man of incredible integrity who did not compromise his own moral values in order to please the king whom he served.

Research the life of *Saint Thomas More* by watching [SAINT THOMAS MORE](#) (3:23), [THE STORY OF SAINT THOMAS MORE](#) (older children) or [SAINT THOMAS MORE](#) (animated – 22:12) or any other appropriate resource.

Then, consider what you learned about *Saint Thomas More* in your research, reflect on his quotes below and then answer the questions that follow:

"I die the King's faithful servant, but God's first."

"Little as I meddle in the conscience of others, I am certain that my conscience belongs to me alone. It is the last thing that a man can do for his salvation: to be at one with himself."

- What was the nature of Saint Thomas More's disagreement with King Henry VIII?
- Why was it so important to *Saint Thomas More* to not give in to the King's demands?
- What ultimately happened to *Saint Thomas More*?
- Is it always easy to stand up for what you believe is right – i.e., what your conscience dictates? Why or why not?

Want to extend your family's formation about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Parent Catechist's discretion, if desired:

- ***Parent Preparation Videos/Resources:*** [BISHOP BARRON ON CONSCIENCE & MORALITY](#), [DO I HAVE A GOOD CONSCIENCE?](#), [DECISION MAKING 101](#), [4 HELPFUL RULES FOR DISCERNMENT](#), [WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?](#), [LIVING A VIRTUOUS LIFE IN TODAY'S WORLD](#), [UNDERSTANDING AND LIVING THE VIRTUES](#), *Print Resources:* [UNDERSTANDING CONSCIENCE](#), [FORMING A CATHOLIC CONSCIENCE](#), [DISCERNING BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL](#), [FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP](#)
- ***Lesson Plans/Activities:*** [STEPS TO GOOD CHOICES](#), [HELPING CHILDREN MAKE WISE CHOICES](#), [THE GOLDEN RULE](#), [THE BEATITUDES](#), [VIRTUES](#), [TEACHING THE BEATITUDES](#), [GOD HELPS US MAKE WISE CHOICES](#), [PRESCHOOL LESSON ON CHOICES](#), [NOT TO JUDGE](#), [CATHOLIC TOOLBOX GOOD SAMARITAN](#), [MAKING GOOD CHOICES](#), [BIBLICAL DECISION-MAKING](#)
- ***Videos:*** [GODLY WISDOM](#) (4:40), [THINK BEFORE YOU JUMP: MAKING GOOD CHOICES](#) (3:02), [PEER PRESSURE: MAKING WISE CHOICES](#) (3:17), [THE CHOICE IS YOURS](#) (4:19), [THE VIRTUES FOR KIDS](#) (2:15), [FORMATION OF CONSCIENCE](#) (older kids 6:53), [WHAT IS A CONSCIENCE?](#) (3:25), [WHAT ARE SINS?](#) (5:16), [WHAT ARE VIRTUES?](#) (older kids), [SESAME STREET: EMPATHY](#) (2:28), [CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE](#) (3:04), [THE GOLDEN RULE SONG FOR CATHOLIC KIDS](#) (1:39), [HANDCRAFTED BY GOD](#) (5:19), [GOD'S STORY: THE GOOD SAMARITAN](#) (3:50), [THE GOOD SAMARITAN](#) (3:08), [THE GOOD SAMARITAN](#)

