

# We Make Mistakes

## Lesson Plan Overview

**Opening:** "All-Holy Trinity"

**Introduction:** Introduce concepts of "by accident" and "on purpose." **Need:** a book

**Read Text Aloud:** Ask questions noted on following pages as text is being read

### Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

•*Basic 1:* I Know Right From Wrong

•*Basic 2:* "Asking Forgiveness"

•*Group:* "What if..." Interactive Story Circle

•*Craft:* "I'm Sorry" Card

**Closing:** "All-Holy Trinity"

### Come Bless the Lord Icon:

Packet I: The Holy Trinity

Packet II:

### Teaching Pics

**Objective:** The students will be able to distinguish between "on purpose" and "by accident" and will be able to understand sin as hurting others "on purpose."

### For the Catechist

The students are aware of right and wrong from their own experiences of having others not share with them, take their toys, hit or otherwise hurt them. Whereas young children may be quick to yell about being hurt, they may not see the wrong in their own actions and quickly rationalize why they should be the one to play with a certain item at the moment. The six-year-old does not have a fully developed sense of moral responsibility, much less the sense of guilt.

**By accident and on purpose.** The distinction in these concepts has been presented in the kindergarten curriculum and is reinforced here. Although one is sorry in both instances, before the determination of sin can be made, one has to know that something was done on purpose. The concept of sin is only briefly introduced in this lesson. It will be dealt with more completely in the following year.

**In another's shoes.** The aim of these lessons is to help children develop the foundation for moral judgments. First, children must be able to put themselves in the place of another. Lesson fourteen asks the children to do just that by discussing everyday situations from their own lives. From the understanding of being hurt comes the realization that doing hurtful things is undesirable.

**He did it first.** Young children feel justified in striking back. The children need to see that although they perceive themselves as victims, it is still not acceptable to retaliate. Their feelings of anger need to be channeled into words: "You took my toy and that's not fair; I won't play with someone who doesn't play fair."

Since sin and forgiveness go together, the lesson cannot end with the discussion of only sin. This lesson briefly addresses forgiveness, the concept which will be further explored in the next lesson.

## ***Background Reading***

*(Direct quotations from the sources noted)*

### **When We Sin, We Go against God's Plan**

"God is the Giver of Life, as we sing in the Creed and at the evening hymn of Vespers each day. He is the model of our nature. Each of us—and everything in us—is oriented toward Him. Cut off from Him, we have no life. A flower uprooted from the soil looks beautiful for a while, but is in fact dying or dead, for it has been cut off from the very source that gives it life. A person on a respirator is 'alive'—but is this 'life'? Adam tried to find life on his own, to 'do his own thing,' to make his own meaning, to 'become god' his own way. He made himself the criterion and measurement of all reality. He was frustrated because this is impossible. He was out of step with creation and reality, frustrated because this is impossible. He was out of step with creation and reality, disjointed and out of focus. Because of the Fall, we no longer reflect God's image easily as we were meant to do. This is the condition in which we are born as children of Adam's race. Something is wrong. What we are, remains. We are still the image of God; and for that reason every human life is important and precious from the very first moment of conception. But the process of growth in the likeness has been put on hold. We still resemble our Father, but we are not like Him. As the hymns of the Byzantine funeral service say:

“O Lord, who with Your own hand have fashioned me from nothingness and adorned me with Your divine image; and who, when I transgressed Your commandment, did cast me down into the dust whereof I had been made: deign, O Lord, to restore me to Your likeness that my original beauty may be renewed in me.

I am the image of Your ineffable glory, even though I bear the wounds of sins. Look with compassion on Your creature, O Lord, and purify me in Your mercy..”

*(LLIII 10-11).*

### **We Need to Restore the Likeness**

"The cosmos is waiting for us to be what we are supposed to be. Until that happens, everything is out of kilter and will stay that way, until we are back to where we belong. It is like the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:1 -32): the boy was only himself when he was back in a right relationship with his father.... The only thing to be done is to restore the likeness we are supposed to have with God" *(LLIII 12).*

### **We Are Defined by Our Relationships**

"One glaring example of this broken-ness and distortion of humanity is the thrust in our present-day society toward individualism, the mother of a host of evils... We are told we must be ourselves, find ourselves, develop ourselves, assert ourselves, promote ourselves—while Christ in the Gospel insists that we must deny ourselves and become servants.

"The Christian vision affirms that relationship, not individuality, is characteristic of the image of God. In the Trinity, there are not three individuals, but three persons, known by their relationships. We are made in that image. We are not meant to be individuals so much as to be persons, and there is a big difference. Individuality separates: we define ourselves in terms of what makes us different and separates us, leading to a disharmony. Persons are known by their relationship to one another. So when we want to know who we are, we should not look to what separates us from others, but what brings us together, because we are in the image of the God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" *(LLIII 12-13).*

# The Lesson Plan

## Opening

*Last week we learned our prayer for this unit. It is a prayer to the Holy Trinity. In this prayer we learn to ask forgiveness when we hurt someone or sin. [Pass out index cards to 5 students. Review words.] I will say the prayer now; and when I point to you, read the words on your index cards. [Say the words slowly to let the children participate.] Let's go to the icon corner now and pray to the Trinity. Let's get ready to pray. [Make the sign of the cross, and pray slowly to let the children participate.]*

## Introduction

*Our lessons now are about learning to love and forgive. Jesus taught us that those two words go together. Now I'm going to tell you a story that has two parts. I want you to tell me the difference between the two.*

*One day Michael was playing near the bookshelf in the playroom where his sister Emily was sitting reading a book. "Vrrooooo!" went the airplane [Do motion of boy playing with plane.] Michael said "Vrrooooo" as he ran with his plane near Emily. Then, SMACK, [Raise a book and drop in on the table.] his hand hits a book that came down on Emily's head. "Owww!" said Emily, "you hurt me!" "I didn't mean to!!" Michael replied. Emily sat and rubbed her head for a few minutes.*

*[Place book behind your back.] Later, and this is the second part of the story, Michael was playing in the corner. He didn't see Emily sneak up behind him. [Take book out and slam it on the table.] SMACK! Emily hit Michael with the book. "That's for hitting me earlier," she said as she walked off.*

*Now let's talk about the two parts of the story. In both parts someone got hit with a book. Is there any difference in what happened? [Allow responses.] (Michael hit Emily by accident, and Emily hit Michael on purpose.) There is a difference between "by accident" and "on purpose," isn't there? That is what we are going to learn about today.*

## We Make Mistakes

God created people to love.

God loves everyone.

God wants people to be good to each other.



God wants us to honor our parents.

When we don't honor them, we have not followed God's way.

We have hurt our parents.

## Reading of Text

*As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type). See "Reading of Text" in Lesson 1 for use of the Vocabulary Visual Aid.*

### **We have hurt our parents**

*Have you ever hurt your parents by not obeying, or loving or respecting them? [Allow responses.]*

*How do you think the child disobeyed the mother in the photograph? (She didn't clean up when she was asked.)*

### **When we hit them, it hurts.**

*[Allow responses.] Have you ever been hit by your brother or sister or cousin? How do you feel? What do you feel like doing? Have you ever hit a brother, sister or cousin? Is this God's way? (No)*

### **We have not followed God's way.**

*Have you ever been hurt when someone did not share with you? [Allow sharing of several stories.] Have you ever not shared? [Allow response.]*

### **We say "I'm sorry."**

*What does it mean to hurt someone "by accident"? (To hurt someone without meaning to) What do you say if you've hurt someone by accident? (I'm sorry.) What does it mean to hurt someone on purpose? (When you mean to hurt someone.)*

### **This is a sin.**

*We sin when we hurt others on purpose. When we hurt others on purpose, we go against God's plan.*

God wants us to love our brothers and sisters and friends.

When a brother or sister hits us, it hurts.  
When we hit them, it hurts.



When a friend does not share, we feel hurt.

When we do not share, we hurt our friend.

We have not followed God's way.

Sometimes we hurt others by accident.  
We feel bad. We say "I'm sorry."

Sometimes we hurt others on purpose.  
This is a mistake.  
This is wrong.  
This is a sin.

## We ask God to Forgive Us.

Let's review three things we can do when we sin: 1) ask forgiveness, 2) try to make things better, 3) try not to make a mistake again. Can you tell me about how you've done any of these? [Allow stories and compliment children.] Here's an important question. Why will God forgive us? (God forgives us because He loves us.)

**Let's review:** Today's lesson was very important. We learned about making mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes. We need to know how to deal with the mistakes we make. Let's see what we learned. Who can give me an example of when you hurt someone by accident? Who can give an example of hurting someone on purpose? What do you say afterwards in both cases? (I'm sorry.)

What do we do when we sin?  
We ask forgiveness.  
We try to make things better.  
We try not to make a mistake again.  
We ask God to forgive us



God does not want people to hurt one another.  
God wants us to love each other.

## Activity Tracks

**Basic 1:** I Know Right From Wrong  
[This worksheet is in the student text.]

Today's lesson was very important. Do you think you know what is right and what is wrong? Let's complete this worksheet, and then we'll talk about it. [Complete worksheet. Discuss why child is doing wrong in each instance in Part B: grabbing crayons, leaving someone out of the group, hitting.]

### I Know Right From Wrong

A. Draw a line to the picture that matches the word.

1. hurt

2. by accident

3. on purpose



B. Mark an "X" through the pictures where a child is doing wrong.



## Basic 2: Asking Forgiveness

Today we learned that we make mistakes. God doesn't want us to hurt others; but if we do, we ask forgiveness. Let's see if you can complete this worksheet. You can turn back to your lesson for help in finding the answers. [If necessary, write the words "sorry" and "forgive" on the board or on index cards for the middle of the table.]

**Group:** "What if..." Interactive Story Circle

**Materials:** "What if..." worksheet

Today we learned that God never stops loving us even when we've hurt other people. For our activity today, let's do a story circle. On these papers are pictures and ways in which we hurt others. One paper will go to two students. When it's your turn, each team will stand in the middle of the circle and say, "What if..." and then pantomime and say what's on the paper. I'll give the response to what you say. [You may want to read the paper to the two students as you pass them out. The story attempts in a humorous way to get across the concept that God never stops loving us.]

**Craft:** "I'm Sorry" Card

**Materials:** One envelope and 3 index cards per student and markers

Today we learned that everyone makes mistakes and that God wants us to say "I'm sorry." Sometimes it's hard. Let's make something that will help us. Let's make 3 index cards that say "I'm sorry. Please forgive me." Then we'll place your name on each. Finally, we'll put them in an envelope for you to take home. If you can't speak these words sometimes, try leaving a card for your mom or dad or brother or sister.

## Asking Forgiveness

A. Fill in the missing letters.

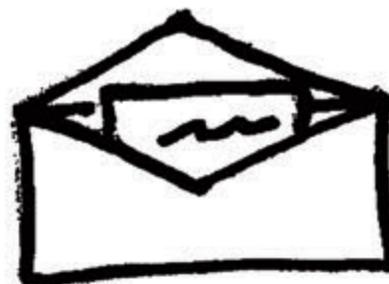
1. We ask forgiveness by saying, "I'm s o r r y."
2. We forgive someone by saying, "I f o r g i v e you."

God wants us to ask forgiveness when we've made a mistake. God wants us to forgive those who ask us.



B. Draw a line to the word or phrase that completes the sentence.

1. God loves \_\_\_\_\_ . sin
2. God does not want us to hurt others on \_\_\_\_\_ . purpose
3. God does not want us to \_\_\_\_\_ . forgive us
4. We ask God to \_\_\_\_\_ . everyone



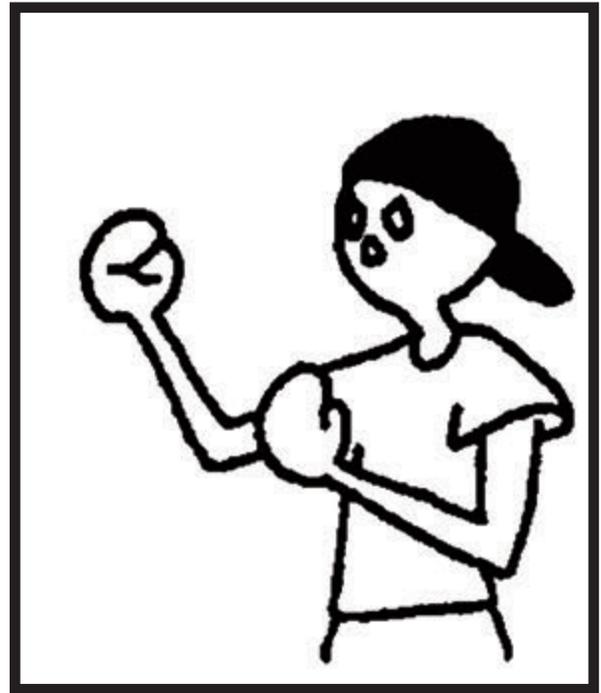
## ***Closing***

*It is hard to learn to love and forgive. That is why God sent His Holy Spirit to help us love and forgive. [Pass out index cards to five students.] Let's review these words. They help us to ask God for forgiveness when we've done wrong.] Let's go to the icon corner now and pray all the words together. Let's get ready to pray. [Make the sign of the cross, and pray slowly to let children participate.]*

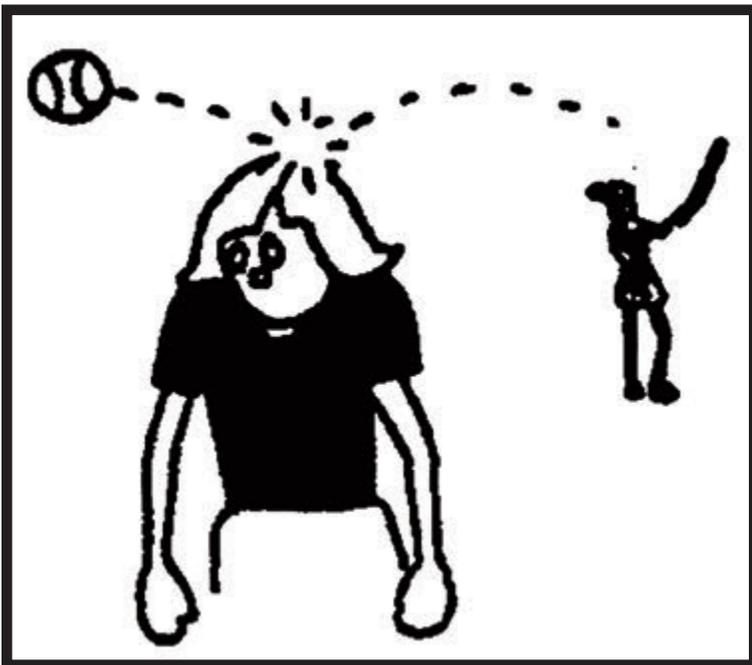
*God bless you, and have a good week!*



**hurt**



**on purpose**



**by accident**

# Asking Forgiveness

A. Fill in the missing words.

1. We ask forgiveness by saying, "I'm \_\_\_\_\_."
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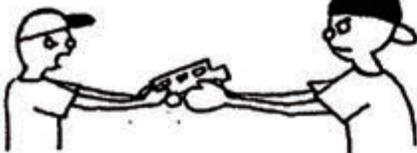
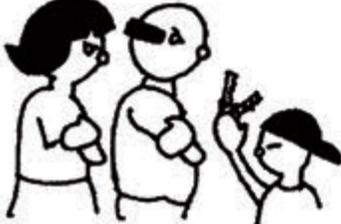
*God wants us to ask forgiveness when we've made a mistake, God wants us to forgive those who ask us.*



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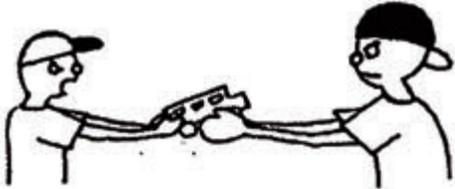
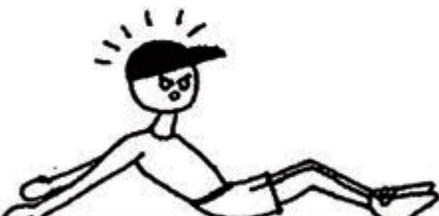
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Copy this page and then cut it apart giving the left papers to the students

	<p><b>1.</b> I grabbed a toy from my baby brother's hands?</p>
	<p><b>2.</b> My friend brought three cookies to school and I went into his lunch bag and ate them.</p>
	<p><b>3.</b> My little sister was running through the yard and I tripped her and she fell down.</p>
	<p><b>4.</b>              I wanted to play a trick on my Dad and I put salt in the sugar bowl and he put salt on his cereal the next morning.</p>
	<p><b>5.</b>              I wanted to pay back my big brother for picking on me so I tied his shoelaces together when he wasn't looking.</p>
	<p><b>6.</b>              On a Sunday morning I hid the car keys under the rug and we were late for church.</p>

**Teacher Responses:**

<p>1. Well, your baby brother would probably try to bite your hand, your mother would discipline you . . . but God would still love you.</p>
<p>2. Well, your friend would probably tell the teacher who would be mad at you, and since you couldn't give them back, the teacher would have you bring three cookies for your friend the next day . . . but God would still love you.</p>
<p>3. Well, your little sister would probably sit on the ground and yell and scream for Mom or Dad, then they would come out and see if she was all right, and they would send you to your room for the rest of the day . . . but God would not stop loving you.</p>
<p>4. Well, your Dad would not be happy. He would say "What in the world?" Then when he found out it was you, he would probably make you put salt on your cereal and eat it . . . but God would not stop loving you.</p>
<p>5. Well, after he fell down and took his shoes off he would come after you. Your Mom would have to stop him before he caught you. She would send you to your room for the day and make you tie all your shoelaces together but . . . God would still love you.</p>
<p>Well, after they found the keys they would make you sit on your hands the whole way to church. and during the liturgy. Afterwards you would have to explain to the priest why you were late. You'd have to spend a week in your room, but . . . God would still love you.</p>

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