

We Follow God's Laws

10

WE GATHER

✝ **Leader:** Let us celebrate the gift of God's laws. God gives us laws because he loves us and wants us to be happy. Listen to these words Jesus said to his disciples.

Reader: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love."

(John 15:9-10)

All: Jesus, thank you for loving us. May our love for you and others grow stronger everyday.

☀ There are choices that you make each day. Talk about one choice that you made today.






WE BELIEVE

Jesus wants us to follow the commandments.

Jesus made choices all during his life on earth. He chose to love everyone. Jesus chose to help people even when he felt tired. He chose to spend time with people, both the poor and the rich. Jesus made these choices even when others did not agree with him.

Jesus wants us to follow his example of caring for everyone. He wants us to follow the commandments. Jesus knows that it is not always easy for us to choose to love God and others. That is why he sent the Holy Spirit to help us.

 Circle all the words that complete the sentence.

We choose to love God and others when we are _____.

fair

selfish

kind

helpful

Key Word

free will God's gift to us that allows us to make choices


God gives each person free will.

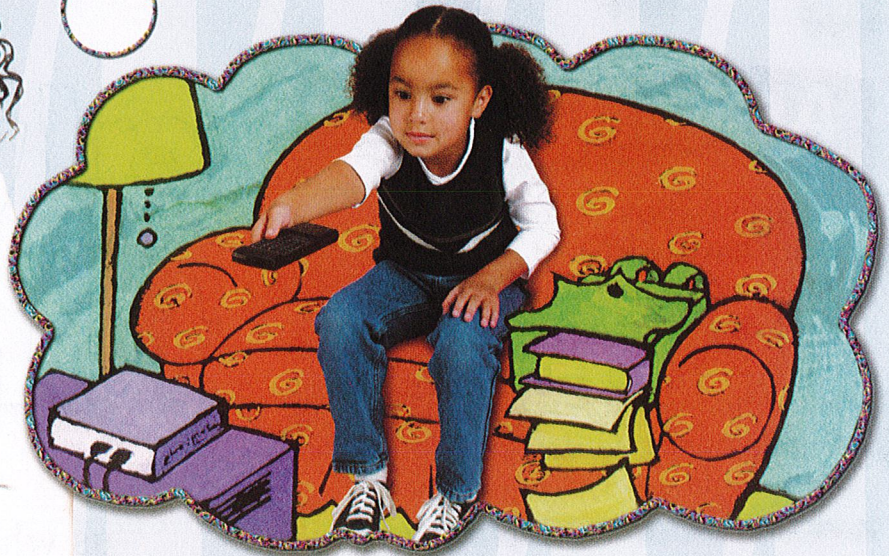
God never forces us to love and obey him. God lets us choose to love him and others. He lets us choose between following the commandments and not following them. God's gift to us that allows us to make choices is **free will**.

When we freely choose to do something, we are responsible for what we do. We are responsible for what happens because of our choices.

You can make good choices when you take time to think before you act. You can ask yourself these two questions:

- If I do this, will I show love for God, myself, and others?
- What would Jesus want me to do?

 How can you know what Jesus would want you to do?



Friendship with God is hurt by sin.

Commit is another word for “do.” **Sin** is any thought, word, or act that we freely choose to commit even though we know that it is wrong. We cannot commit sin by accident.

Some sins are very serious. These sins are **mortal sins**. People who commit these sins break their friendship with God. They do not share in God’s grace, his life in them.

Venial sins are less serious than mortal sins. People who commit these sins hurt their friendship with God. But they still share in God’s grace.

When we commit sin we hurt ourselves and others, too. But it is important to always remember the message on the poster.



Color the words on the poster.

God never stops loving us.

God will

always
forgive

us when we are sorry.

As Catholics...

A person who chose to follow God’s laws was Saint Philip Neri. Philip was a priest in Rome. He helped the sick and the poor. Philip told many people that Jesus loved and cared for them. He helped people understand that God would always forgive them.

Jesus taught us about God's forgiveness.

Jesus told stories to teach about God's love and forgiveness. He taught that God always loves us and is ready to forgive us. Another word for God's love and forgiveness is **mercy**.

Here is a story about God's mercy.



Luke 15:11-24

There was a loving father who had two sons. One day the younger son asked his father for his share of the family's money. The son took his money and left home. The young man spent his money on new friends. Soon all his money was gone. The young man began to think about the choices he had made. He remembered his father's love.

The young man was on the road home when his father saw him. The father ran to welcome him back. The young man told his father he was sorry. The father forgave his son and prepared to celebrate his son's return. "Then the celebration began." (Luke 15:24)

The father in this story showed mercy to his son. God the Father shows each of us his mercy. He will always forgive us when we are sorry.

WE RESPOND

How do you feel knowing that God is always ready to forgive you?

Pray together, "Have mercy on me, LORD." (Psalm 10:14)

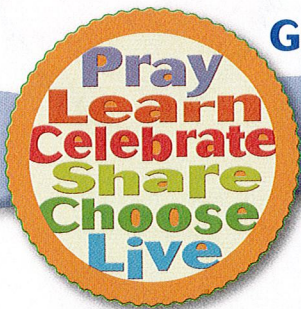
Key Words

sin a thought, word, or act that we freely choose to commit even though we know that it is wrong

mortal sins sins that break our friendship with God

venial sins sins that hurt our friendship with God

mercy God's love and forgiveness



PROJECT

Show What *you* Know

Finish the prayer using **Key Words** from the box.

mortal sins

venial sins

God, thank you for giving me the gift of free will. With it, I will make responsible choices. I will try not to sin.

I never want to commit _____ which break my friendship with you.

I never want to commit _____ which hurt my friendship with you.

Thank you for your mercy. Amen.

"I can push to the front of the line."



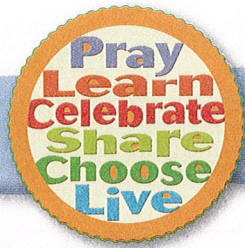
"I can wait until it's my turn."



What Would *you* do?

Ryan wants to go down the slide, but there is a long line of children in front of him. Circle the choice you think Ryan should make.

DISCIPLINE



Make it Happen

In the chart below, write choices you can make this week to show love for God, yourself, and others.

At home, I can choose to	
At school, I can choose to	
In my neighborhood, I can choose to	
In my parish, I can choose to	



Take Home

One important decision we make in life is choosing our friends. Good friends want the best for one another. When you choose a person to be your friend, you may want to think about these questions.

- How do I act when I am with this person?
- What kind of choices do I make when I am with this person?
- Does this person want the best for me?

Survey your family members. Ask them what they look for in a friend. Together, add another question to think about when choosing friends.

Now, pass it on!

CHAPTER TEST

Write *always* or *never* to complete the sentences.

1. God _____ forces us to love and obey him.
2. God _____ stops loving us.
3. God _____ forgives us if we are sorry.

Draw a line to match the sentence parts.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 4. Mercy ● | ● is God's gift that allows us to make choices. |
| 5. Mortal sins ● | ● hurt our friendship with God. |
| 6. Venial sins ● | ● break our friendship with God. |
| 7. Free will ● | ● is another word for God's forgiveness. |

Circle the correct answer.

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 8. Can we commit sin by accident? | Yes | No |
| 9. Does Jesus want us to follow the commandments? | Yes | No |

10. Write one thing we can learn in Jesus' story about the forgiving father.