

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter examines mortal and venial sin and explains the need for an informed conscience and the effects of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Scripture



Read **Matthew 18:21–22** to find out what Jesus has to say about forgiveness.

Catholics Believe

- Your conscience helps you know when you have sinned.
- Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives sins and restores us to his friendship.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1440–1445, 1777–1782, 1849–1850 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week your child learned about Saint Margaret of Cortona, a reformed sinner, who was known for her work with the poor and for loving her dog.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Sin and Forgiveness Most children this age are ready to grow when it comes to taking personal responsibility for their behavior and being accountable to others. One factor that can motivate them is their desire for new freedom and independence. It's important for your child to know that increased freedom will come naturally as he or she shows greater responsibility. Your child's ability to recognize when he or she has wronged someone and to both ask for and receive forgiveness is an important part of this process of maturity.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How important is it to deal with something small before it turns into something bigger?

We understand what that means when it comes to our house or car maintenance. Yet, how often do we apply that understanding to sin? When we give in to temptation and choose to sin it can be the beginning of a pattern that leads us to even more grave sin. As Catholics, we know that “sins are rightly evaluated according to their gravity. The distinction between mortal and venial sin, already evident in Scripture (cf. 1 John 5:16–17), became part of the tradition of the Church. It is corroborated by human experience” (CCC, 1854).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain what Jesus taught about sin and forgiveness.
- Share a time when you struggled to rely on your conscience as your guide but in the end did so.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Margaret, help us always to be willing to confess our sins and ask for God's forgiveness. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.