

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains making good choices, the difference between a sin, a mistake, or an accident, and God's willingness to forgive our sin.

God's Word



Read **Mark 14:69–72** to see how Peter denied knowing Jesus after his arrest.

Catholics Believe

- Conscience is the ability given to us by God that helps us make choices about right and wrong.
- Sin is a free choice to do what you know is wrong.

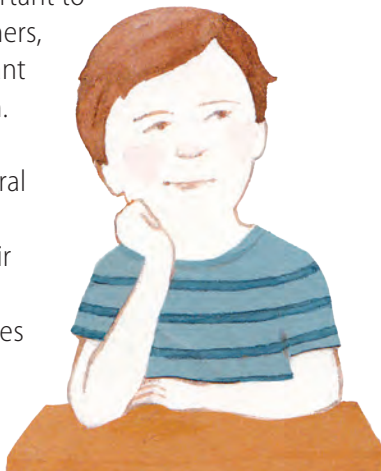
To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1778, 1783–1784 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower. She once said she wanted to take an elevator directly to God.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Making Good Choices Children need and want limits and guidance. They get a sense of security from structure. But in a society that is increasingly unwilling to make value judgments, children can sometimes be at a loss to know right from wrong. Knowing the rules and understanding how things work are very important to children this age. Parents, teachers, and catechists serve as important mentors and examples to them. Don't hesitate to tell your child how you feel about various moral issues and choices he or she may face. Children listen to their parents about these things and often internalize a parent's values even when we don't realize it.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Can you recall a time you received undeserved forgiveness?

That experience leaves us feeling both humbled and grateful. Perhaps that is why we so identify with the people in the Scriptures who experience God's forgiveness. "When Peter asked the number of times a person should forgive, Jesus told him that there should be no limit to forgiving. Jesus forgave Peter his triple denial, showed mercy to the woman taken in adultery, forgave the thief on the cross, and continually witnessed the mercy of God...the Sacrament of Penance is God's gift to us so that any sin committed after Baptism can be forgiven" (*USCCA, p. 243*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Talk about the difference between a mistake and a sin.
- Ask your child to share a story from the Bible that talks about forgiveness. What did that story teach him?

LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, help us to do all the "little things" in our lives with love, like Saint Thérèse did. Amen.



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