

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MERCIFUL JUDGE

Jesus reminds us that none of us are perfect and all of us sin. The good news is that our God is a merciful judge and wants us to be reconciled to Himself. We must take care, however, not to take advantage of God's mercy as an excuse to sin. Remember His words to the woman caught in adultery: "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." Sunday's readings can be found [here](#).

PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

We are all sinners.

Sin is a failure of love towards God and neighbor that comes about when we are too attached to certain things, or to ourselves.

Scripture Resources: [1 John 1:8-10](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 827](#), [CCC 1849-1851](#)

God is a merciful judge.

God does not seek our destruction, but rather our redemption. There is no sin that God will not forgive if we are truly repentant. His mercy knows no bounds.

Scripture Resources: [Psalm 51:1-10](#), [John 8:1-11](#), [Romans 2:1-11](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 681-682](#)

God desires that we turn toward Him and away from sin.

God shows us mercy, but He also asks us to sin no more because He wants our conversion.

Scripture Resources: [John 5:14](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 2838](#), [CCC 1989](#)



PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Look for opportunities throughout the week to ponder with and communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions and explanation for each objective as a guide. The “Younger” and “Older” Children sections are loosely divided by the “age of reason.” You know your child(ren) best (what questions will resonate better with them, if they need a simpler or a more complex version of a particular objective, etc.) so use the section that works best for your family. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren). Remember that our faith is a mystery that we can always ponder, but sometimes we do not always fully understand and that is ok!

01 We are all sinners.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

- How does God want us to treat others? How does God want us to treat Him?
- What do we call it when we do not treat others, or God, the way He wants us to? (sin)
- Can you think of anyone who has not sinned? (Explain that all people sin, with the exception of Jesus and Mary.)

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- What is sin?
- Why is sin bad?
- Who sins? Is there anyone who does not or did not sin? Who? (Mary and Jesus)

“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

John 8:7



02 God is a merciful judge

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

- Has someone you love ever done something that you didn't want them to? Tell me about it.
- Did you forgive that person? If yes, why? If not, do you think you should?
- God forgives us if we ask Him to. Why do you think He is so forgiving?

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- What are some examples of "big" sins. Can God forgive them? (yes)
- Why do you think God is so merciful?
- Do you think it is just for God to show mercy to those who commit sin? Why or why not?

03 God desires that we turn toward Him and away from sin.

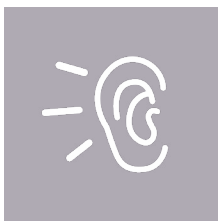
To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

- Imagine you have upset your friend by doing something they did not like. After you apologized, they forgave you. What do you think would happen if you did that same thing again?
- God wants to be your friend. Do you think He will always forgive you? (yes)
- How can we make sure that our friendship with God stays strong?

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

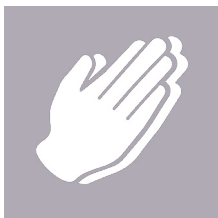
- Why does sin harm our relationship with God?
- We know God will forgive us. Why should we still not sin?
- Are there any effects of sin that God's forgiveness does not take away? What might they be?



LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

Read the passage listed below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[John 8:1-11](#) - A woman caught in sin



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

Pray this adaptation of Pope Francis' **Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy**:

Lord, help me to always do what is right.
Please help me to ask forgiveness when I make mistakes.
Amen.

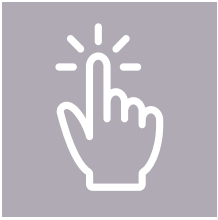
FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

Pray this **Act of Contrition** inspired by the Gospels:

Lord Jesus, you opened the eyes of the blind, healed the sick, forgave the sinful woman, and after Peter's denial confirmed him in your love. Listen to my prayer: forgive all my sins, renew your love in my heart, help me to live in perfect unity with my fellow Christians that I may proclaim your saving power to all the world.

FOR THE FAMILY:

Avoiding sin can sometimes be a battle. The **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel** is specifically about our daily personal battle with sin. This prayer is specifically about our daily personal battle with sin. As a family, say the **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel** (located in the Prayer Guide).

**ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME**

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: God does not want us to judge each other. The virtue of patience helps us to not judge others. Practice patience this week by letting others go first. Take turns being the last person to be served at dinner to let others go first.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN: We all mess up sometimes. When we hurt others, even if it is an accident, it is important to apologize. Wronging someone damages your relationship with that person, and your relationship with God. Think of a person you have wronged. Write them a note to apologize for what you did. A good apology accepts responsibility, admits wrongdoing, expresses remorse for the action, pledges to try to do better in the future, and offers a solution if possible. Deliver your note and try to repair your relationship.

FOR THE FAMILY: Make and perform a skit that shows someone receiving mercy for a sin that they have committed.

