

PRAYER TIME

Would you like us to turn to God and ask him for advice, so that we can live well today, be happy and make others happy?

Leave a moment of silent prayer for the children to ask God for his advice.

CHOOSE AN APPROPRIATE HYMN OR SONG

PRACTICAL ACTIVITY

The joyful melody

The child will draw or cut out from the children's pack the notes of music which will be placed on a music stave drawn on a card.

The child sticks a note on the stave each time he listens to his conscience. Placed in his prayer corner, this stave will remind him of the choices that make him happy.



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Session 6

The Conscience

**DISCOVERING OUR CONSCIENCE
CHOOSING WHAT IS GOOD**

GOD THE FATHER, you are the creator of the universe, <i>You reveal yourself: you love. You want to share your life and your love.</i> <i>You are the source of all life. You make yourself known through the beauty of your visible handiwork</i> <i>You are All-powerful. You make yourself known through the greatness of your invisible handiwork.</i> <i>You create man to share your life and your happiness.</i>	<i>You show me who I am: a person, made in your image.</i> <i>You invite each person to know and to love you. You invite me to talk with you as a friend.</i> <i>You do not abandon the sinner. You promise a Saviour.</i> <i>You ask me to hope in your grace which is stronger than sin.</i> <i>You want man to be free. You urge me to obey your law of love and truth, which is written in the depths of my conscience.</i>
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I learn to judge with my conscience. I choose what is good, I avoid evil.

THE WORD OF GOD

It was he who created man in the beginning, and he left him in the power of his own inclination. (Si 15:14)

He set his eye upon their hearts to show them the majesty of his works. (Si 17:8)

CCC References

Man's freedom (1730-1748)

The morality of human acts and passions (1749-1775)

The moral conscience (1776-1802)

The moral natural law (1949-1960)

Theme of the Session

God does not abandon the sinner. God's light always shines in his heart. Man is capable of hearing God who speaks to him in the depths of his conscience.

Now, those who would like to can tell us the choice they made for each story.

1st story: Apple or banana: this is neutral, it does not matter.

2nd story:

- If I chose to stay in front of the TV, I may have enjoyed watching the end of the cartoon, but my mum is certainly not very happy.
- If I chose to obey my mum, I am happy because she is pleased. I have helped my mum, and so she is more relaxed and everyone is happy. And as for me, I have grown in my capacity to love others!

3rd story:

- If I have taken my classmate's pen, I may feel satisfied to have it as my own, but little by little, uneasiness will grow in my heart. I feel that what I have done is not right, and I am not really happy! My classmate will be looking for his pen and the atmosphere in the class will be spoiled.
- If I didn't take my classmate's pen, I didn't steal. I have grown in honesty and in love. I am happy!

Did you notice that the choices are not all the same? Some make you very happy, others less happy, and others not happy at all.

How can we make the choice that will always make us happy? Who do we ask to help us never to make the wrong choice?

Listen to the children's answers...guide them by suggesting to them to choose people to help them who are themselves "good, just, and true".

In order to be happy and to make others happy, the most important thing is to ask God for advice.

His light will enlighten our intelligence, it will flood our heart.

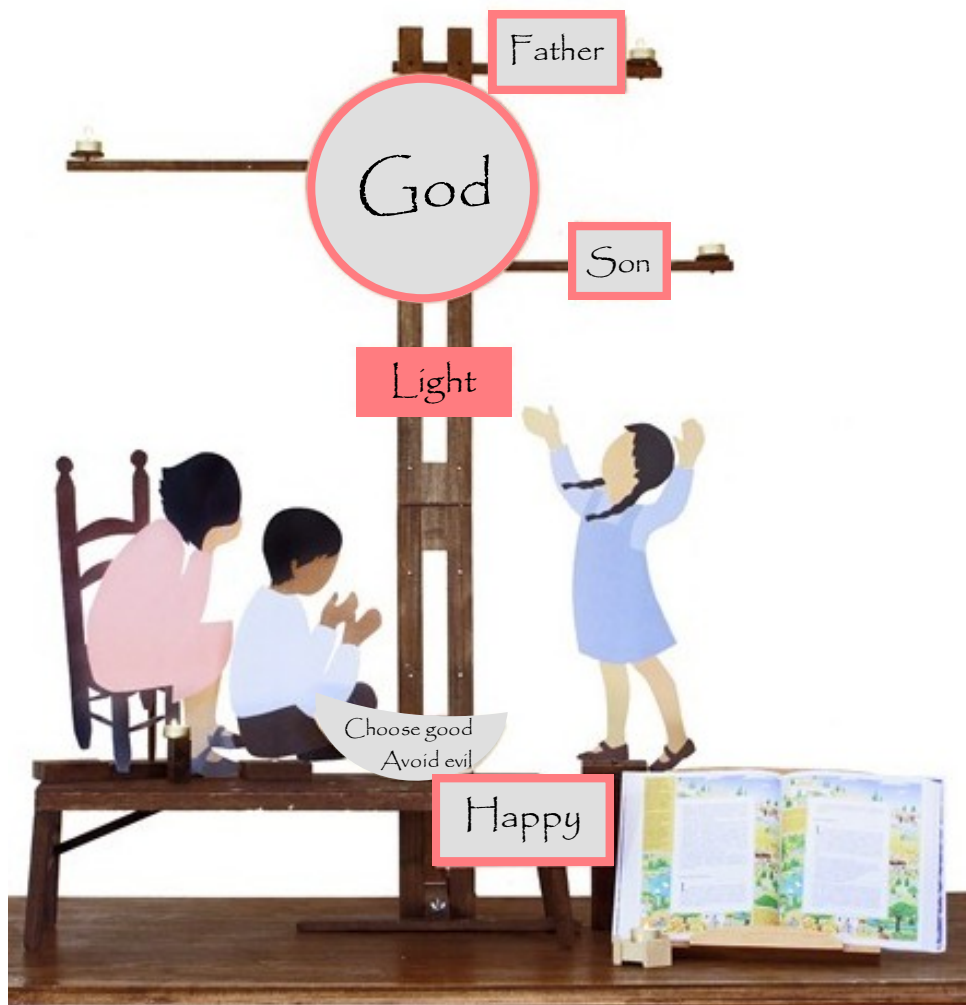
Then we will be able to choose what is right, what is good, what is true...What makes us happy!

What joy there is in knowing that God lives in us, and that his light always shines in the depths of our conscience!

What did we do after listening to each one of these stories?

- We stopped and, in silence, we thought about the story with our minds.
- We judged what seemed to be very good, good, less good, evil or neutral
- We chose a solution
- Then, we can do what we have decided

Each one has worked it out with his conscience.



I discover my conscience in the depths of my being. There, in secrecy and silence, I can hear God and I can listen to him who speaks to me. He wants me to choose what is good and to avoid evil. When I obey him, I am happy and I bring joy to others.

RECALLING THE LAST SESSION

Man as a creature of God, lives in the friendship and in the light of God. Deceived by the devil, he cuts himself off from God, he loses his trust in God and he disobeys Him. Turning his back on God, man loses his way. Now he must struggle to hold on to the good. Yet God does not abandon the sinner and promises to send him a Saviour: his Son Jesus.

THE SESSION

Has the light of God completely disappeared from the heart of man after he has sinned?

Let the children seek an answer

Let us prepare our hearts. Let us listen to the Word of God.

Moment of silent prayer

He set his eye upon their hearts to show them the majesty of his works.

The light of God still shines, but it is difficult for man to see it. Because of his sin, man has let darkness enter into him and it prevents him from being completely enlightened by this inner light. Yet the light of God still shines, and it can be found in the depths of the heart of each man. ***This light is what we call the conscience.*** In the secret of my conscience, I can always be with God, and in the silence I can always listen to what he whispers to me.



*“Love as I love,
choose what is good,
avoid what is evil”*

Each person can find the light of God in his or her conscience and can judge if:

- what he or she will do is good or evil,
- what he or she does is good or evil,
- what he or she has done is good or evil.

But it is not always easy to judge what is right and good, and to know that we are choosing what God really wants. We have to learn how to do this ... And this is what we are going to do. We are going to think about this together, and we are going to find this light in us. I am going to tell you three stories. In each story a choice has to be made. Each one of you will listen very carefully, think about it in silence, and find out what he or she would choose.

First of all, the children’s attention is drawn to the essential work of the conscience: judgement. This is why for the time being, the catechist does not ask the children to tell out loud what they have chosen. The catechist will simply help the children become aware of what they are doing: the act of judging. This refers back to Session 3, where the children became aware of the act of “thinking”. After reading each story, give the children time to reflect before asking questions.

1st story: Mum asks me: “Can you take some fruit to granny who is ill?” In the basket on the table there are beautiful apples and beautiful bananas. Mum says: “Help yourself”. Which fruit will you choose?

Moment of silence

2nd story: I received a DVD of my favourite cartoon for my birthday. I am watching it... Mum calls me and says: “I am very busy, could you help me set the table for dinner?” What will you choose to do?

Moment of silence

3rd story: I really like my classmate’s pen... He has left it on his desk. I could take it without anyone seeing me. What will you choose to do?

Moment of silence