

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY
Chapter 6	A Sad Story
Lesson 3	Grace is Lost

AIMS

1. Children will be able to understand the consequences of losing grace - minds are darkened and wills are weakened.
2. They will be able to explain why Adam and Eve would not be able to go to Heaven.
3. They will understand why the descendants of Adam and Eve are born with Original Sin.
4. They will understand that sin offends God and a person must express sorrow for his sin.

STEP 1

1. Review with the children the gifts lost by the first sin (the Special Paragraphs) in the children's packs.
2. Emphasise that the last consequent of their sin (not being able to go to heaven) was the very worst thing to happen. This is because they lost God's gift of grace, God's life in their souls. This was the very best gift that God had given them, and they had lost it.

STEP 2

1. Ask the children if they can remember what two special powers their souls have. (a mind that can know and a will that can choose).
2. Remind them that God gave Adam and Eve a mission: to know, to love and to serve Him in this world.
3. They were supposed to use their minds to know Him and their wills to love and serve Him.
4. God gave them grace, His own life in their souls, to make it easy to accomplish this mission.

STEP 3

1. Reread the Special Paragraph 2 with the children.
2. Explain that because Adam and Eve lost the gift of grace, everyone is born without this grace. Everyone is born with the sin of Adam and Eve on his soul. This is called "Original Sin".

STEP 4

Explain how Adam and Eve's sin came to be passed down to all men. This is because everyone inherits it from Adam, just like we inherit things from our mothers and fathers. Encourage the children to think of examples. Explain that it is like that with our first parents. They have passed onto their children Original Sin.

STEP 5

1. Explain that baptism washes away Original Sin and fills a soul with grace, just as God intended in the beginning.
2. However, we still have a dark mind and a will that sometimes wants to do bad things. And sometimes, we do commit sin and sadly we do still say “no” to God.

STEP 6

1. Explain that when we sin we hurt God very badly.
2. Show the children a crucifix and explain that Jesus died on the Cross because of man’s sins.
3. Explain that when we sin, Jesus feels as if we have put another nail in His Crown of Thorns, and it hurts Him very much.
4. Explain that the sinner cuts himself off from God. He loses grace. If we sin very very badly we can lose all the grace in our soul.

STEP 7

Set the children colouring the baptismal picture in their books, but first read together the introductory paragraph to the picture.

STEP 8

Split the children into two teams and play noughts and crosses with them. Make one team the noughts and the other crosses and then ask them questions from this chapters and let them put “0” or “X” on the grid when they get the answer right.

STEP 9

Take a few minutes to study and learn Question 19 with the class and then let the children test one another on Questions 16-19.

Encourage the children to make up a prayer expressing sorrow for sin and let them read them out.

End the class with the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, and the Prayer to Their Guardian Angel.

Sing “On this day, the first of days,” *Adoremus Hymnal*, #610

PREVIEW

Although Adam and Eve sinned and turned away from God, He still loved them. In our next lesson we will learn about the Saviour that God promised who would bring back the gift of grace.