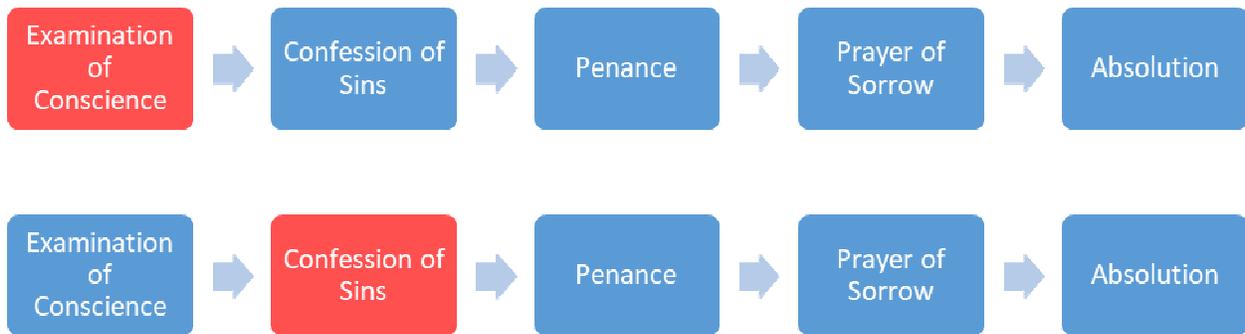


Station #3 What is Sin?



The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us to realize our actions affect more than just ourselves; they affect our families, our friends, our community, and our relationship with God.

In the first step of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we examine our conscience. We think about ways in which we have sinned. A sin is when we choose to turn away from God. Sin is something we do (or don't do) that hurts our relationship with God and others.

When we know we have made bad choices and said "No" to God's ways, we turn back to God and confess our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We tell God we are sorry for our sins and we ask for God's help to do better.

Materials

- Examination of Conscience, Sin Scenarios, Hand Examination of Conscience

Thumbs Down, Thumbs Up Activity

Talk through the Hand Examination of Conscience with your child. Then read each scenario and have your child decide whether it is a sin (something you should confess in the Sacrament of Reconciliation) or a mistake (something you do not have to confess).



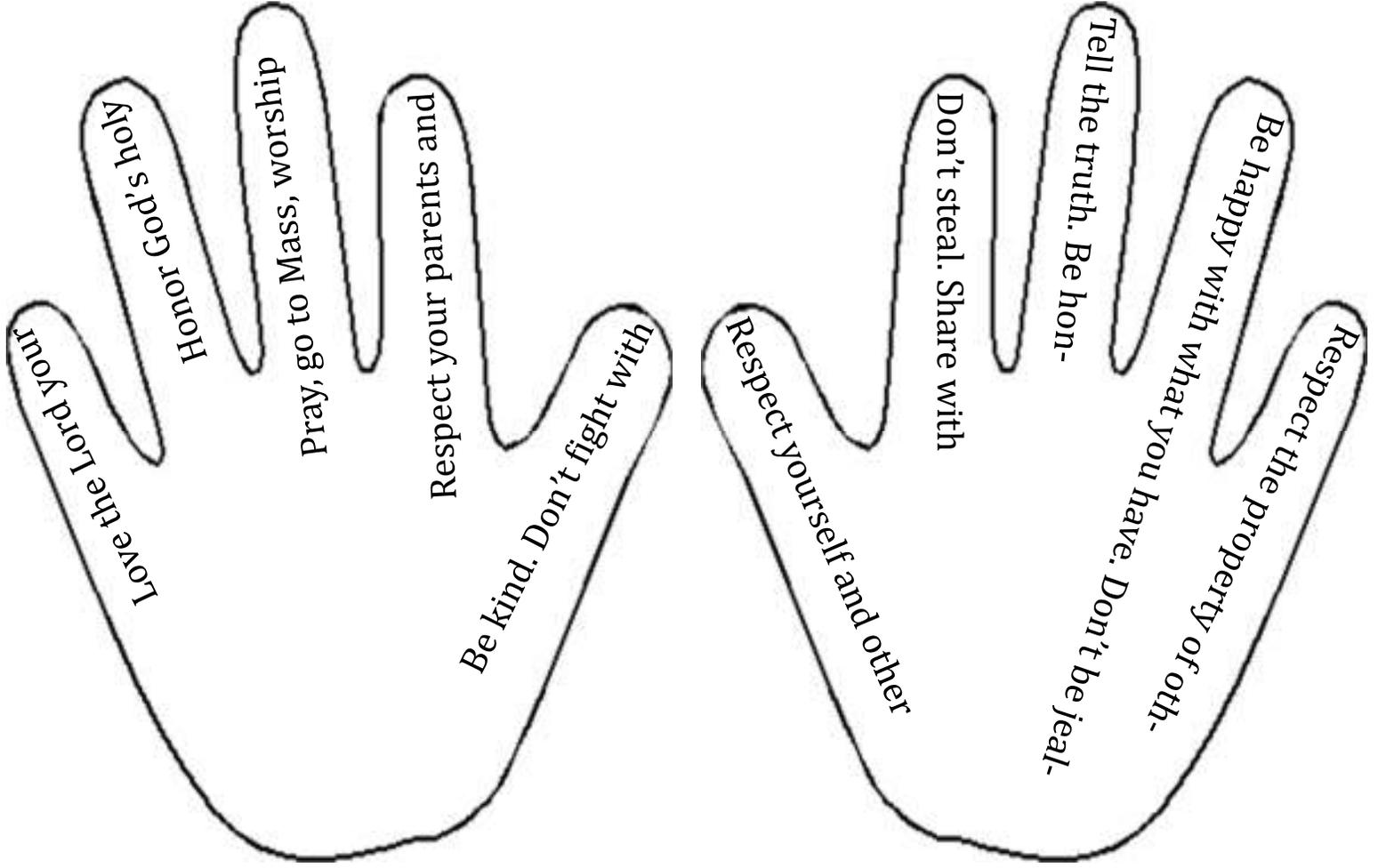
If it is a sin, make a "thumbs down" sign.



If it is a mistake, make a "thumbs up" sign.

Parents, as you go through the scenarios, stop and discuss any that may be similar to something that has happened with your child in the past.

Hand Examination of Conscience



Love the Lord your

Honor God's holy

Pray, go to Mass, worship

Respect your parents and

Be kind. Don't fight with

Respect yourself and other

Don't steal. Share with

Tell the truth. Be hon-

Be happy with what you have. Don't be jeal-

Respect the property of oth-

Sin or Mistake Scenarios

Your dad told you to clean up your toys, but you're having fun. You don't want to stop playing. Besides, the room is messy, and you don't feel like cleaning up.

Your mom made cookies for your brother's class. She tells you not to eat any because she needs all of them for his classmates. But while they were cooling on the counter you spilled your juice and one of the cookies is now soaked with juice.

You are with a kid from your neighborhood who is younger than you are. He has a new toy you want to show him how to use, but he doesn't want to share with you. You take it away from him to show him the neat tricks it does and he starts to cry.

As you walk into the house after school, you hear the phone ringing. You run through the living room to the kitchen where you barely answered the phone in time. On your way back to the front door to get your backpack, you realize that when you were running to answer the phone you bumped the table with your mom's favorite lamp and the lamp fell off and broke. You know your mom is going to be really disappointed.

Mom and Dad have been asking you to do stuff all day and you are tired of it. You yell, "I don't want to!" and "Leave me alone!"

Your mom wakes you up to go to Mass on Sunday, but you don't want to get up. You pretend you are sick so you don't have to go.

You have faith formation classes at church tonight but you haven't been feeling well all day and when you got home you threw up. You know you should go to church tonight, but your stomach is still upset and you don't think you are going to go.

You're with friends when they start teasing an unpopular kid, taking his things and calling him names. You stand there and laugh with the others.

You're in the middle of an intense video game. Just a few more points and you'll beat your high score! You hear Dad say it's time to turn off the game. The game's loud, so it you pretend you didn't hear him.

Some of your friends have started using bad language because it makes them feel cool. Each day you hear words you know are wrong to use. Your friends even use the names of God and Jesus as if they were bad words. You don't want your friends to think you aren't cool, so you do it too.

You are walking down the hallway at school and two other kids start fighting. You happen to be close to the fight and are knocked down by one of the kids fighting. Now you are in the principal's office and your parents have been called.

You're playing hide and seek with two of your friends, Sara and Isabel. It's Sara's turn to be it, and you have found the best hiding spot. Isabel decides she is going to hide with you. Sara is looking for you for what seems like a long time and when she finds you she is crying. She is sure that you are trying to exclude her and don't want to be friends with her anymore.

There's a new kid at school who hardly talks and seems to look at the ground a lot. The other kids make fun of him because he seems different than them. You know this child needs a friend, but you are afraid if you become his friend, the other kids might make fun of you too.

Your friend has invited you over for a fun afternoon. Your parents told you to finish your homework first. The assignment isn't hard, but it will take you a while to finish it. You decide to hurry through your homework and skip some of it so you can go play.