

Making Choices – Sometimes We Fail

Sometimes we do not show our love for God, ourselves and others. We choose not to obey God's commandments. We sin. Sin is any thought, word or action that we freely choose to commit even though we know that it is wrong.

Sin is choosing to say no to God and doing what is wrong on purpose. It offends God and hurts others and ourselves. Sin destroys peace. Sometimes we think about doing something that is wrong. This is called temptation. Temptation is not a sin. Mistakes are not sins nor are accidents. We sin on purpose when we choose to do what is wrong.

No one is perfect. We are God's children but sometimes we get lost. When that happens, God doesn't give up on us. In fact, God sent his son, Jesus, to seek and save the lost. Jesus gives us ways to receive God's forgiveness – through Baptism and Reconciliation.

Jesus told a story about a man who had one hundred sheep. One of his sheep strayed away from the flock and became lost. Every one of the man's sheep was important to him so he left the ninety-nine and went to search for the one lost sheep. When he found it, he was so happy that he called all of his friends together and said, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd." He leads us to reconciliation with God and others.

Accident, Mistake, or Sin?

When something happens and we didn't mean it to, that is called an accident.

When we do something that we know God told us not to do, that is called a sin.

When we make a wrong choice or give a wrong answer because we didn't know the right choice or answer, that is called a mistake.

It is important to know the difference between an accident, a mistake, and a sin. Read each of these sentences and decide which answer is correct.

(Check One)

1. Jason was careless and spilled a glass of milk at the breakfast table.

Accident ___ Mistake ___ Sin ___

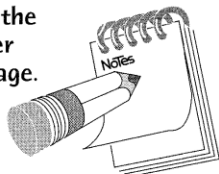
2. Latisha told her mother she had fed the dog, but she had not.

Accident ___ Mistake ___ Sin ___



3. Su Linn wrote down the wrong phone number while taking a message.

Accident ___ Mistake ___ Sin ___



4. Manuel took money from his dad's wallet without asking him.

Accident ___ Mistake ___ Sin ___

5. Samuel kicked his soccer ball too hard and it broke his neighbor's window.

Accident ___ Mistake ___ Sin ___



Prayer:

Father, we are your children and you love each and every one of us. We are thankful that you don't give up on us when we get lost. Amen.