

LIFE IS A GIFT

GRADES 4-6- Lesson II

Goal:

Students will learn what a conscience is and how we can use it to make choices that bless our lives and the lives of others. Our conscience and ability to make free choices is part of what gives us our unique dignity as human beings. They will learn about the role of conscience in making choices. They will learn that they can be leaders by doing good to help their friends make good choices too.

Lesson:

Often in life, we are faced with difficult choices. Should we do the easy thing, even if we know it isn't the best choice? Or should we persevere and do the hard thing? Doing the right thing often requires courage. It might not be the most popular choice. And it might not be what your friends are choosing to do. But, standing up for what is right and what is kind is God's way. And, if we ask Him, He will give us the courage to be able to do it.

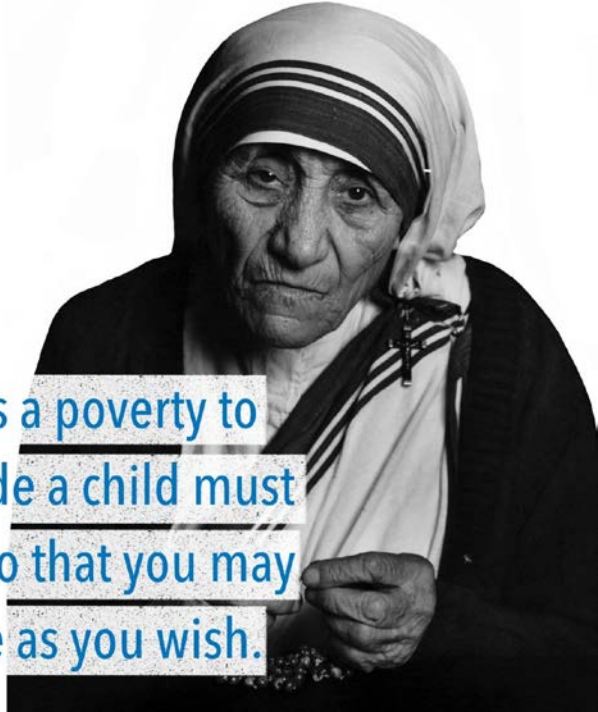
Bible Story:

Popcorn read

Matthew 4:1-11

[The Temptation of Jesus](#)

and then watch [this rendition](#) ([cartoon version](#) if needed)



It is a poverty to
decide a child must
die so that you may
live as you wish.

Discuss:

- What did Satan tempt Jesus with? *A: food, testing God, and power*
- What does Jesus respond with? *A: the word of God*
- This story illustrates the lies that Satan tells and the truth of God's word. Jesus shows how He is more powerful than the temptations of Satan and they can be overcome. Many times, Satan's lies seem like the best choice to make but they are not, can you think of an example of these times? Ex. cheating on homework, eating too many sweets, not doing what your parents or teachers tell you to, etc.
- God wants us to do good and to choose Him so He empowers us to overcome the temptations of Satan. He gives us a conscience to guide our decision-making. What is conscience?
- Conscience is the inner voice that tells us what is right and wrong. Usually, when you're making a choice you can feel your conscience leading you one way but your feelings and emotions might want to go another way. Did you know that your conscience is formed as you get older and learn more about the world?
- Learning more about God and God's Word in the Bible helps our conscience to be more aware of what is right and what is wrong. Satan wants to trick our consciences into thinking that some things are right which are actually wrong. Can you think of any examples of this?

Activity:

- Divide students into groups of ~4 and have them create a skit mirroring the temptation of Jesus. Students will come up with a list of lies that Satan tells in the current day and then how Jesus would respond to them. In the skit, one person will be the liar (Satan) and one student will be an average person (Jesus). The liar will taunt "Jesus" while other students in the group will make fun of them for choosing the right thing to do. Afterward, lead a discussion about how the person (Jesus) felt when they were being taunted and made fun of but why that was still the right choice. Ask the students why they chose the lies and the responses that they did.

Note: This section may be most appropriate for grades 5-6, but use your judgement to determine what your class is mature enough to hear. Chances are kids have already heard about abortion, but the opportunity to introduce the truth to children first before they are influenced by the misinformation in the culture is invaluable.

Activity: Tell the story of Miranda: (*Optional [Video](#) version*). Miranda was still in school when she found out she was pregnant. She was very scared and when she told her boyfriend he suggested they should have an abortion. *Have you ever heard of abortion? An abortion happens when a pregnant woman decides she does not want to give birth, so she goes to see a doctor and has the baby removed from her womb. Sadly, during this procedure, the baby, which is either called an embryo or a fetus, depending on how long the baby has been growing in her womb, is killed. Women who have abortions are often feeling a lot of fear and pressure because of their pregnancy. Having a baby can be scary, especially for someone who isn't married.* Miranda didn't think she would be able to take care of a baby because she and her boyfriend were so young and trying to finish school. She was very tempted to have an abortion because it seemed so much easier than having a baby. She thought it would just make the problem go away. Fortunately, before she made up her mind, she went to visit a pregnancy center and they encouraged her and offered to help her with everything she would need to take care of the baby. They also gave her a sonogram or ultrasound, which uses special sound waves to look inside the womb so that she could see her baby on a screen. When she saw the tiny little embryo jumping and swimming around on the screen, she knew that it would be wrong to let her little baby be killed in an abortion. But, because she wanted her baby to have better opportunities than she could offer as a single mom finishing school, she decided to place her with an adoptive family. When her baby was born, she named her "Hope" and entrusted her to the care of a beautiful couple who were unable to have children of their own. It was hard to go through the pregnancy knowing that she would have to let her baby go after it was born, but Miranda knew her daughter was going to have a good life with her adoptive parents.

Discuss:

- What was Miranda feeling when she found out she was pregnant?

- An unplanned pregnancy can be one of the most terrifying things young girls can experience but because God is the author of life we know that no pregnancy is never truly unplanned. As Christians, we are called to support mothers going through hard times, especially times like pregnancy. Just like Satan tempted Jesus in the desert, Satan tries to tempt these mothers because he knows that they are fearful about the new life that God has given them. Satan wants children to be aborted because each child is loved by God and created in His image. What kind of lies do you think Satan used to tempt Miranda to have an abortion? *(Eg: You aren't strong enough to be a mother. People will judge you. You won't have enough money to take of the baby)*
- What helped Miranda recognize that abortion was not the right thing to do even though it seemed easier? What is something you could say to a scared pregnant mother to show her that Satan is lying to her when he says she isn't strong enough for a baby? How can you support mothers in need?
- When we are scared it is harder to see how God wants us to act because many times Satan's temptations are much easier to choose. When Jesus was tempted by Satan he was offered easy options like turning stone to bread for a meal or bowing to Satan instead of going through the crucifixion. Have you experienced times when the easier option was the wrong choice? What did you do?

Prayer: *In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*

God of Heaven and Earth,

Thank you for giving us the gift of life.

Thank you for giving us a conscience to help us to choose You in tough situations.

Send your Holy Spirit to guide every pregnant woman to make choices

that bring her and her baby closer to You.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.