

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
6	2	3	HOLINESS	Confession	16: God forgives us

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes
(Mod. = Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L	Spatial S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kinaesthetic K <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Musical M	Intra - personal P1	Inter - personal P2	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [copy this:] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

Prayer: O almighty and merciful God, I truly thank thee for the forgiveness of my sins; bless me, O Lord, and help me always, that I may ever do that which is pleasing to thee, and sin no more. Amen.

Starter:

Pray dough confessions. Children will be invited to take a ball of play dough (pray dough) and to think about something you have done in the past week that they realize was wrong and recognize that you need God's forgiveness for that wrong in your life. They will be encouraged to shape the ball of dough into something that represents the thing that you have done wrong.

Learning objectives:

To understand that we come to Jesus for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession and that the grace we have lost is given back to us.
To begin to comprehend that if we confess our sins to God, He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that we need to understand how **God is hurt by the things we do that hurt ourselves and others.** We also need to see what we have done through God's eyes, so that we can be truly sorry when we confess. Confession helps us to recognize our need to depend on God to help us grow in our spiritual development. Confession needs to make a difference to the way we will choose to act in the future. The teacher will explain to children that we are changed when we say how truly sorry we are for what we have done. Confession needs to be freely offered, not forced. Confessions need to be made for the right reasons – loving God, others and ourselves, rather than out of fear of punishment. We need to know that God can forgive any sin, and He longs to set us free from our sin. Teaching about confession needs to be balanced by teaching about the grace and love of God, who freely forgives us each time we confess to Him. When teaching about confession teacher need to bear in mind that as teachers we need to be good role models ourselves: be able to admit to our own mistakes; be able to admit our own sinfulness; be able to model asking for forgiveness; be able to talk about the positive effects of confession in our own lives.

2. Making Good Choices: In Baptism, we begin to live as followers of Jesus. We live as his disciples. As Jesus' disciples, we want to make good choices. The Holy Spirit guides us in making good choices. He is our special helper. Some choices are easy. Other choices are not so easy. Sometimes I have to choose between what's right and what's wrong. This is called making a moral choice. If we are not sure a choice is a good one, what we should do is 1. to stop before I act. 2. to think about the Ten Commandments. 3. to ask help from parents, teacher, a priest. 4. to pray to the Holy Spirit to help us choose.

We are Tempted to Sin: Even when we try to make good choices, sometimes we are tempted. We are tempted to act in ways that hurt ourselves or other people. When we turn away from God's laws, we sin. Sin hurts our friendship with God. Jesus always loves us, even if we sin. Jesus looks into our hearts. He sees that we are good. If we do something wrong and we are sorry, Jesus forgives us. Jesus gives us another chance.

Jesus Forgives Our Sin: Jesus wants to forgive our sins. We come to Jesus for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession. In this sacrament, we confess our sins to a priest. He forgives us in Jesus' name. The grace we have lost is given back to us.

Conscience: Our Inner Voice Conscience is a voice within each of us. It helps us to know what God wants us to do. It helps us know the difference between right and wrong. It helps us know the ways we have sinned. The Holy Spirit helps us to listen to and follow our conscience.

Discussion of Feelings: Lead a discussion about feelings that arise from various scenarios. The teacher will write "When I obey my parents, I feel..." or "When I lie, I feel..." with a circle beside each unfinished statement. Ask your child to draw either a happy or a sad face in the empty circle. Talk about the importance of apologising and correcting mistakes so the sad faces can become happy ones.

3. Patchwork cross: A flat, thick board cross shape, or a cross shape cut from polypropylene sheet, glue sticks, pencils, scissors, different coloured square paper sheets, clear adhesive film – sufficient to cover the entire cross. Invite the children to take a few squares of coloured paper and draw a picture, on one side of a paper sheet, to illustrate a bad choice / sin that they have committed. Invite children to take the papers to the cross and stick them down, onto the cross shape. As different children stick their papers on the cross, it will become covered with a colourful patchwork. Invite children to cover the cross-shape with the clear adhesive film to protect the pattern that has been created. Children will be told that this cross will help us remember that God has covered us with His beautiful blanket of grace and love, so that our sins can never be seen.

Resources:

picture that illustrate the Sacrament of Confession, thick board cross shape, or a cross shape cut from polypropylene sheet, glue sticks, pencils, scissors, different coloured square paper sheets, clear adhesive film

Review:

Sin hurts our friendship with God. We can restore that by asking for his forgiveness. God is merciful and compassionate.

Follow Up:

In the next session, we will learn more about preparing for confession. Ask the children to pray for forgiveness during the week.