

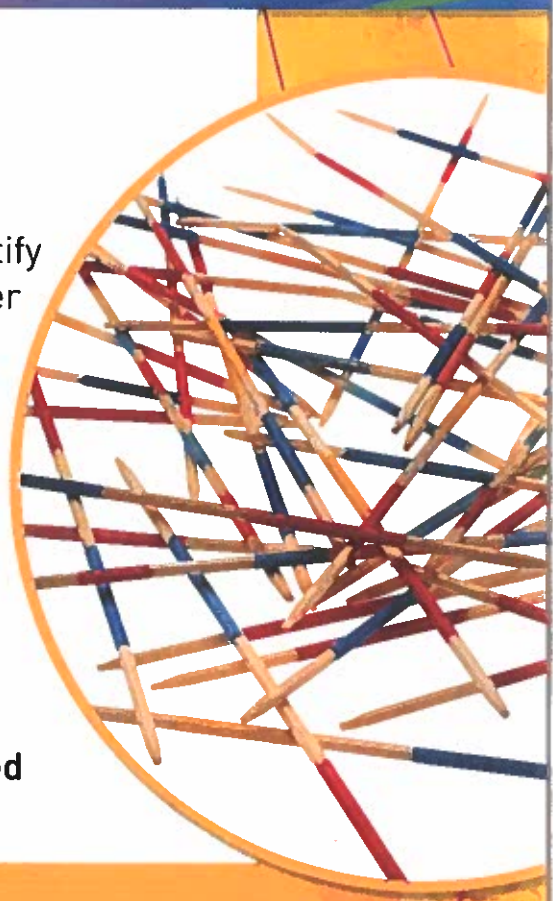
Take Home

Choosing Good

How do we figure out what is good and proper? We work to form a correct conscience to help us identify a right understanding of the good and make the proper choice in the first place. The teaching of the Church, reception of the Sacraments, the guidance of trusted friends, mentors, and spiritual advisors, reading, and prayer can assist us in forming a correct conscience. Your child will learn that conscience is our ability to know right from wrong.

ACTIVITY Pick-Up Sticks

Play pick-up sticks with your child. Discuss how the game is like making moral choices, because you need to choose carefully in order to succeed.



THROUGH THE WEEK

+ **A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK** Lord, thank you for giving us the freedom to choose. Help us to use this gift to make right choices. Help us to be caring like Saint Peter of Saint Joseph Betancur. Amen.

ON SUNDAY

During the Penitential Act of the Mass, reflect on the choices you made during the week. Thank God for his guidance.

ON THE WEB

BlestAreWe.com
RCLBLectioary.com
SaintsResource.com

Saint Peter of Saint Joseph Betancur (1619–1667)

Peter lived as a shepherd in the Canary Islands. At age 31 he went to the New World to serve the people of Guatemala. He took vows as a Third Order Franciscan and opened hospitals, schools, and chapels in Guatemala City.

Patron Saint of: Guatemala

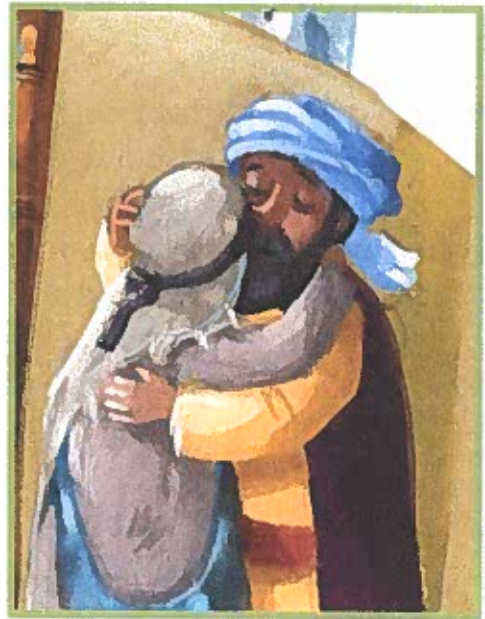
Feast Day: April 18



Take Home

Scripture Background In the Time of Jesus

Inheritance Israelite tradition held that the eldest son would inherit the property and holdings of the father. The primary aim was to preserve the territory within each clan. Further legislation also established the right of the firstborn to inherit twice as much as his brothers. In the parable of the Forgiving Father, the younger son has already taken his share. So when the elder son is told that all that the father has is his, it literally means everything.



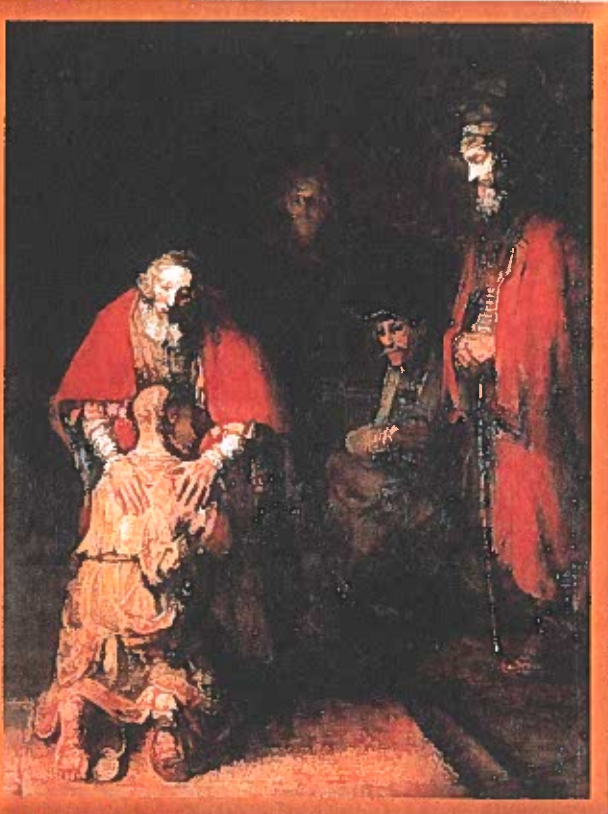
You can read this parable in Luke 15:11–32.

Our Catholic Tradition in Art

Return of the Prodigal Son

The Rembrandt painting *Return of the Prodigal Son* depicts the story Jesus told of the young man who left his family and squandered his fortune. Poor, hungry, and alone, he returned home. As this painting shows, his father welcomed him back as a son, not as a servant.

Henri Nouwen based his book, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, on Rembrandt's painting.



Choosing Good

Chapter 5

Love the Lord, your God, and obey his word.

Based on Deuteronomy 30:20

Share

We make many choices every day. Some choices are easy, but some are hard. Some are right, but others are wrong.

ACTIVITY

Draw a happy face for each good choice below.

Draw a sad face for each poor choice.



1. Tom does not share with his friends.



2. Juanita tells her dad the truth.



3. Wes obeys his mom and turns off the TV.



4. Mary takes a dollar that is not hers.

What helps us to know what is right and wrong?

 **Scripture Verse**

“... “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.””

Luke 15:18

Hear and Believe **Scripture**

 **The Forgiving Father**

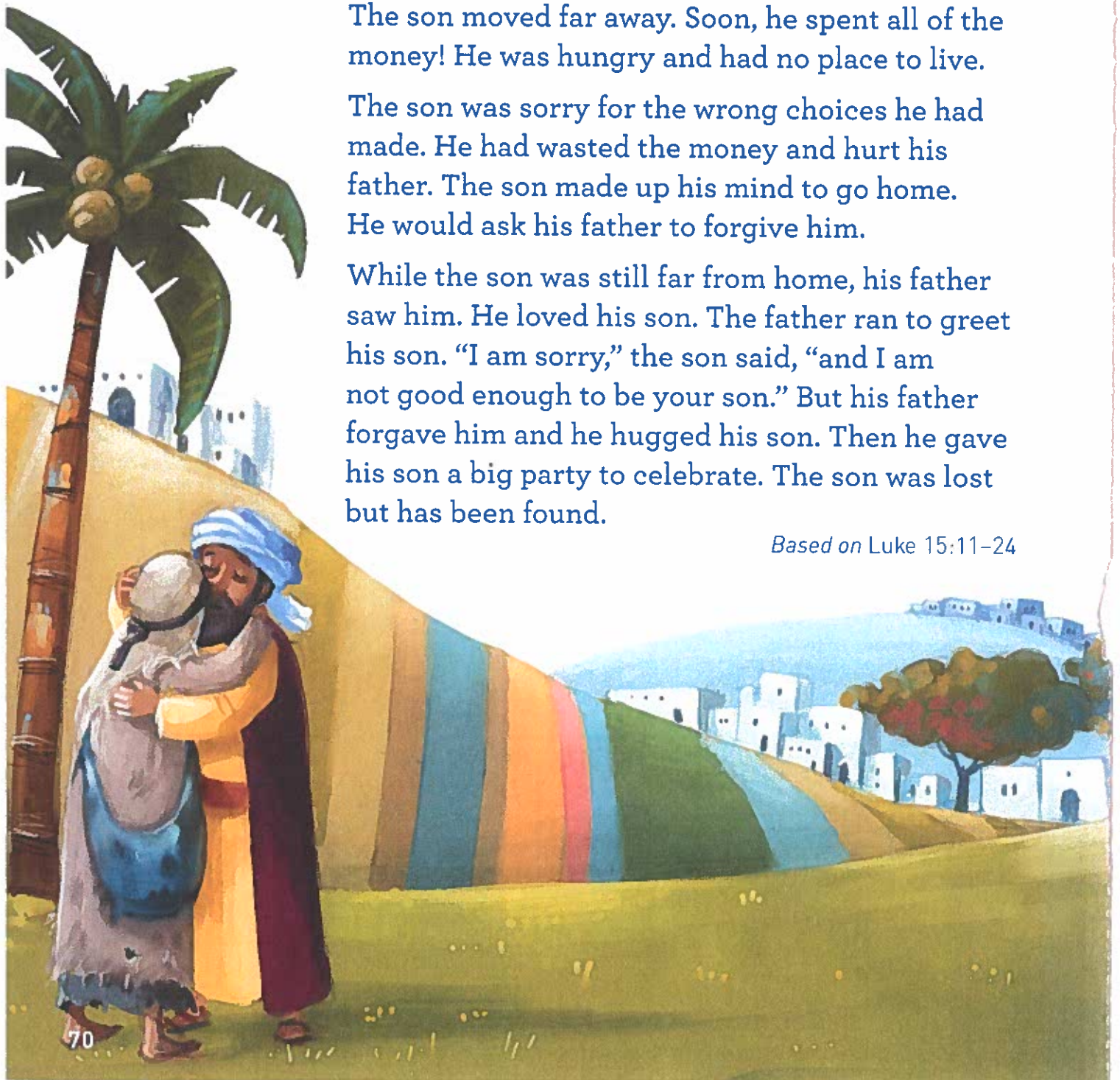
Once there was a man who had two sons. The younger son said, “Give me the share of money that should come to me.” So his father gave him the money.

The son moved far away. Soon, he spent all of the money! He was hungry and had no place to live.

The son was sorry for the wrong choices he had made. He had wasted the money and hurt his father. The son made up his mind to go home. He would ask his father to forgive him.

While the son was still far from home, his father saw him. He loved his son. The father ran to greet his son. “I am sorry,” the son said, “and I am not good enough to be your son.” But his father forgave him and he hugged his son. Then he gave his son a big party to celebrate. The son was lost but has been found.

Based on Luke 15:11–24



Knowing Right from Wrong

God lets us choose what to do. We call this **free will**. The boy in the story knew he had done wrong. His **conscience** helped him to know the difference between right and wrong.

Our Church Teaches

We **sin** when we choose to do hurtful things on purpose. When we sin, we hurt our friendship with God and with other people. God wants us to be sorry for our sins. God loves us very much. When we sin, he is ready to show us mercy. God is ready to forgive us.

We Believe

God gives everybody a conscience. God wants us to choose good and stay away from what is evil.

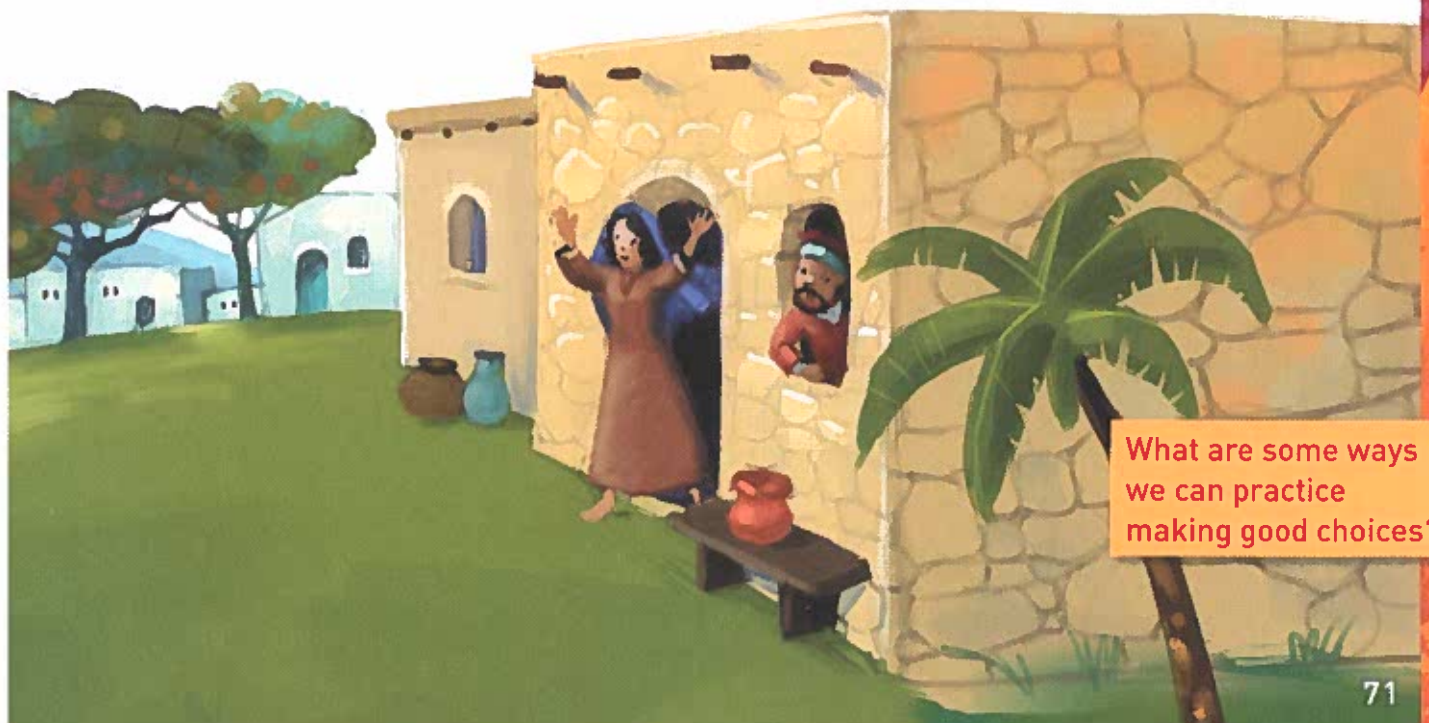
Faith Words

conscience

Our conscience is our ability to know right from wrong.

sin

To sin is to choose to do hurtful things on purpose. Sin is disobeying God.



What are some ways we can practice making good choices?

Respond

Saint Paula Frassinetti



Paula was born in Italy in 1809. When she was nine years old, her mother died. Paula had to help take care of her four brothers. Instead of being angry and mean to them, Paula took good care of them. She loved them.

Because of her household chores, Paula was unable to go to school. Her brothers shared with her what they learned in school. Paula made the choice to be cheerful. She went to Mass daily and prayed while she worked.

When Paula grew up she opened a school for poor girls. She later founded a religious order to educate poor children.

Today we honor her as Saint Paula. Her feast day is June 11.

What good choices did Saint Paula make?

What good choice did Saint Paula's brothers make?



ACTIVITY

We can practice choosing to do what is right every day. Unscramble the letters to complete the sentence for each picture.



t h g i f

Joey chooses not to

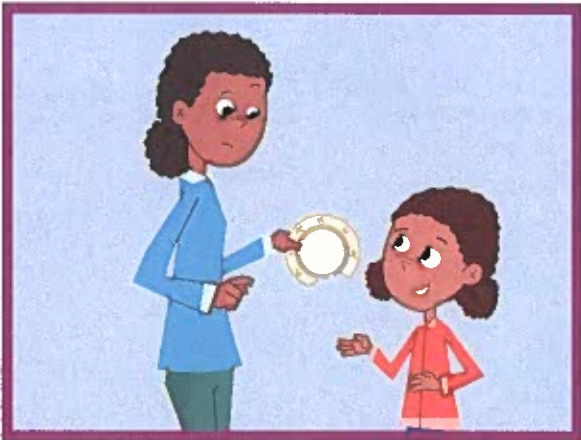
i h



r h a s e

Tonya is happy to

h r



t r t u h

Lily decides to tell the

t t

In what ways can we thank God for the gift of free will?

A Prayer of Action

Making good choices is a type of prayer. When we act in good ways, we praise God. We thank God for the gift of free will. Celebrate making good choices. Pray this prayer together.

**Creator God,
thank you for the gift of free will.
Help us to avoid evil and to choose what is good.
Help us to (*add own action*).
Amen.**

Chapter Review

5

A Circle the words that best complete the sentences.

1. God gives us a _____ to help us know right from wrong.

conscience

free will

sin

2. When we do hurtful things on purpose, we _____.

forgive

love

sin

3. God lets us choose what to do. We call this _____.

conscience

free will

sin

4. God wants us to be _____ for our sins.

angry

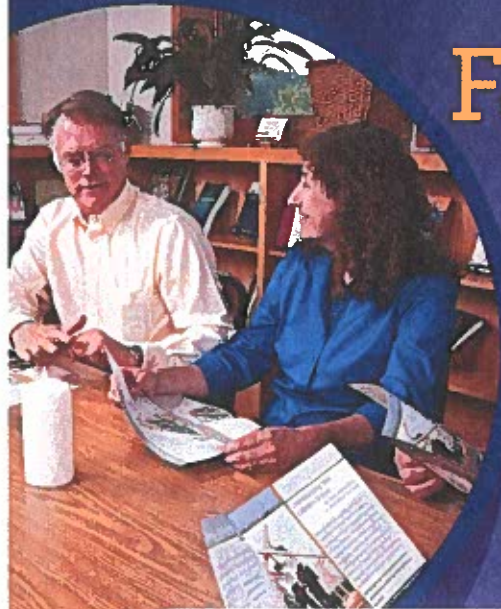
happy

sorry

B Draw a line to connect the parts of each sentence.

1. The son who left home knew • • disobeying God.
2. Before the son said, "I'm sorry," • • he had done wrong.
3. Sin is • • his father had forgiven him.

Faith in *Action*



Parish Council Members of a parish council help the pastor make choices for the parish. They might help the pastor plan programs. They might help him decide how to improve the church building. The pastor and the parish council try to make good choices.

In Everyday Life

ACTIVITY Some families meet together to make choices. They listen to the needs of one another. Talk about ways family meetings can be helpful. Then draw a picture of your family members meeting together.

In Your Parish

ACTIVITY One parish has chosen how to spend its money. Find its choices.

