

Growing Together

Bible Story
The people worship the golden calf (Exodus 32:1-35).

God's People in the Wilderness 8:
We sin when we break God's rules.

Bible Verse
"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11).

In Touch

Today your child learned that sin is breaking God's rules. The children learned that everyone is tempted to sin but God has provided a way for us to say no to temptation. They also learned that when they do sin, God is ready to forgive them. Use these activities to teach your child that God's rules are important and that God loves us enough to forgive us when we ask.

Family Time

Involve every family member in creating a list of family rules. Talk about why each of the rules is important. Ask what would happen if a rule were broken and what the consequences should be. Help your child make and decorate a poster with the rules written on it. Hang the rules where family members will be reminded of them.

Stained-Glass Treats

With your child, create dough snakes with your favorite sugar- or refrigerated-cookie dough. Curl the dough snakes into cookies on a greased cookie sheet, leaving a small space open in the middle of each cookie. Put brightly colored hard candy in a plastic bag, and strike it with a hammer or rolling pin until the candy is crushed. Talk about how sin can hurt and break us. Fill the open spaces of the cookies with the crushed candy. Bake the cookies at 350 degrees for seven or eight minutes. Let the cookies cool for five minutes before you remove them from the cookie sheet. Admire the "stained-glass" cookies, and talk about how God can make us beautiful with his forgiveness.

Clean Again

Fill a bowl half full of water, and stir 2 tablespoons of dirt into the water. Put an empty bowl on the table



next to the other bowl. Fold two connected sheets of paper towels lengthwise three times. Put one end of the paper-towel strip in the muddy water. Put the other end in the empty bowl. Let the bowls sit for 24 hours. After 24 hours, the empty bowl will have clear water in it. Tell your child that the muddy water represents sin. The paper towel represents God's forgiveness. The clear water shows what we look like after God has forgiven our sins. (Don't drink the clear water. Dirt didn't travel through the paper towel, but bacteria probably did.)

If Jesus Were Here...

Sometimes it's hard for children to decide whether a certain behavior is right or wrong. Encourage your child to try this technique whenever he or she is faced with a dilemma about what to do: Pull up a chair next to you, and imagine that Jesus is physically sitting in the chair. Tell Jesus your dilemma, and lay your head on the chair for a moment, as if you were resting your head in his lap. Think about what Jesus would advise you to think or say or do in your situation. Then thank God for his help.