

First Family Foundations

Building a foundation of Faith for Families.

Unit 4 — Satan

Lesson 2 — Sin has consequences.

Introduction — What is “sin”? Is it envy and greed and selfishness and foul temper? Sure. It’s all those things we call “sins.” But sin is, first of all, a choice to disobey and distance oneself from God. To try to live without Him.

How does God respond when we try this? He lets us. So the main consequence of sin is to live without the One who gave us life in the first place. Like a sheep without a shepherd. A ship without a compass. Sin messes up our relationship not only with God but with the person next door. You can see that in our world today. And your child will discover that when he gets into a conflict at home, at school or even at church.

But imagine living in a society where everyone acts like a hardened criminal. Doesn’t that sound hellish? Exactly. That is what hell will be. And anyone who sins — that means all of us — deserves to land in such a place for the rest of eternity. (How we may escape that fate is the topic for a later week.) When your child does wrong, point out the consequences that come even if the sin has been forgiven.

Here's the Activity:

What you need

You’ll need a candy bar and a Bible.

What you do

Put on a little skit for your family. Prepare by having another family member read through the skit script with you. For example:

“The Candy Bar”

Scene: Carla and Reggie are sitting next to each other. Carla has a candy bar in her hand.

CARLA: I need to go wash my hands before I have this candy bar. Will you keep an eye on it for me?

REGGIE: Sure!

CARLA: You won’t eat it, will you?

REGGIE: Of course not. I’ll keep it safely here for you.

[Carla hands Reggie the candy bar and goes into the bathroom to wash her hands. Reggie watches until she’s gone, then quickly opens the candy bar and eats it as fast as he can. When Carla returns, Reggie acts like nothing happened.]

CARLA: Where’s my candy bar?

REGGIE: What candy bar?

CARLA: The one I asked you to watch for me.

REGGIE: Uh, the dog ate it.

CARLA: That’s not true, Reggie. Tell me the truth. Did you eat my candy bar?

REGGIE: [sadly] Yes, I confess. I ate your candy bar. I’m sorry. Will you forgive me?

[Reggie and Carla hug.]

When everyone has given you a big round of applause, hand out candy bars to the rest of the family.

What you share

It seems like this story has a happy ending. Reggie sinned but Carla forgave him. But there’s one problem. Does anyone know what it is?

Even though Carla was willing to forgive Reggie, there is another consequence to his action—Carla misses out and doesn’t get to have her candy bar. Sometimes we sin and are forgiven, but our sin still hurts ourselves and other people. What are other examples of this in real life? Answers could include:

- A student admits to cheating on a test and is forgiven but still fails the test.
- Brother and sister fight over the remote control.

Read Galatians 6:7 and discuss.