

Jesus Makes a Choice

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 4, Session 17**.

During Jesus' Agony in the Garden, he prayed to the Father to take away the suffering he would soon endure if that was God's will. While he prayed, the disciples fell asleep. Jesus' prayers to the Father were so intense that his sweat became like drops of blood. After Jesus was arrested, his disciples were so afraid that they abandoned him and fled. **PAGE 144**

God invites us to stay awake and to be vigilant against both personal sin and social sin. Some examples of social sin are racism, sexism, denial of health care, and destruction of the environment. **PAGE 144**

Escaping present reality through distractions can seriously hinder our awareness of the needs of others. Jesus invites us to turn ourselves to his care and pray for his mercy and help as we face difficult or painful situations. **PAGE 144**

Living a Christian life requires staying fully awake and facing adversity and conflict. By turning to God, we rely on his grace to be our strength. **PAGE 145**

God never abandons us. Jesus chose Peter to be the rock of his Church even though Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. **PAGE 145**

Making a moral choice means choosing to do what is right. It also means choosing not to do what is wrong. **PAGE 146**

The early Christian communities disagreed among themselves about moral issues. For example, some Christians in the early Church at Corinth believed that meat sacrificed to pagan gods was acceptable to eat, but other Christians objected to the practice. **PAGE 146**

We need a fully formed conscience to be able to make good moral decisions. Conscience is our inner voice that helps us judge the morality of our actions. We can develop a fully formed conscience through the guidance of parents and teachers, prayer, Scripture, Church teachings, and learning from our mistakes. **PAGE 146**

Saint Paul taught moral decisions in his letter to the Corinthians. The morality of any act has three dimensions: the act chosen, the intention behind the act, and circumstances behind the act. **PAGES 146 AND 147**

Saint Paul instructed that when we sin against our brothers and wound their conscience, we are sinning against Christ. **PAGE 147**

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