

# Teachable Moments - Sin

**Headline:** Preschool, school age kids, teens and young adults will encounter sin. It is an undeniable truth. In today's world makes choosing right and from wrong murky. There are too many untrustworthy voices whispering in their ears. Many speak without Catholic context. The opportunity before us as Fathers and grandfathers is to step up is to teachable moments. Our voice should be the one they trust, one anchored in solid Catholic understanding of sin. Are we willing to do this? And if willing, how will it be done.

**Objective:** Our goal is discussing the nitty gritty of how and when we can help our loved ones understand and learn from their encounters with sin. Fathers and grandfathers have a unique responsibility to lead and teach loved ones to live with a Catholic perspective. The contemporary world does not universally share a Catholic teaching on sin or even a classical Judean Christian clarity of what is right and what is wrong. Teachable moments are those times a loving conversation can occur where wrong behavior by loved ones or others can be turned into positive understanding of sin and spiritual growth. Rather than being a bystander we can step up to those moments. Do we even give ourselves permission to do so? What barriers stand between action and inaction?

**Song Suggestion:** Praise and Glory to God

## Bible and Catechism Readings:

### Genesis 4 – 7

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.

### Mathew 18-15

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

### Galatians 6:1

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

### Catechism 1868

Sin is a personal act. Moreover, we have a responsibility for the sins committed by others when we cooperate in them:

- by participating directly and voluntarily in them
- by ordering, advising, praising, or approving them
- by not disclosing or hindering them when we have an obligation to do so
- by protecting evildoers.

**Saint:** Saint Gregory the Great - He called vices according to the virtues they oppose "capital" because they engender other sins, other vices. Capital Sins are pride, avarice, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, and sloth or acedia.

**Vignette:** Sinful behavior is everywhere. On social media, on the street, in a school bus, at school, on a sports field or at play. John and Mary see it every day, and they worry how on earth their children will be able to sort it out as they progress through life. As time goes on they know their opportunity and influence to guide them will lessen their influence. The outside world's influence on their children will increasingly affect how they perceive sinful behavior. Fortunately, some parents have grandparents who provide daycare and frequent time spent together. One night at dinner together they talked together about those external influences and what they could do about it. By the end of the dinner they aligned on what was OK for them to do within teaching moments in an appropriate age way. Both parents and grandparents agreed to seize those moments to appropriately to help their children understand the sin or potential sin they encounter or observe in others. They all agreed to step up, they agreed a strong foundation was necessary, and they found it within their Catholic faith. What did they discuss? What barriers stand between action and inaction?

### **Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:**

1. Do you agree with this statement; "What you condone you endorse"? How does it apply to sin or sinful behaviors observed and ignored or disregarded?
2. Do you freely share your own concept of sinful behavior with loved ones?
3. Is it good for you to speak openly with your loved ones about sin? Do you defer to others?
4. Fathers and grandfathers do not give themselves permission to speak up and seize teachable moments, especially on tricky taboos like sinful behavior. Why is that?
5. Would you dare to have an adult family conversation about how to help your toddlers, school age kids, teens and even young adults understand sin through safe external or their own real experiences and align to seize those moments to help them grow? What would it take for you to do so?
6. What teachable moments have you let slip away without seizing the moment to step up?

### **Resources:**

[https://youtu.be/vz04ihmd0ac?si=l\\_PXd4\\_w\\_vSRq263](https://youtu.be/vz04ihmd0ac?si=l_PXd4_w_vSRq263)

### **Step it up!:**

1. What do you think you might do differently or better to seize teachable moments?
2. Who do you need to align with to give yourself permissions you do not think you have?
3. What barriers do you face and what might you do about them?

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