

*The Catholic Vision
of Love*

Student's Lessons for Grade 6

Class 2

**Being responsible for
our own lives**

Being responsible for our own lives

Studying what the Lord teaches us about sexuality

Introduction

In this lesson we will reflect upon your life as an adventure, gifted with freedom. Yet the free will God has given only to humans also comes with intelligence and responsibility. Our lives will be shaped well or poorly by the moral decisions we make. Through our free will we decide whether or not to choose good and to avoid evil. We are capable of choosing to guard our sexuality by the constant use of free will as taught by Jesus and His Church.

These are the things we will talk about in this second lesson

Life includes the ability to *choose* whether we want to make a good life for ourselves or not.

You are *responsible* for the free decisions which you make in life.

You are called to guard our sexuality with *chaste* hearts and lives.

Deliberately doing immoral things is sinful.

Life and freedom

Life is an adventure! It is full of freedom.

Each one of us must decide whether we want to make a good life for ourself or not.

God promises that each of us can have a life of which we can be proud. But we must be willing to pay the price of a great life (Matthew 13:44). God promises to help you shape a wonderful life if you choose. But God created you with *free will*. Only you can decide what you will do.

We have little say over things that just happen. Will you win the lottery? Will you be hit by a truck? Good things and bad things happen to people. Because of our freedom, evil and suffering have entered our world.

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But our life is not what just happens to us. Our life is something we do, something we live, something we choose.

And Christ *promises* everyone: You can lead a good life if you choose. “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

“Before a man are life and death, and whichever he chooses will be given to him” (Sirach 15:17). What do you think that this sentence means?

Discussion: **When bad things happen**



? Do bad things sometimes happen to you, things you cannot help?

? Do good things sometimes happen to you, things that you did not really deserve?

? Which is more “my life”: What happens to me, or what I actually do?

Some think: My life would be great if I won the lottery. My life would be great if only I were thinner, or had beautiful hair. My life would be complete if I could slam dunk the basketball. Do you think all this is very true?

Others think: My life is ruined because we had to move and leave good friends behind. My life is bitter because my health is not good, and I cannot do things I want to do. It is possible to live well, and even happily, when things go wrong?

You are **responsible** for your own life

Very small children have not yet really grown up into being able to be responsible for their own lives. They are not yet able to understand what is really *good*, and what is bad. So their parents, and others who love them, have to try to protect them as much as possible.

But as we get more mature, we become more and more the rulers of our own lives.

God wants us to be free! He wants us to live life well, not because we have to, but because we choose to do it. Whether we will live great and good lives or not is our responsibility.

“It was he [God] who created man in the beginning, and he left him in the power of his own inclination” (Sirach 15:14).

Things will happen to you, fortunes good and bad. But your life will not just happen. You shape your own life by the decisions you make: The *decisions* to do what is really good; decisions to care about more than just yourself; decisions to listen to God, and to seek to do what is really right; decisions to live as well as you can in the circumstances in which God puts you.

Discussion: Talking about responsibility

Important ideas

- People are not to be blamed if they cannot manage something very difficult. It is silly to blame a person who tries hard, and comes in second. But would we blame someone who lost a tournament for our school because he did not really practice and did not really try, and blew it for us? What is the difference between the two cases?
- Many people have to work hard to make things work for them. They build lives that people admire. “This fellow, this girl, really gives things his or her best.” Is it worthwhile being like that?

Special cases

What would you say about people who say things like this:

“I couldn’t help it. I didn’t start it. The other girls were taking things from the store, so I had to go along with them. Do you expect me to be different from everyone else?”

“OK, so I had a beer at the party. Everyone else was drinking too. Big deal!”

“It didn’t amount to anything. Just some puffs on a joint. It sort of felt good and nobody got hurt.”

What do you think Christ would say about excuses like that? Do you think Christ would agree with them?

Sexuality and our lives

Some people say: “People who live in times like these are bound to be sexually active from the time they are very young.”

“They will do that even if being sexually active causes a lot of harm, like AIDS, and other diseases, or abortion. People will do that even if the lack of self control makes them fail in their marriages and unable to have the generosity needed for real love.”

Many will deliberately play with obscene thoughts, even though Jesus taught us that it is wrong (read Matthew 5:28). They will



