

# FAITH AT HOME

A Parent Companion



## THE PRODIGAL SON & THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT



### Lesson Overview:

This week we present another parable, possibly the best known, the story of the prodigal (wasteful) son. In the story, a son asks his father for his inheritance in advance and then squanders the money in a foreign land. In his poverty, he realizes that his father's servants are living much better than himself and he decides to return home to live like a servant. His Father welcomes him with open arms and forgives him completely. The story helps to show us how much God loves us and how He always welcomes us back when we return to Him through Confession.

We also learned about the fifth commandment: *You shall not kill*. This command teaches us that all life is sacred. We must cherish and protect every human life. Although we can never kill an innocent human life, we can use self-defense to protect ourselves, others, and society. We also must take care of our own bodies and not do anything to harm or bully another.



Mosaic representing the parable of the lost sheep in Kykkos monastery, Cyprus.

Source Alamy Stock Photo

## SAINTS AMONG US

Reconciliation



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## REVIEW WITH YOUR CHILD

1. How is the Parable of the Prodigal Son like Confession? **In the parable, the son confessed to his father, and his father took him back happily. In Confession, we confess to God (acting through the priest), and He forgives our sins and welcomes us back into relationship with Him.**
2. What does the fifth commandment tell us? **You shall not kill.**

## FAITH IN ACTION

We are made in the image and likeness of God, giving our bodies and souls dignity. Eating healthy and exercising are part of God's plan for our bodies and help us to follow the fifth commandment. Talk as a family how you can together live a healthy and holy lifestyle.

## AT HOME

1. Discuss with your child something you can do as family to help those whose lives are threatened: unborn babies, Christians who are being persecuted, the elderly, etc.
2. Practice saying the Act of Contrition and say the Guardian Angel prayer each night before bed.

### Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because I have offended You, my God, Who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

### Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom His love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.



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